

THE LYDIA T. WALL REVIEW

Special Edition

Lydia Wall's Homecoming Celebration

Saturday, October 9, 2021 | 1:00 PM

C.A. Haywood, Sr. Memorial Chapel

Visitation: 12:30 PM

Sunrise: March 31, 1934—Sunset: September 30, 2021

2911 S. Wilmington St., Raleigh, NC 27603



June and Lydia

Historic information from March 31, 1934

Democrats will meet in Raleigh for celebration

Hordes of young Democrats to assemble for Jackson Day festivities in War Memorial Auditorium in Raleigh today. Approximately 1000 Democrats are expected to gather in Raleigh today for the Jackson Day celebration sponsored by the young democratic clubs of North Carolina. The fair will take place at the War Memorial Auditorium. A large number of persons from Chapel Hill is expected to attend the rally. The sale of approximately 600 tickets has been reported. Three events are scheduled for the program: reception at 6 o'clock dinner at 8 o'clock and a dance immediately after the dinner. Tickets at one dollar cover the entire program.



Lydia T. Wall

Obituary

Weather

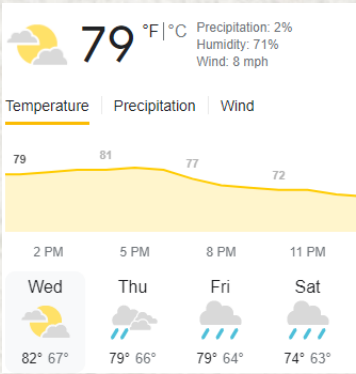


Table of Content

Obituary 1

All About Lydia..... 3

Crossword

Word Search

Comics

Order of Service..... 4

Poem 4

Acknowledgements..... 4

Interment..... 4



Circa 1980

This is a story of defeat and triumph, of struggle and success, and of the ultimate life dedicated to those she loved. The life of Lydia T. Wall is chronicled herein with a certain portion of that legend told through oral history. We thank the contributors who bear witness to a life well-lived.

Lydia Alma Thomas made her debut on Saturday, March 31, 1934. The President was Franklin Delano Roosevelt and in the second year of his first term, he had been working on implementing his first New Deal, aimed to restore prosperity to Americans impacted by the depression, stabilize the economy and provide jobs and relief to those who were suffering. Even though she was born during the Great Depression, her proud parents, the late Joseph E. Thomas and Kathleen

L. Thomas, and her older sister, the late June Swindell, were excited by this new addition to the family. Soon after her birth, the family moved to their current homestead where Lydia would peacefully transition from labor to reward surrounded by her family on Thursday, September 30, 2021. It was in this home that the foundation of love and family were woven into her heart for eternity.

A young Lydia was baptized at First Baptist church and remained a

steadfast follower of the faith until her death. Her faith in God, her assurance that His will be done and her knowledge that He maketh no mistake comforted her as she prepared to return home to Him.

Her first cousins remember little Lydia as funny, cheerful and very loveable. Carolyn Harris, her only living first cousin, had this to say about Lydia as a child: "I remember when my Aunt Alice, Uncle Joe and my cousins June and Lydia moved

from Cabarrus Street to Poole Road in 1947. There was about an eight-year difference in our ages and as a little girl I wanted nothing more than to be in her presence. I remember the highlight of my youth when I was able to go to Greensboro to visit Lydia and Nurry at Bennett. She supported me through nursing school, the birth of my children, Nichole, Kenneth and Terri and through all of life's ups and downs."

(Continued on page 2)



Nurry, Lydia and Carolyn

(Continued from page 1)

As a high schooler, Lydia attended Washington High School in Raleigh NC; she aspired to teach and help young students to reach their potential. It was during her matriculation at Washington High School that she met her life-long friend, Nurry Turner. Both of them pursued careers as educators and thus took their talents to Greensboro, NC to become Bennett Bells. There she studied education and continued her life of love and service to others. She and Nurry rode the bus home from Greensboro next to each other, snuck off campus together, and shared many harmless college shenanigans. When her mother, Alice, sent her back to school with supplies and home cooked meals, it also had the instructions to share with Nurry. When Nurry’s mother sent a care package to the school, Lydia knew that it was the same as if it had been sent to her. They were their own Thelma and Louise of the 1950’s.

