

*In Loving Memory of*



*Carol J. Austin*

**Sunrise**  
**June 10, 1943**

**Sunset**  
**September 12, 2020**

**Service:**  
**Friday, September 18, 2020 - 11:00 am**

**Salvation Army Harlem Temple**  
540 Lenox Avenue • New York, New York 10037  
**Capt. Emeline Watch, Officiating**

# *Obituary*

**Carol Jean Austin** was born on June 10, 1943 in New York to George and Lucille Jean Austin. Her early education was completed in the New York City public school system. She attended Fashion Industries High School using the skills she learned to design her own clothing and briefly worked in New York's garment district making wedding gowns. Desiring to further her education she entered Bronx Community College with psychology as her major then transferred to Lehman College. At Lehman College Carol served as CASA Student Government Student Activity Coordinator graduating with a BA degree in 1989. Very early in life it had become evident that Carol was a no nonsense, straightforward independent thinker, one who was not easily swayed, not by family, nor friends. This character trait served her well at The Children's Aid Society where she was employed as a PINS mediator, mediating disputing parents and their children's problems, conceptualizing the problems and helping the parties achieve and amicable resolution.

Upon completion of her BA degree she began her career as a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in the Tremont - Crotona community of the Bronx, assigned to P.S. 85x and Community School 44. She was recognized by her peers as a "master teacher" who was skilled at teaching the "whole child". Other teachers were impressed with her love of teaching and her understanding of children at the various developmental stages of life. It was her nature to share her instructional prowess and strategies with newer, inexperienced teachers. She chaired committees willingly, participated in after school and weekend staff development activities, and volunteered to implement programs which offered students the opportunity to explore interests in areas which were not addressed by the formal curriculum (club periods, hobbies, daily social manners, etc.) Always ready to take extra time with "emotionally needy", she offered a dose of nurturance, and maintained, organized, and structured instructional environment, enabling her to bring out the hidden strengths of even the most difficult children. As an instructor her strengths were in the areas of literacy, basic research, study skills and particularly elementary math. Carol's legacy is her unique ability to inspire and facilitate the joy of learning. In 2001 Ms. Austin was nominated for an "Educator of the Year" from the Williamsbridge Club-National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club

Carol had a wide array of interests from traveling, reading, music, and crocheting; but her favorite was her love of nature. In 1999 a diagnosis of cancer tried to derail her goals and quench her spirit; after seven surgeries and radiation treatments she added "Cancer Survivor" to her many achievements. Carol was a Christian and professed her love for God; she chose The Salvation Army Harlem Temple Corps as her church home and joined its ministry participating in the Corps Cadets which is a Bible study program, Women's ministry, and the church nursery ministry. A week-long restful retreat at the Star Lake Lodge for seniors was a particular joy and rejuvenator as she woke each day to the magnificent beauty of nature.

As much as she loved teaching, she passionately adored her family and friends. Carol's zest for life and keen sense of humor helped in establishing her as a dedicated and loyal friend. Carol became Aunt Carol to many of the children she met along her life's journey. She loved all the members in her family but it was readily apparent that she had a deep abiding love and devotion for her younger sister Judythe. Truly the joy of her life was helping her niece Simone and her nephew, Adam, mature into adulthood. She was a second mother to both of them. She took great delight in her great nephews Austin and Kemone and derived untold pleasure lavishing her love on them, talking with them and watching as their individual personalities began to flourish and grow.

She leaves to cherish her memory her sister, Judythe Burton, brother-in-law, Kenneth Burton, niece, Simone Cox and Kamal Cox, nephew, Adam Burton and Courtney Burton, great nephews Austin Burton and Kemone Cox. Carol also leaves a host of cousins and lifelong friends. She was especially proud of her godchildren Felice Burgess, Sam (Art) Luton and Jocelyn St Cyr. Special mention of Lt. Kimisha Marshall and Traci Salami who were deeply loved and appreciated.

Life is lived forward ... but understood backwards



# *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 found now peace at the end of the 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 I miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
look for the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much;  
good friends, good times, a loved ones touch.  
Perhaps my time seems all too brief;  
don't lengthen your time with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and peace to thee,  
God wanted me now – He set me free.**

## *Acknowledgments*

**The family of Carol Austin wishes to convey their sincere gratitude and appreciation to the relatives, family and friends for their prayers and well wishes in the form of cards, phone calls, emails and texts. Each message brought strength and comfort. A special thank you to Captains Chaka and Emeline Watch and our church family at The Salvation Army for the gracious manner in which they have supported us in our time of need. God Bless you all.**

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