

Celebrating The Life
Of
Jean A. Ellington

Sunrise ~ September 3, 1929 - Sunset ~ October 12, 2016



***"On A Clear Day, Rise And Look Around You
And You'll See Who You Are...
On A Clear Day, How It Will Astound You
That The Glow Of Your Being Outshines Every***

Saturday, October 22, 2016- 11:00 a.m.

Elmwood Presbyterian Church

135 Elmwood Avenue
East Orange, NJ 07018

Celebrating Jean A. Ellington

Jean Ann Ellington was born September 3, 1929 in Jamaica, Queens New York to Edna Ellington and William Ellington as the middle daughter between two brothers William, Jr. and Reginald.

At an early age, Jean was drawn to the serenity of Hawaiian music and dance, while being raised in rural East Moriches, Long Island studying the clarinet, playing sports, excelling at learning, and working in the fields and duck farms. Her aspirations for arts and beauty led her to become one of a group of the first African-American students at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY where she studied dress-making and fashion design. There she met Thomas Rock and married in 1952. Their union grew to bear their only son Colin, and the family moved to East Orange, New Jersey in 1960.

There began Jean's life long-commitment to caring for the people of Essex County and beyond, starting with her stint as a school crossing guard on Hamilton and Clinton Streets where she coddled many Ashland School children who became life-long friends of her son. Then, as she moved on to the East Orange Board of Education, and as a Librarian Assistant at Vernon L. Davey Junior High School during the late 1960's, she extended her caring warmth to the young people there.

Once she became an Administrative Assistant to a Professor at The Newark College of Medicine and Dentistry, her tenure helped shape the beginning of the careers of many young aspiring health professionals. She retired from the college in 1997 to actively continue to design clothing, collect Afrocentric art, travel to Ghana, Senegal, Brazil, and other U.S. locations with her nieces Nia and Nyla and various church group excursions. Her love of art and fashion was manifested in her volunteering with Newark Museum, NJPAC, and Jazz House Kids, in addition to an extensive collection of culturally inspired jewelry and outfits.

Jean became the de facto "Cultural Arts Ambassador" at her East Orange, NJ Senior Residence, taking it upon herself to share African and African-American history videos, photos, and inspired decorations for the community at her building. She continued to take computer classes and provide arts support for family and friends up until her illness slowed her intentions.

She will be celebrated for her home-going by all those that knew her. Jean will leave her loving son Colin, her Grand Children Amber & Marcus, her Nieces Sanyu, Nia, Marcia, Mimi, Leslie, Lori, Lisa; her Nephews Henry, George, Jr., William; and a whole host of Grand Nieces & Nephews, Great Grands, Cousins and Extended Family and Friends – they know who they are – If you knew her count yourself among them.

Order of Service

Organ Prelude

Call to Worship.....Rev. Maria Crompton

Hymn.....Precious Lord

Prayer of Comfort.....Rev. Maria Crompton

The Lord's Prayer.....Congregation

Scripture Readings

Psalm 46:10; 46:1,2;

I Corinthians 13:1-13.....Pastor Sandra Pendleton-Rock

Solo..... Nia A. Rock

Reflections..... Family & Friends

Obituary.....Amber S. Lewis-Rock

Eulogy..... Rev. Maria Crompton

Poems.....Colin P. Rock

Recessional.....Lamban Rhythm

Cremation (Private)
Rosedale Crematory

*Following Services Family and Friends Are Invited For a Repast At
Community Room
777 Springdale Avenue • East Orange, New Jersey 07017*

In lieu of flowers please make a donation in the name of Jean A. Ellington to
Meharry Medical College
Gift Management Services
Meharry Medical College
Division of Institutional Advancement
S. S. Kresge Learning Resources Center, Suite 630
1005 Dr. D. B. Todd, Jr. Blvd.
Nashville, Tennessee 37208-3599

To Jean

You are
A Romare Bearden painting come to life....
Ribbons of colorful connections
wrap around you.
A cornucopia of love;
Kwanzaa 52 times a year
after year
after year.
Your door opens
and
the sweet smell of Afro-Indian caring
floats me into your village
Queen Mother,
knowing that my quest for King-dom
is inspired by your hands....
A steady, deep glowing ember –
burning rich,
creates a collage of
sewing& cooking,
carving& framing,
picturing& nurturing....
You are
A Romare Bearden painting come to life.

I love you.

-Colin P. Rock



Acknowledgement

The family of **Jean A. Ellington** thanks all of you for your many expressions of love, sympathy, and prayers so graciously extended. Thank You and May God Continue to Wonderfully Bless All of You.

Professional Services Provided By

Woody "Home For Services"

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