After graduating from Bennett at the fresh age of 21 in the spring of 1955, Lydia returned to Raleigh. She had two goals as a young woman and as a professional: she wanted a family and she wanted to teach. In December of 1955, she married the love of her life – the late Richmond Wall, Jr. In November of 1956, the couple welcomed their first child, Audrey Yvette Wall. Once they moved to Washington DC in 1957, Lydia and her husband would also welcome two additional bundles of joy to complete their little family. In August of 1958 Adrienne Michelle Wall was born, followed two years later by Richmond Wall, III.



Lydia and Mary

Now that she had become a mother, Lydia refocused on her career and began teaching in Washington, DC. Initially teaching at Draper Elementary school, she would later be assigned to Moten Elementary School. Though Draper Elementary school closed in 2010, Moten

Elementary School is still an active school to this day. In 1965, Lydia transferred to Davis Elementary School where she worked until she retired in 1994. Her love of children led her to continue to work with them as a substitute teacher even after she retired; she dedicated an additional 10 years of her life to help educate the youth at James McHenry Elementary School in the Prince George’s County school system. Her time as an educator was also when she met her “besties” Bessie and Ed Morgan. Bessie and Lydia worked together in the school system as well as in the community and the church. When they were both teachers, they actually split a classroom for over 2 years as a unique way to handle overcrowding in the district’s largest elementary school.

Ultimately, Lydia joined First Baptist Church of Highland Park along with her childhood friend Mary Jeffries so that these like-minded, God-fearing women could worship together. She served her church and community as a missionary at the Rose Mission House where she prepared meals for the residents of the Addison Road Men and Women’s Shelter. In addition to this important work, she was also called to visit the sick and shut in at the Heartland Nursing Home in Adelphi, MD. There, she would share her joy through song. Lydia had a beautiful



Lydia and Bessie

soprano voice that inspired the residents, and her performances were always well attended. As part of her other performances, she also sang with the Davis School Choir.

In 1969 Lydia moved her young family to Village Green, and Edith Holloway still remembers meeting her dear neighbor on December 6th of that year. It was Edith’s move-in day and the first person she met was Lydia and her three children. Edith had two children who were the same ages as her son and daughter and of course, she and Lydia became instant friends. Edith’s recalls her fondest memory as the smell of Lydia cooking fish next door. When that smell waffled into her house, Edith would immediately go out her back door and into Lydia’s house for, what she calls, “some of the best fish I ever had. She watched over my children, and I watched over hers. Eventually, I relocated to the Raleigh area and we reconnected. I count Lydia as a blessing in my life and it is a pleasure to have shared so much of our lives with her.”

In 1978, Lydia met a very young Keena and her mother, Pat. Jones (Jerome). Keena was a student at the school where Lydia’s daughter taught. Between Audrey and her mother, they developed into an extended family; Lydia, unofficially adopted Pat, Keena and her sister Lakeshia. Pat knew that Keena was in the best of hands in



**Lydia and her children
Richmond, Audrey, Michelle**

Lydia’s care as evidence in the fact that Keena did not want to go home. Pat describes the pain of her loss as a cry that only God should hear... Only God and His angel, Lydia.

In 1982, her family expanded with the addition of her first grandchild, Ashli Kai-Leen Jordan, followed by Aysha Monaye Jordan in 1985. She was delighted to have two granddaughters and even more delighted with the subsequent addition in the form of a dedicated son-in-law, Kevin Alexander Augustus, Sr. and an adorable grandson, “Little” Kevin Alexander Augustus, Jr. in 1996. Her grand-maternal crown was completed once Joy Carlisha LaSha Peterson joined the fold in 1990. Over time, four great grandchildren rounded out her brood including Raelynn Yvette Gillespie, Carter Simone Jackson, Journee Armani Peterson, Reagan Nicole Augustus and Cannon Monroe Wood.

