

A Celebration of the Vibrant Life of
DARRYL WAYNE ROCHESTER



SUNRISE

MARCH 27, 1953



SUNSET

DECEMBER 8, 2020

Service

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2020
HEAVEN'S GATE ON ZOOM

OFFICIATED BY GOOD NEIGHBOR BAPTIST CHURCH
100 CHANCELLOR AVE, NEWARK, NJ 07112

REV. LOUISE SCOTT-ROUNTREE, OFFICIATING
REV. DR. GEORGE A. BLACKWELL III, SENIOR PASTOR

Order of Service

PRELUDE AND MEDITATION.....HOW GREAT THOU ART, INSTRUMENTAL

WELCOMEREV. LOUISE SCOTT-ROUNTREE

INVOCATION.....REV. DR. LLOYD P. TERRELL

SCRIPTURE READINGS

▸ PSALM 23WENDEL ROCHESTER

▸ ECCLESIASTES 3:1-4.....AYSHA NUNES

PRAYER OF COMFORT.....MARIA RICE BELLAMY

MUSICAL SELECTION.....MY LIFE IS IN YOUR HANDS.....MIN. DONNIE HARPER

RESOLUTIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

▸ CITY OF NEWARK, NJ, THE HONORABLE RAS BARAKA, MAYOR....REV. LOUISE SCOTT-ROUNTREE

▸ FRANKLIN ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.....REV. VIVIAN COOK

▸ QUEER NEWARK ORAL HISTORY PROJECT.....CHRISTINA R. STRASBURGER, CO-FOUNDER

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM THE FAMILY.....SANDRA R. CARNEY

ROBERT S. (RUSSELL) ROCHESTER, JR.

