

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
Lesley A. Small

Sunrise
July 13, 1963

Sunset
August 28, 2021



Service
Saturday, September 25, 2021 • 11:00 a.m.

The Riverside Church
490 Riverside Drive • New York, NY 10027
Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper, Officiating

Order of Service

Prelude	Christopher Creaghan, Organist
Welcome	Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper
Opening Prayer	Rev. Harper
Selection: “The Lord’s Prayer”	Music & Art Alumni & Family Ensemble
Scripture: Proverbs 3:3-6	Nancy Clark, Cousin
Reflection	Michelle Hoyte, Friend
Tribute to Soror Lesley A. Small.....	Pen & Scroll Sorority
Obituary	Natacha Wilkerson, Goddaughter
Solo: “His Eye is on the Sparrow”	Denise Creswell
Reflection	Andrea “Cookie” Holt Wright, Sister
Scripture: John 14:25-27	Chad A. Frost, Godson
Solo: “The Prayer”	Mesherill Washington
Homily	Rev. Harper
Prayer	Rev. Harper
Closing Selection: “Pass Me Not”	Music & Art Ensemble
Benediction	Rev. Harper
Postlude: Toccata on “We Shall Overcome”	C. Creaghan

Obituary

Lesley Andrea Small brought her graces into this world on July 13, 1963, as the beloved daughter of Lionel H. Small and Mildred L. Francis. She breathed her last on August 28, 2021, entered into eternal rest filled with giving, love, and wit; her heart gave way physically, but never spiritually.

Raised in Harlem, her schooling began at Mayfield Nursery Child Care Center. She was one of three children selected from Mayfield to attend Hunter College Elementary School. After Hunter, she went to Wagner Junior High School and then to Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music and Art. In her inquisitive thirst for knowledge, she attended Borough of Manhattan Community College, NY and earned a degree in Business Administration. She completed one year of graduate work towards a master's degree in Human Service at Lincoln University, PA.

Her career working with the NYS Office of People with Developmental Disabilities started at Edgecome Home. She spent more than three decades caring for and training others to work with this needy population. She transferred these skills to her personal life as she provided care for her mother and maternal grandmother in their time of need.

A sardonic wit was part of her birthright, honed on her upbringing within a U.S. Virgin Islands and Bajan family. Her eclecticism was well-known and extended to books and readings (she would literally walk a mile to pick up a copy of the Sunday New York Times). An avid reader, she could converse with anyone about virtually any topic and her knowledge of history, her quick wit and overall curiosity made her an extraordinary conversationalist. Her inquisitive spirit also led to diverse tastes in music and cuisines. The world was her oyster and if that oyster happened to be a Wellspring encased in sushi, why that was good too; Aerosmith playing in the background made it even better.

Frequent visits to her ancestral home of St. Croix, U.S.V.I. allowed her to touch base with her roots. She kept in contact with those she loved, giving moral support, sage advice, and displaying wisdom well beyond her years. She truly knew how to be a friend...so much so that many people referred to her as their "best friend."

Her love and interest in Black people and indigenous cultures inspired her to give her time and talent to churches and organizations through memberships and active participation. Among them were United Moravian Church, Pen and Scroll Sorority, the Clark Family Chorus, NAACP, The Riverside Church, and the Harlem Fine Arts Commission.

She leaves to celebrate her memory sisters Cherie Small, Yvette Small, and Andrea Wright; her aunt Josephine Clark; numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren, and other relatives and friends.

Acknowledgements

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

~ The Family of Lesley Andrea Small ~

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in Lesley's memory are sent to one of the organizations listed below:

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
515 Malcom X Blvd • New York, NY 10037

The American Cancer Society
132 W. 32 Street • New York, NY 10001

*“Be full of joy in the Lord
always. And the God who gives
peace will be with you.”*

Phillippians: 4:4, 9

Professional Services Provided By:

Chosen Funeral Services LLC

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