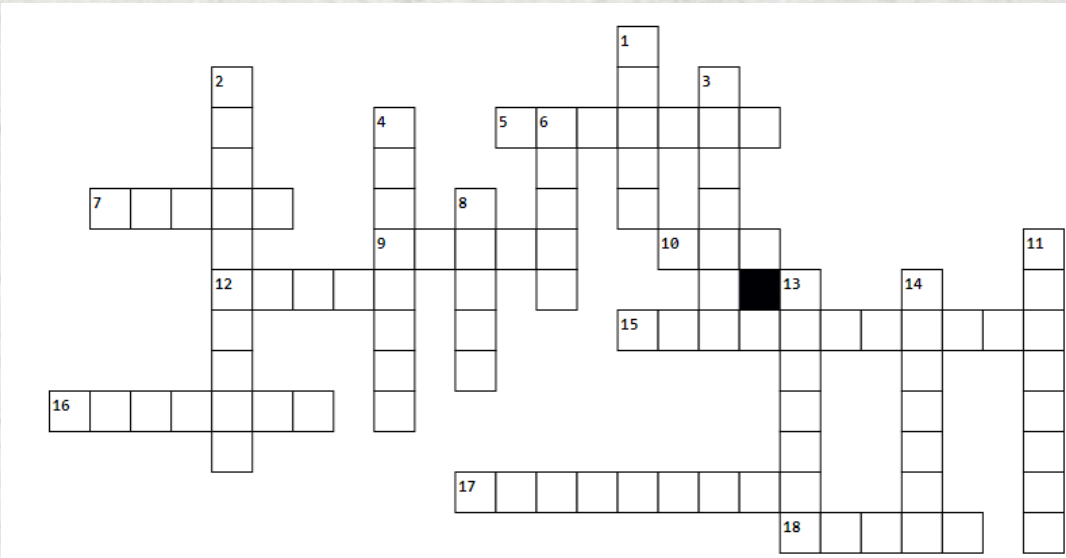


**Lydia, Aysha, Michelle, Little Kevin,
Ashli and Joy**

In addition to singing, Lydia dedicated her time and also committed to working tirelessly with Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM) to help change the harsh and inequitable sentencing laws which disproportionately affected the lives of people of color. God answered her prayers, as she lived to see some of these laws changed or abolished. This important work was done with Bessie and her daughter, Audrey, by her side lauding her accomplishments and suffering through

(Continued on page 4)

ALL ABOUT LYDIA

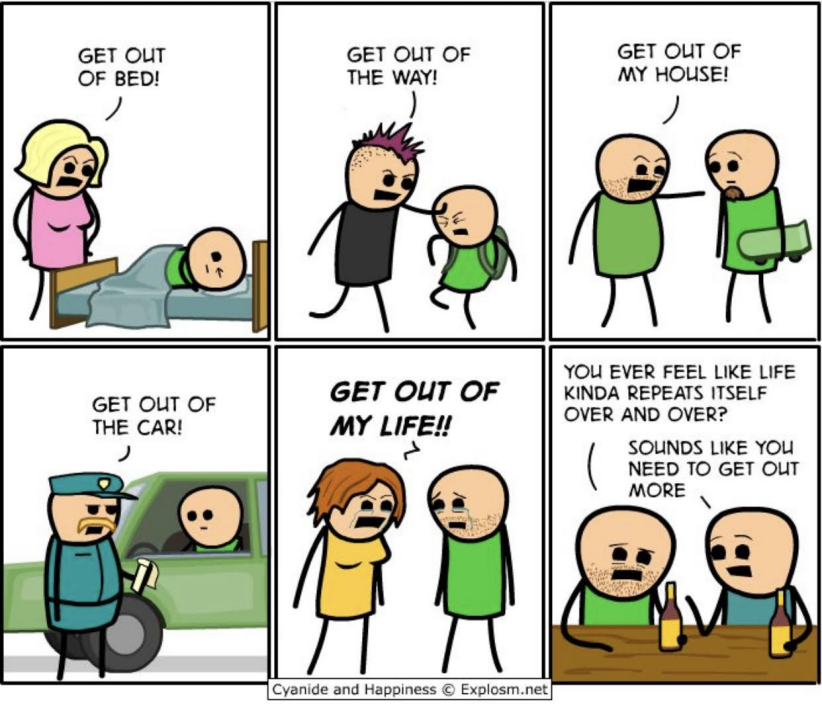


Across

- 5. What was her favorite musical group?
- 7. What was her least favorite drink?
- 9. What was her favorite genre of show?
- 10. What did her grandchildren call her?
- 12. What was her birth month?
- 15. What was one of her famous dishes?
- 16. Who was her favorite actor?
- 17. What was her favorite ice cream?
- 18. Who was the love of her life?