GREGORY L. ROCHESTER

PRAISE DANCE.....JANIS BADY, ALVIN AILEY DANCER

Reading & Viewing of Obituary

MUSICAL SELECTION.....WALK AROUND HEAVEN.....SIS. BETTY DAVIS

EULOGY.....REV. DR. GEORGE A. BLACKWELL III

CLOSING.....REV. LOUISE SCOTT-ROUNTREE

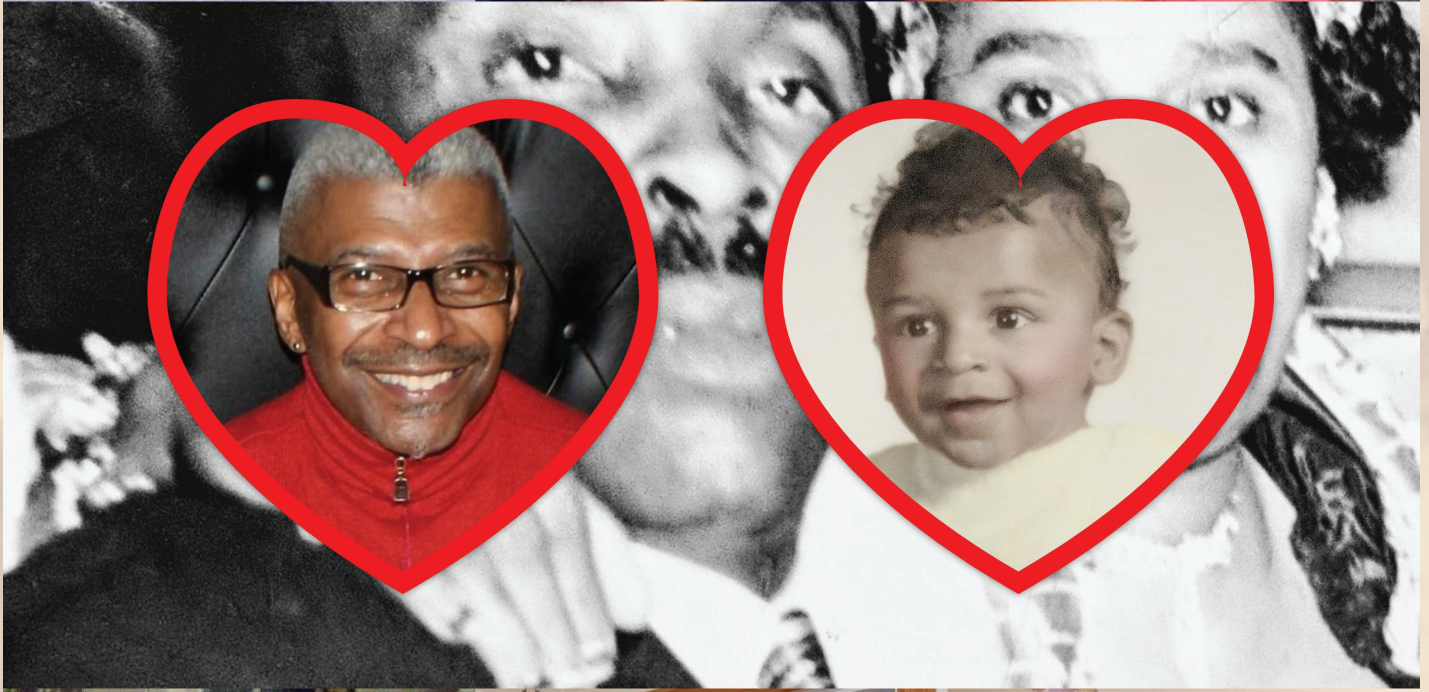
Postlude

SONG OF TRANSITIONHIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW.....LATRICE VERRETT

SONG OF FREEDOM.....GOING UP YONDER.....FAMILY & FRIENDS

Celebration Repast

FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO TAKE A SHORT BREAK IN THE BREAKOUT ROOMS.
GRAB YOUR REFRESHMENTS. SHARE A MEMORY. WE WILL RECONVENE IN EXACTLY 5 MINUTES.



Brother Darryl

Celebration Repast

WELCOME.....CHARISSE CARNEY-NUNES & HARVEY NUNES

TRIBUTE.....LISA CATALDI

DARRYL AS UNCLE.....REPRESENTATIVE NIECES & NEPHEWS

MIXOLOGIST INTERLUDE.....UNCLE DARRYL'S LEMONADE.....STEPHANIE SOWELL

DARRYL AS DANCER.....CHARISSE CARNEY-NUNES

DARRYL AS HAIR STYLIST.....JOY HARRIS

DWIGHT WEST

MIXOLOGIST INTERLUDE.....THE BLOODY MARY.....LEAH BROWN

DARRYL AS BROTHER.....DEBORAH TUDDLES

SANDRA R. CARNEY

ROBERT S. (RUSSELL) ROCHESTER, JR.

GREGORY L. ROCHESTER

DARRYL AS FRIEND.....CALVIN CLEVELAND

YVONNE VICKERS

ERICA HARRISON

REV. GWENDOLYN MCCLENDON

MIXOLOGIST INTERLUDE.....THE PERFECT PEAR MARTINI.....DAWN CARNEY-MASSEY

LISA CARNEY

DARRYL AS NEWARK FASHIONISTA ROYALTY...TIMOTHY STEWART-WINTER, CO-DIRECTOR,

QUEER NEWARK ORAL HISTORY PROJECT,

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, RUTGERS-NEWARK

"LETTER FROM GARY JARDIM, AUTHOR OF BLUE: LIFE, ART & STYLE IN NEWARK"

MICHELLE ROCHESTER-RAE

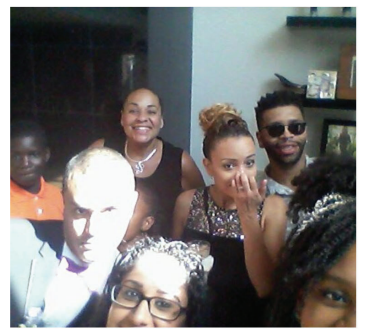
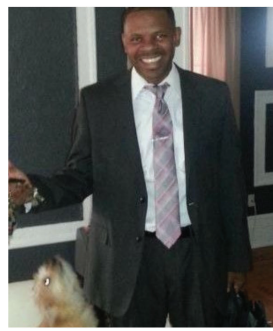
ERICA HARRISON

TAMMY, TODD AND COURTNEY BOLDEN

KARON RICE AND ROZ ELMERA

REIMAGINING LE JOCK - THE HOUSE THAT DARRYL BUILT.....VOGUE

FAMILY & FRIENDS



Uncle Darryl



Uncle Darryl

Obituary

DARRYL WAYNE ROCHESTER SUNRISE (MARCH 27, 1953) | SUNSET (DECEMBER 8, 2020)

Darryl Wayne Rochester was born on March 27, 1953 in Newark, New Jersey. He was the youngest child of Mabel (Dudley) and Robert Stanley Rochester, Sr. and the brother of Iva Russell, Yvonne Bogar Lee (Russell), Sandra R. Carney, Robert Stanley Rochester, Jr. (Russell), and Gregory Leroy Rochester. Darryl attended Peshine Avenue School and Weequahic High School in Newark, New Jersey, graduating in 1971.

