

Our Mother

You can only have one mother
Patient kind and true.
No other friend in all the world,
Will be the same to you.
When other friends forsake you,
To mother you will return,
For all her loving kindness,
She asks nothing in return.
As we look upon her picture,
Sweet memories we recall,
Of a face so full of sunshine,
And a Smile for one And all.
Sweet Jesus, take this message,
To our dear mother up above;
Tell her hoe we miss her,
And give her all our love.



Home Going Celebration
For

Diane Stephenson

Sunrise
September 14, 1942

Sunset
December 1, 2012



Acknowledgments

The family of the late **Diane Stephenson** would like to express gratitude to those who have consoled us through this difficult time. Your prayers, presence and love have sustained us. May God continue to bless you.

The Family

Professional Services Provided By:

Roy L. Gilmore's Funeral Home, Inc.

Angela Gilmore-Manning, *President*
Ph (718) 529-3030 • (718) 528-7765
Fax (718) 712-2108 • (718) 528-2575
Email: royl.gilmorefuneralhome@verizon.net

MAIN OFFICE
191-02 Linden Blvd.
St. Albans, L.I., NY 11412

116-53 Sutphin Blvd.
Jamaica, L.I., NY 11436

www.honoryou.com



Service

Thursday, December 6, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.

St. Albans Baptist Church

196-02 119th Avenue

St. Albans, NY 11412

Reverend Curtis T. Harding Jr., Pastor



Rainbow Bridge

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge.

There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together.

There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by.

The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent;

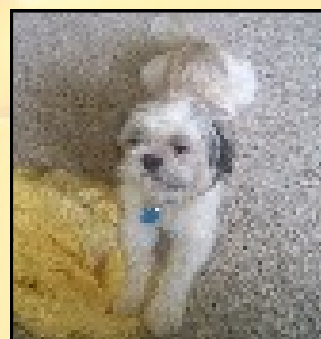
His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again.

The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together...

Author unknown



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To My Beloved Family

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God has chosen for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call;
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way;
I've now found peace at the end of day.
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joys.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss;
Oh yes, these things, I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow
Look for the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much;
Good friend, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seems all too brief;
Don't lengthen your pain with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and peace to thee,
God wanted me now-He has set me free.



Musical Prelude

Processional

Hymn "I'll Fly Away"

Scripture

Old Testament (Psalm 23)

New Testament (John 14 1-6)

Prayer of Comfort

Selection CTH Mass Choir

Obituary Crystal Williams

Resolutions

Acknowledgements Renee Bryant

Reflections/ Expressions

Selection CTH Mass Choir

Eulogy Reverend Charles Ancrum Jr.

Recessional

Interment

Frost Woods Memorial Park
600 County Road 520
Marlboro, New Jersey 07746

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“If anyone should ever write my life story, for whatever reason there might be...You’ll be there between each line of pain and glory, because you’re the best thing that ever happened to me.....”

Diane began her peaceful journey on September 14, 1942 in Brooklyn, NY. She was gently and lovingly nudged out of her mother’s womb by her twin sister, Adrienne. They began their earthly journey arriving about three minutes apart. Diane was the first born of her parents, the late Beatrice and David Ancrum. She was the oldest of her three siblings, Adrienne, Lorraine and Earl.

Diane began her formal education at PS 93 in Brooklyn. She later attended PS 15 and then Andrew Jackson High School.

Diane accepted Christ at an early age at The Holy Trinity Baptist Church, under the late Reverend T.S. Harten. She joined the Saint Albans Baptist Church, which was then the “little white church on the corner” in 1957, under the late Reverend J. Oscar Jones. She joined the choir and enjoyed participating in the Sunday School programs and Christmas Pageants. Some of her fondest memories included traveling with Rev. Jones to other churches. They always looked forward to riding with him and going to White Castles after service. She continued to worship at St. Albans under both the late Rev. Olivia and under Reverend Curtis T. Harding Jr.

In her teenage years, she along with seven other beautiful women formed an alliance that would last a lifetime. The “Elegant Eight”, planned dances together and had fun times for many years to come. They also served on the Board of Directors for Dr. Jive and assisted him during his radio show at the station. The ladies were comprised of Adrienne, Lorraine, Marcia, Janice, Pat, Claudette, Carol and of course Diane.

Her first job was one she loved. She worked in the office for Shrafft’s Restaurant. She always spoke highly of her fun times there. She enjoyed it so much that she even got her twin a job there as well.

While attending an annual church picnic at Hecksher State Park, she met the love of her life, Kenneth Stephenson. He had been in NY from North Carolina visiting family and met his future wife. They were united in marriage on September 7th, 1963. From this union two children were produced, Jeffrey Kenneth and Lisa Givon. Diane was a devoted wife until his passing in 1999. She enjoyed caring for her family and had a passion for cooking. She was well known by the neighborhood children, whom she always welcomed with a smile.

Diane also spent many years at Bankers Federal Savings and Loan as an Assistant Bookkeeper. She worked there until 1990, when she was forced to go on medical disability due to her health.

In her later years she continued to worship at the St. Albans Baptist church, where she was a devoted member of the Busy Bee Ministry, she loved her church family and enjoyed attending service when her health allowed. Diane loved to make people smile. She enjoyed making gift baskets, selling jewelry and selling Mary Kay Cosmetics. Traveling to Manhattan to shop with her twin was one of her favorite past times. She loved taking trips to Atlantic City and the penny machines were her favorite. She enjoyed going to Canarsie Pier to fish with her son.

As her health began to decline she acquired many more friends from the Kew Gardens Dialysis Center. She and Adrienne would try and cheer the others up daily as opposed to focusing on her illness. They joined the Rockaway Boulevard Senior Center and through dancing and singing with their friends realized “this is the place!” She bought joy there as well.

Diane enjoyed life. Simple things made her happy. As long as she could get a sausage biscuit, parfait and coffee from McDonalds she was okay. Somehow she even got the cutest male nurse to sneak her a sausage biscuit into the ICU for her birthday. She loved dancing and would even do her best “wobble” while laying in her hospital bed. Although sickly throughout her life, she never let her illness get her down or prevent her from doing what she wanted to do.

Diane loved her grandchildren and always made sure they had anything they wanted or needed from pretzels to Easter outfits.

Diane made her spiritual transition on December 1, 2012 at Northshore Hospital peacefully while surrounded by loved ones, bringing an end to this portion of her peaceful journey.

Those left to cherish her fond memory are her loving and devoted children, Jeffrey and Lisa, daughter-in-law, Stacey, five granddaughters, Katrice (Wesley), Brittany (Stan), Nicole, Naomi and Leiona, one grandson, Nyare, two great grandsons, Aiden and Mason; two sisters, Lorraine and Adrienne, her brother, Earl, her brothers-in-law, Raymond and Guy, two sister cousins, Sandra (Tony), Joyce (Douglas), one aunt, Mildred, one great aunt, Bessie, a niece, Chelsea, nephews, Marc (Kareen), Dyn and Raymond, who was also her beloved godson (Yemese); She has a son-in-law named Gary, a dear buddy named Louis, a godson, Rashaun and her sister girlfriend of over 30 years, Mary as well as a host of great nieces, great nephews, cousins and friends whom she loved, cherished and admired.

Submitted lovingly by the Family

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