



*In Loving  
Memory  
of*

*Marian Murray*

Sunrise  
July 25, 1952

Sunset  
March 28, 2021

Service:  
Sunday, April 11, 2021 - 11:00 am

**MCCALL'S BRONXWOOD FUNERAL HOME**  
4035 Bronxwood Avenue • Bronx, New York 10466

# Obituary

**Marian Edith Murray**, later known affectionately as “Orisanya”, was the 7th child born to George Joseph Aldwin Murray, Sr and June Theresa Murray, on July 25th, 1952 in New York City.

She was given her names by her Mother, in honor of the Marian Peace Conference held earlier that same year, and, her maternal Grandmother, Edith.

As did many of her siblings, Marian attended the local Roman Catholic Parochial Primary School of Saints Phillip & James once the family relocated to that Parish in the Bronx.

Early photographs and recollections reveal Marian was a lively highly articulate child with a sense of humor that blossomed into a strong comedic sense by the time of her adolescence. We siblings may recall “Henrietta’s Humor Hour” in which Marian would have us all in stitches over her own special brand of “Stand-Up”, riffing easily from one routine or joke to another. With no working TV (which our Father called, “the Idiot box”) these evenings reflected our unique brand of family entertainment.

In September of 1966, Marian followed our eldest sister, Julia Ann, to the Mother Butler Memorial High School. It was there she was to meet her best and lifelong friend, Phylliss Wigginton, who eventually became her Godmother in the Yoruba Religion and is currently known as Iya Osunewa. Marian’s years at Mother Butler were memorable and formative. After Graduation, she was accepted to the then, highly Progressive, Livingston College of Rutgers University in New Jersey, where her intellectual and political awareness was further enriched and informed by her association with Professors and notable writers Nikki Giovanni, Sonia Sanchez, Miguel Alguerín and others. These experiences lead Marian to pursue fluency in Spanish and a Bachelor’s degree in English.

In addition to her increasingly passionate interest in Latino Arts and Culture, during her final years at Livingston, Marian also developed a keen interest in Psychology, leading her to participate in clinical internships in Psychiatry and Psychology at Albert Einstein Medical Center and Bronx State. Ironically it was during the last of these Post-Graduate internships that it was discovered that Marian herself had a chemical imbalance which was eventually diagnosed as Bipolar Disorder. This challenge did not stop her from putting her English degree to good use, by becoming part of an editorial team at Doubleday. However, her resistance to these challenges punctuated much of her adult life, sometimes resulting in occasional estrangements from various friends and family members.

Fortunately, she did come to embrace and accept her condition, learning how to live with it productively, with the help of those people, Programs and Resources, such as PIBLY which eventually allowed her to lead a more secure and independent life. Before the new Millennium, her continued development and Spiritual Growth brought her back to Family. Not having biological children of her own, Marian came to direct her Maternal instincts to her many nephews and nieces and their offspring -- coming full circle to a place where family took its rightful place in her life, second only to her chosen Spiritual path within the Yoruba Tradition. When she “received beads” or ilekes from the hand of Osunewa, she became a member of Omi Ero Ile Yemonja. Accordingly, Marian also set specific goals for herself, most importantly, she was planning and preparing to enter the Yoruba priesthood. We could not conceive that her departure from us would be so sudden and unexpected.

On Palm Sunday, the 28th of March, 2021, Marian, affectionately known as Orisanya, made her Transition to the foot of Egun, and now resides in Orun, the Holy City of Ife.

Orisanya is survived by her siblings: Aldwin, Rahim, James, Ieola, Wilfrid and Irene; nephews and nieces, Ed Jr, E’Lyse and Evan; George III and Malcolm; Ron, Jr and Audre; Nisha and Malcolm; Tamu, Iusaset, Eternal and Reality; Jamal; Afyca and Olu; great nephews and nieces; Ron Pierre, Justin and Matthew, Tamu-Ajene, Nya, Jihadou, Kaila, Sanai, Malik, Malia, Dera Ebele and Makeem; Jordan, Dejanay, Aria and Janelle; Sule, Muhammad and Naledi; Josiah; great-great nephew and nieces, Zair and Zuri, and Jennae’ais; cousins: Diana, Pat, Paulette and Austin; Denise, Joy and others; extended Family: Osunewa, her Ile family, Sayeda and family, Atsede and others; friends, neighbors and colleagues: Nikolai, Vickie, Nicole and Tiffany; and a host of other friends and associates.

# *Order of Service*

## **Short Opening Drum Prelude**

### **Libation**

Iya Osunewa

## **Brief Yoruba Religion. Overview**

Iya Osunewa

### **Welcome**

Ieola Asase-Yaa Bakr

### **Musical Selection**

Lean on Me, by Bill Withers

### **Eulogy/Obituary**

Ieola Asase-Yaa Bakr

### **Musical Selection**

Oye Como Va, Santana

## **Personal Tributes/Remarks**

### **Musical Selection**

1812 Overture, Beethoven

## **Benediction/Blessing of the Family**

Edward A. Murray, Jr.

## **Yoruba Funeral drumming Drum Oro Egun/ Final Viewing**

### **Recessional**

## **Departure for Interment**

## *Interment*

Kensico Cemetery  
Valhalla, New York

Be at peace.  
May the angels lead thee  
into paradise.  
May the martyrs receive thee  
At thy coming and take thee  
To the holy city.  
May the choirs of angels  
Receive thee and mayest thou  
Have rest everlasting.  
Amen.

## *Acknowledgments*

**The family would like to express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness shown to them during their time of bereavement.**

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*Professional Service Entrusted To:*

**McCall's Bronxwood**

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