

The Homegoing Service of



Jacqueline N. Diaz-Olive

Sunrise: August 22, 1941

Sunset: May 13, 2018

Service

Wednesday, May 23, 2018 - 11:00 a.m.

THE ABYSSINIAN BAPTIST CHURCH

132 Odell Clark Place • New York, NY 10030

Reverend Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III - Pastor

Reverend Reginald Lee Bachus - Associate Pastor, Officiating

Rev. Dr. Eric B. Turner, Organist



Obituary

Written by Carla Manuela Diaz-Vazquez, Daughter

Jacqueline N. Diaz-Olive was born on August 22, 1941 in Harlem, USA to Cora Lilliana Reese and Charles Reinat. She is very proud of this for she loves Harlem very much. You will hear me speak in both past and present tenses because for one thing it is surreal to me that she is no longer physically here with us. At the same time I feel her presence all around me I am drawing from her strength to get me through this most difficult time.

My mom was an extremely strong woman. Growing up I watched her work a full-time job, a part-time job and attend college receiving her Associate's Degree in 1985 from Bronx Community School; all the while raising two girls on her own. She found the time to take us to dance classes at La Roque Bey and Ophelia DeVore Charm School. We had trips to the beach, Rye Playland and Central Park. If we could get there by bus or train we were there. If there was a free concert in Central Park, we were there. Block parties, family gatherings and trips upstate to see my dad's family, we were there. We did it all. I look back at that time and still wonder how she did it. She did it for us.

As a young woman my mom dated, but she was very careful who we met. One day she tells us that she has met someone special and she was thinking about building a life with him. James Olive, a tall, distinguished, intelligent, well-read man. I was immediately impressed. That first day we met he took us to see "Sparkle" which became my favorite movie. James and my mom had a good life together for over 40 years.

Mom was an educator for 35 years. She worked as an Educational Assistant in District 12 in the Bronx. Mom loved her job. She was well-respected and loved by staff and students alike. In 1985, I graduated from Syracuse University. Like many college graduates I didn't know what I was going to do. I no longer wanted to follow what I majored in and was totally confused. My mom says to me, "Well, you know Carla they need teachers. Come to my school and speak with the principal." So off I went to speak to the principal at the time, Irma Zadoya, at C.S. 211 in the Bronx. Ms. Zadoya advised me on the steps I needed to take to become a licensed teacher. On November 14, 1985, I walked into C.S. 211x as a new teacher. I was blessed to have been a part of this school for over 32 years myself spending half of that time with my mom working there too. Mom didn't interfere with my work. She advised, gave me tips, and worked as a mentor to me. We worked together for several years organizing the annual Black Heritage Show, but more importantly, she often made me lunch. I always credit her with putting me on the path to my career. This is part of her legacy.

As we say the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Her mother, Cora Reese help to raise and nurture many children throughout her lifetime. We were blessed to have Grandma Cora take care of my two girls, Gabriela and Amalia from 6 weeks to kindergarten. Now the legacy continues as my younger daughter, Amalia, enters the field of education as a teacher this fall. As I retire at the end of this school year. Jacqueline's granddaughter will continue the legacy in education. I spent my entire career working in the neighborhood I grew up in until I was thirteen, Prospect Avenue. Now Amalia will give back to the community she decides to work in and share her gifts and blessings. My mom knows Amalia is going to be a teacher and she is very proud of her just as she is very proud of Gabriela who graduated from Marist College and works at a credit union in Hudson Valley. Her granddaughters have her strength and work ethic. I know my mom is watching over them. I hope they draw upon her strength and love for the difficult times and share the joy during the best of times. I love my mom and I will miss her always, but with her strength and the blessings of Jesus I know we will all be alright. God Bless.

Obituary

Written by Karen Marie Diaz, Daughter

Jacqueline was a member of the Missionary Ministry at Abyssinian, and often brought visitors to the church. My mother led by example, and was instrumental in my decision to be baptized and become a member here at Abyssinian. Through her 35 year career as an educator at C.S. 211, my mother left an indelible and positive mark on the youth she encountered. She touched many people through her guidance and wisdom.

Jacqueline thoroughly enjoyed cooking for her family; her potato salad, ham, apple and sweet potato pies were frequent requests by family. She enjoyed gardening in her front yard, and kept her home looking beautiful with flowers and shrubs.

I have had the honor of living in the same home with my mother (as an adult with my family on the 1st floor) since Christmas of 1994, and over the years she became my best friend. Branden was 1 ½ when we moved in, and he grew up in this home with Grandma Jackie and Grandpa James right upstairs. She often joked and called us, "The People Under the Stairs," after a scary movie. Watching scary movies was one of our favorite pastimes (if I could talk her into it).

She would often tease us by cooking dinner, asking that Branden come up with a plate, and then send him downstairs with his plate of food only. He was to deliver a message to us, the adults downstairs are on their own! Then, she would call me downstairs on my phone and say, Karen, bring up your pots for your food (she just wanted to see us sweat). She got a big kick out of this. We were so happy and grateful when she cooked. Coming home after a long day of school and work to the delicious smells, being able to relax, sit down, and enjoy this time with family is what filled our home with fun and laughter!

I will truly miss my Mom's physical presence in the house. However, I know that her spirit and essence is there along with Branden's, and they are watching over us from above. They are the ray of sunshine through the window, the birds chirping on the window sill, the breeze from the open window that touches my cheek while I sleep, and visions in my dreams. They are at peace and rest with God, watching and guiding from above.

Jacqueline is survived by: her husband, James Olive; her daughters, Carla Diaz-Vazquez and Karen Marie Diaz; her first husband, Anthony Diaz; her sons-in-law, Timmy Vazquez and Jabril Padilla; her granddaughters, Gabriela and Amalia Vazquez; her sister, Brenda Williams; her niece, Rochelle Curry; her nephew, Malik Williams; her nephew, Philip Reinat; her great grandson, Jeremiah James Shelton; and Jacqueline's only grandson, Branden Xavier Shelton (mother, Karen Marie Diaz), pre-deceased her on July 22, 2017. Jacqueline is also survived by cousins, nieces, nephews, and very special friends.

Order of Service

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

Ministers • Officers • Family

INVOCATION

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

"Amazing Grace"

SCRIPTURE READING

Old Testament - Psalm 23

New Testament - II Timothy 4:6-7

PRAYER OF COMFORT

SOLO

"Jesus Is Love"

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & RESOLUTIONS

The Abyssinian Baptist Church Missionary Ministry

THE OBITUARY READING

Carla Diaz Vazquez and Karen Diaz, *Daughters*

SOLO

"His Eye Is On The Sparrow"

EULOGY

Reverend Reginald Lee Bachus

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL

"Going Up Yonder"

Interment

Mt. Hope Cemetery

Hastings-on-Hudson, New York

Acknowledgement

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness
extended to them during this bereavement hour.*

May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.

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