

*In Celebration of  
the Life  
of*



*Yvonne Fair Keene*  
*"Chick"*

**Sunrise**  
April 14, 1957

**Sunset**  
January 29, 2020

**Monday, February 3, 2020 - 12:00 Noon**

**Cotton Funeral Service**

1025 Bergen Street  
Newark, New Jersey

**Rev. Dr. Lloyd Terrell, Officiating**  
**Tim Rawls, Organist**



# Order of Service

Processional ..... Clergy and Family

Prelude

Hymn ..... The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 11

New Testament: 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 16

Prayer of Consolation.....The Rev. Dr. Lloyd Terrell  
Psalm 121

Hymn.....Amazing Grace

Obituary.....Jacquelyn Keene-Owens

Family Remarks.....Bernice Fair

Selection.....Elder Tim Rawls  
Somewhere Over the Rainbow Minister of Music

Reflections.....(two minutes please)

Eulogy.....The Rev. Dr. Lloyd Terrell

Benediction

Recessional .....Clergy and Family

Evergreen Cemetery and Crematory  
1137 North Broad Street  
Hillside, New Jersey

## Obituary

*Yvonne Fair, the first daughter of Von Simpson and Bernadette Fair and the eldest of their 10 children, was born on April 14, 1957, in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Educated in the Newark Public Schools, Yvonne attended Miller Street Elementary School and Malcolm X Shabazz High School, where she first met Principal Pierce Hampton, who, years later, would become her father-in-law. She was studious, fun-loving, and an active member of the MX Shabazz Twirling Team. At the age of 17, Yvonne took a job at the Newark Public Library and kept that post for several years. Following high school graduation, she completed a one-year course of study at Essex College of Business, where she learned and mastered her business and secretarial skills. For 18 years, Yvonne worked in the Registrar's Office at Rutgers University. After a brief separation, she returned to Rutgers and worked in the Office of Academic Services. She ascended to the position of Assistant to the Dean and held it until her untimely passing. She was conscientious, hardworking, and well known for her ethical behavior and professionalism.*

*In 1977, Yvonne placed a 911 call on behalf of a family member that would change the course of her life. The Emergency Medical Technician who responded to that call later insisted that EMT Captain Julian Keene return with him for a "follow-up visit" just to see this beautiful young lady who would marry him and give him a family. Julian's initial reply was, "I don't want to meet anyone we pick up on this ambulance." After some persuading, he gave in and saw Yvonne for the first time. He was so taken by her beauty that he turned around and walked out the door. Yvonne immediately followed them and said to Julian, "Do you want my phone number?" They began dating and fell in love. When he finally brought Yvonne home to meet the family, he affectionately called her "Chick," and the nickname stuck. In 1980, they married and started a family. Their 42-year union was blessed with two children: Crystal Yvonne and Julian Pierce.*

*Yvonne was a pillar of strength and compassion, and her love of home and family was evident in every task she undertook. Cooking, housekeeping, shopping with Bernice, and hosting gatherings for her sisters, nieces and nephews were just a few of her hobbies. She was very proud and supportive of her husband, and protective of her children. She nurtured and encouraged them to set goals and pursue their dreams. On weekends, Yvonne enjoyed watching movies and sharing quiet moments with her husband, and she looked forward to spending time with her son, Julian P when he was away from work. She saw or spoke with her daughter, Crystal every day, and they shared an affectionate bond. She especially loved doting on her precocious granddaughter, Alycia, and proudly raved about her many accomplishments.*

*Yvonne was loving and hospitable to everyone. Her friendly demeanor and warm smile put people at ease and had a positive impact on those fortunate enough to meet her. She was generous, sincere and very willing to listen, comfort and help anyone in need.*

*We will love and miss her always.*

*Yvonne transitioned on Wednesday, January 29, 2020. Left to mourn her passing and cherish the many precious memories she inspired are her beloved husband, Julian; her children: Crystal and Julian P; her son-in-law, Dwayne and granddaughter, Alycia; her siblings: Bernice, Theresa, Cynthia, Irene, Latisha, Kewanna, and Raymond; her in-laws: Gerald, Jacquelyn and Elizabeth; and a host of relatives, in-laws, colleagues and friends.*



*Precious*



*Memories*



# *Psalm 23*

*The Holy Bible: A Psalm of David*

*The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want,  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*He restoreth my soul;*

*He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness*

*For His name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,*

*I will fear no evil;*

*For Thou art with me;*

*Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.*

*Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies;*

*Thou anointest my head with oil;*

*My cup runneth over.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me*

*All the days of my life;*

*And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*



*“The Lord hears His people when they call to Him for help  
and rescues them from all their troubles.*

*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted  
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”*

*The Holy Bible: Psalm 34: 17-18*

## *Acknowledgement*

The family of **Yvonne Keene** acknowledges with sincere appreciation the warm expressions of sympathy from those who share our grief at the passing of our loved one. Your kindness and generosity will be recognized at a later time.

### **Professional Services Provided By**

#### **COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE**

130 Main Street  
Orange, NJ  
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street  
Newark, NJ  
973-926-6400

#### **COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME**

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