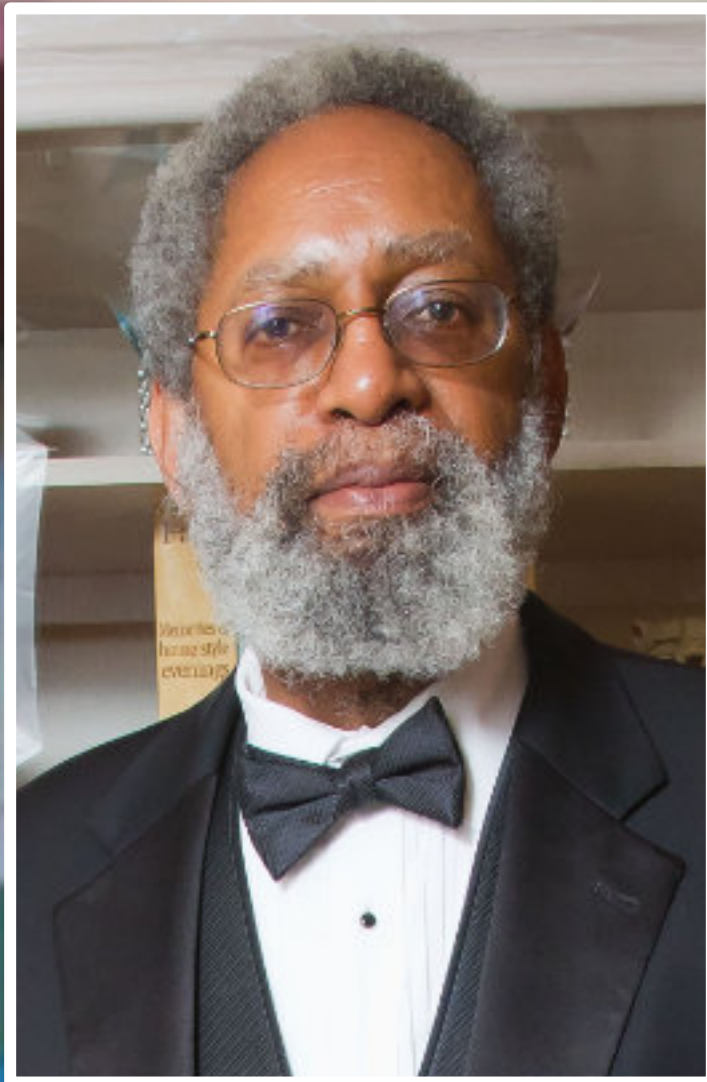


Celebrating The Life  
of  
**Gilbert Allen McMillon**

Sunrise  
December 2, 1947

Sunset  
January 24, 2023



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2023 - 11:00 AM**

**WOODY HOME FOR SERVICES**  
163 Oakwood Avenue • Orange, New Jersey 07050  
**Rev. Crystal Moon-Boulware, Officiating**  
**Calvin Blount, Organist**

# OBITUARY

**Gilbert Allen McMillon**, son of Grady Allen and Vera Brantley McMillon was born in Newark, NJ on December 2, 1947. He shared his childhood with his brother Grady.

Gil attended public school in Newark, New Jersey, skipping two grades and graduating Weequahic High School at 16. He said this early launch shaped his life in so many ways. He entered Brandeis University in 1967 and was a part of the vanguard of Black students who advocated for equity and inclusion. Gil graduated from Brandeis in 1972 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He subsequently earned a graduate degree in Fine Arts, Photography from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD).

Gil was a true child of the 1960s. While at RISD, he lived in an international commune, which aligned with his belief in the importance of fostering an intentional community. After college, he left the U.S., moving from Canada to an Israeli kibbutz and finally to a Danish commune where his daughter was born.

Gil followed both of his parents into social work but became frustrated with his inability to solve his client's problems. He moved to California and became a retail manager before purchasing an art supply store in the 1980's, which was beloved by customers until he closed it in 2018.

Gil's philosophy was full contact retail. As a customer you received the product you came for as well as advice on how to use it and even some intellectual stimulation in the form of a political debate. Gil was famous for encouraging customers to buy books of philosophy along with art supplies to broaden their worldview. He developed lasting relationships with his customers, many of whom shopped with him for over 50 years. Gil was an expert in his industry. He worked with several companies to develop new products based on the needs of his customers. He developed a paint line that was sold nationally by a major manufacturer and introduced a German line of art notebooks in the US.

Gil was described as the heart of his community and served on the Palo Alto Arts Committee for several years. He was a member of art industry organizations and was well known in the community for his knowledge and willingness to help artists. He quietly helped keep several artist programs open by providing supplies and strategic guidance.

Gil was a devoted Francophile, spending at least two weeks in France each year. He thought the French had developed a rational society that revered art, good food and small and local communities. In the 2000s he encouraged his family to join him and they enjoyed many wonderful long weekends together in Paris.

To cherish many wonderful memories, he leaves behind his partner of over 20 years Robinetta Wheeler; daughter Bekka Ozer Christensen (Jakob); grandsons Arthur and Oskar; sister-in-law Deborah McMillon; nieces Kimberly McMillon (James) and Tema McMillon (Robert); grandniece Madeleine Desir; his West Coast family the Perrys; his Denmark family the Ozer Christensens and a host of beloved cousins and friends who will miss him dearly.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

## **Musical Prelude**

Calvin Blount

## **Hymn of Comfort**

Blessed Assurance

## **Scripture Readings**

Tema McMillon

Old Testament - Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

New Testament - Matthew 11:28-30

## **Prayer of Comfort**

## **Music Ministry**

It Is Well With My Soul - Congregation

## **Remarks**

Family & Friends (2 Minutes please)

## **Acnknowledgements & Resolution**

## **Obituary**

## **Solo**

Tyrone Dunlap

## **Eulogy**

Rev. Crystal Moon-Boulware

## **Committal**

## **Recessional**

Clergy & Family

## **Cremation (Private)**

Rosedale Crematory

Orange, New Jersey

## **Final Disposition**

Fairmount Cemetery

Newark, New Jersey

# *Make Art*

not because it prepares you  
for what you are going to be  
but because it prepares you  
for who you are going to be.

i do not yet know  
what i'm going to spend  
my days doing.

but i know  
who i'm going to spend  
my days being.

i make art  
because no matter where i end up,  
i want to be creative.  
i want to be thoughtful.  
i want to be kind.

rachel h

## *Acknowledgement*

The family of **Gilbert Allen McMillon** wishes to acknowledge, with deep appreciation, the many kind acts and comforting expressions of sympathy extended to us during our time of bereavement.

May God continue to richly bless you.

**Professional Services Provided By**

**WOODY "HOME FOR SERVICES"**

163 Oakwood Ave. • Orange, NJ 07050

Ph (973) 674-0814 • Fax (973) 677-0644