Down

- 1. What was her favorite soda?
- 2. What was her favorite fruit?
- 3. What college did she attend?
- 4. What bread was she famous for?
- 6. How many children did she have?
- 8. What did her sister call her?
- 11. What was her favorite football team?
- 13. What hospital was she born in?
- 14. Who is her only female cousin?



Obituary continued

(Continued from page 2)

the setbacks they encountered demanding more fair sentencing, especially for non-violent crimes. Her tireless work for equity and justice benefitted not only her son but countless others with no voice; her work impacted legislation for decades to come.

In 2002, tragedy struck the family and in 2003 Lydia lost her first child to breast cancer. This was an especially difficult time for her as burying your child is one of the most impossible challenges in life. However, in true Lydia fashion she drew on her inner strength and the courage to soldier on and help to raise awareness and funding for breast cancer research and a cure, holding value for the struggle of those to come.

When Lydia was not acting in service to others she enjoyed traveling, especially to New York City. While in the city, she relished in the culture of food, art, excitement, and live Broadway performances. She, Mary and Bessie also cruised to Jamaica. Her free time was spent gardening, playing Pinochle, or reading a good book. Lydia took pride in a weed-less garden and enjoyed having her hands in the dirt. Above all, she loved a good joke and a hearty laugh. Her comedic timing was legendary, a gift she passed on to her youngest, “Bubba”.

Lydia continued to fulfill her earthly purpose by serving the Maryland area until she relocated to North Carolina in 2005. Once back in Raleigh she

reunited with old friends and spent time with her daughter, Michelle and her son, Richmond. In her final days she was surrounded by the love that she gave to so many. Her life was a blessing to all who encountered her and her spirit and legacy remain a beacon of light to illuminate our way through life without her. ■

THE LYDIA T. WALL REVIEW

I Made It Home

I just wanted to let you know,
That I made it home.
The journey wasn't an easy one,
But it didn't take too long.
Everything is so pretty here,
So white, so fresh, so new.
I wish that you could close your eyes,
So you could see it too.
Please try not to be sad for me,
Try to understand.
God is taking care of me...
I'm in the shelter of his hands.
Here there is no sadness,
And no sorrow, and no pain,
Here there is no crying,
And I'll never hurt again.
Here it is so peaceful,
When all the angels sing.
I really have to go for now...
I've just got to try my wings.



ORDER OF SERVICE

Presiding, Reverend Nichole L. Harris Glover

Processional

Viewing and Visitation 12:30 PM -1:00 PM

Opening Hymn..... “Amazing Grace” – Congregation

Prayer of Comfort..... Reverend Nichole L. Harris Glover

Prayer Response..... “God Is” – Lisa Lucas

Scripture..... Mischelle Corbin

Old Testament Psalm 23

New Testament John: 14 1-7

Tribute..... Bessie Morgan

Obituary (Read Silently)

Sermonic Selection “His Eye Is On The Sparrow” – Lisa Lucas

Eulogy..... Reverend Nichole L. Harris Glover

Recessional “Let the Church Say Amen”

FLORAL BEARERS

Chloe Brown
Denise Brown
Patricia Brown
Lorraine Dillard
Robin Moses
Cathy Oduok
Andy Peters
Marrielle Posey
Taelor O. Scott
Rezelle Williams

PALLBEARERS

Thomas Grant
Kenneth Harris, Jr.
S’Ven Levister
John Peters
Tyrone Ruffin
Bobby Tolson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Lydia’s family wishes to thank everyone for the acts of kindness extended to them. Special thanks to our pallbearers and floral bearers who not only assisted today but have supported us through this entire journey. May God bless you all.

INTERMENT:

Carolina Biblical Gardens, 1530 Creech Road, Garner, NC 27529

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:

Haywood Funeral Home, Inc.
2415 South Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27603, 919-832-2835, ww.haywoodfh.com

AFRICAN PROVERB

Until the lion learns how to write,
Every story will glorify the hunter.

