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*Celebrating*  
THE LIFE & LEGACY OF

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*Maxine*  
**BAKER**

*March 12, 1943 - March 11, 2026*

*Service*

Friday, March 27, 2026 • 7:00 p.m.

**CARNIE P. BRAGG FUNERAL HOME**

256 Rosa Parks Blvd., Paterson, New Jersey

Rev. Jestine Paskel, Officiating

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# Order of Service

**Processional**

**Selection**

**Scripture Readings**

Old Testament

New Testament

**Prayer of Consolation**

**Selection**

**Acknowledgements**

**Obituary**

**Selection**

**Words of Comfort**

Rev. Jestine Paskel

**Benediction**

**Recessional**

## Interment

William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery  
350 Province Line Rd.  
Wrightstown, NJ 08562

# *Obituary*

**Maxine Baker**, a cherished soul known for her intelligence, courage, and humor, departed this life on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at the age of 82. She was just one day shy of her 83rd birthday. Born in Passaic on March 12, 1943, to Hattie Porter and Oscar Bell, Maxine's early years were filled with love and learning. She later married the love of her life, Roscoe Baker, who preceded her in death. Together, they raised their beloved daughter, Karen Baker, who carries on Maxine's legacy of strength and compassion.

She was educated in the Passaic School system and was a proud graduate of Passaic High School, Maxine furthered her education at the Manhattan School of Music, where she honed her passion for the arts. Her musical talents were a source of joy and inspiration to all who had the pleasure of listening to her play the piano and organ. She was a member of the Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church Passaic. In her earlier years, she was a choir director for several churches in Paterson and Passaic.

Maxine's professional journey was marked by her dedication to service and community. She worked at Popular Club Plan Garfield, NJ, where she dedicated many years as a supervisor. Later, she brought her warmth and organizational skills to the Preakness Healthcare Center Wayne, where she worked in admissions, helping countless families during difficult times with her courageous spirit.

Maxine's faith guided her through life's challenges and triumphs. Her commitment to her beliefs was evident in her actions and the way she treated others, always with kindness and respect. This is only matched by her devotion to her family members. She was the loving wife to her late husband, Roscoe Baker and the cherished mother to her daughter, Karen Baker.

Maxine's interests and civic engagements were a testament to her multifaceted personality. As president of the Passaic Branch NAACP, she fought tirelessly for justice and equality. Her political acumen led to her election on the Passaic Board of Education, where she advocated for the educational advancement of young minds.

Her passion for the arts was reflected in her love for theater, musicals, and art. A voracious reader, she was always eager to engage in discussions about the latest book she had read. Travel was another of Maxine's joys, as she believed in the power of new experiences to broaden one's perspective. Maxine's departure is deeply felt by her family, friends, and all who were touched by her remarkable life.

The bond she shared with her family was the cornerstone of her life, and the memories they created together will be treasured forever. Her laughter, wisdom, and courage will continue to resonate within the hearts of those who knew her. Maxine Baker's legacy is one of love, service, and the relentless pursuit of excellence. As we say goodbye, we celebrate a life well-lived, a journey well-traveled, and a spirit that will forever be remembered.



# *Touched By An Angel*

*We, unaccustomed to courage  
exiles from delight  
live coiled in shells of loneliness  
until love leaves its high holy temple  
and comes into our sight to liberate us into life.*

*Love arrives and in its train come ecstasies  
old memories of pleasure ancient histories of pain.  
Yet if we are bold,  
love strikes away the chains of fear  
from our souls.*

*We are weaned from our timidity  
In the flush of love's light we dare be brave  
And suddenly we see that love costs all  
we are and will ever be.  
Yet it is only love which sets us free.*

BY MAYA ANGELOU

## *Acknowledgements*

*The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation  
the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown  
to their family during this hour of bereavement.  
May God Bless and Keep You!*

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