Darryl grew up on Johnson Avenue among a close-knit extended family and where he created a large circle of lifelong friends. As a child Darryl and his siblings attended Metropolitan Baptist Church in Newark, NJ. After the early and untimely death of his beloved mother, Darryl gained a stepmother, Lettie Reeves Rochester (and two sisters Deborah Tuddles (Reeves) and Rosalyn Reeves. At an early age, Darryl showed an affinity for the arts so Sandra enrolled him in Kae Thompson Payne's dance studio. Under Mrs. Payne's tutelage, his love for dance flourished into a lifelong passion. After graduating from Weequahic High School, Darryl's love for the arts bloomed into his first career after he auditioned and was accepted in the famed Alvin Ailey Dance troupe. Unfortunately, Darryl soon suffered an injury which would bring an end to his dance career.

Darryl continued to embrace his artistic side by enrolling in the Wilfred

Academy of Hair and Beauty Culture and Christine Valmy Beauty School in New York, receiving certifications from them both. With these certifications and the influences of his late mother Mabel and her dear friends, including Emily Miles (the grand dame of black style in Newark"), Darryl began taking the tri-state area fashion scene by storm. He was tapped by the legendary Al Murphy (who was obsessed with Emily Miles) to choreograph funky dance-theater pieces for Murphy's highly extravagant fashion shows. Darryl and his dear friends, fashion designer Jaime McDonald and model Tommy Garrett, participated in these epic shows, as did such legends as Iman, Pat Cleveland, and Beverly Johnson, the first Black woman to grace the cover of Vogue Magazine. Around this time, Darryl opened his first salon, funded by Stanley, in the basement of the Rochester-Reeves family home on Keer Avenue. There, Darryl styled many of New Jersey's hottest models and celebrities including Beverly Johnson, Pat Cleveland and one of his best friends, the groundbreaking Tracy "Africa" Norman. He also styled participants of the legendary New York Ball culture and over the years was a premier stylist at Bamberger's, the famous Soul Scissors Salon, and Avalon Day Spa in Greenwich Village.

Darryl was central to the theatrical environment of this era. Most notable was his association with the Club Le Jock, 36 Halsey Street in Newark, an

Obituary continued

DARRYL WAYNE ROCHESTER SUNRISE (MARCH 27, 1953) | SUNSET (DECEMBER 8, 2020)

LGBTQ space that spawned the theatrical environment for the expression of free black subjectivity and a precursor for similar cultural spaces throughout the tri-state area. Darryl's contributions to the LGBTQ community and cultural scene have been recorded in the Rutgers University Queer Newark annals.

Although Darryl did not have children of his own he took great delight in being everyone's **Uncle Darryl**; his many friends and clients were like his family. As a right of passage, **Uncle Darryl** enjoyed taking his nieces clubbing to New York and New Jersey hot spots...after their hair and makeup were sufficiently snatched enough to make him proud. And while he also never married, his longtime relationship with Calvin Cleveland brought love and light to his life. Darryl enjoyed traveling to places as far as Amsterdam; however, nothing could compare to his love for Martha's Vineyard. He spent many a sunrise doing yoga on the Inkwell while watching the "Polar Bears" take their morning dip (we all know he couldn't

swim), and many lazy afternoons on the beach or better yet people watching in the front yard of Sandy's Sanctuary on Circuit and Masonic Avenues.

As an adult Darryl continued his spiritual journey by joining the Good Neighbor Baptist Church where he became an active member and enjoyed participating in the church choir. Darryl's earthly journey ended December 8, 2020, but he rests eternally with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and his spirit lives on in his family and friends.

Darryl was preceded in death by his beloved parents, Mabel and Stanley Rochester, brother Iva Russell, sister Yvonne Bogar Lee, and sister-in-law Charlotte Russell. He is survived by his loving sister Sandra, brothers Robert and Gregory, sisters Deborah and Rosalind, special friends Calvin Cleveland and Yvonne Vickers, and an entire cast of aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.



Darryl with Family

WHILE WAITING FOR THEE

DON'T WEEP AT MY GRAVE,
FOR I AM NOT THERE,
I'VE A DATE WITH A BUTTERFLY
TO DANCE IN THE AIR.
I'LL BE SINGING IN THE SUNSHINE,
WILD AND FREE,
PLAYING TAG WITH THE WIND,
WHILE I'M WAITING FOR THEE.

THE COMFORT AND SWEETNESS OF PEACE
AFTER THE CLOUDS, THE SUNSHINE,
AFTER THE WINTER, THE SPRING,
AFTER THE SHOWER, THE RAINBOW,
FOR LIFE IS A CHANGEABLE THING.
AFTER THE NIGHT, THE MORNING,
BIDDING ALL DARKNESS CEASE,
AFTER LIFE'S CARES AND SORROWS,
THE COMFORT AND SWEETNESS OF PEACE.

Helen Steiner Rice



Darryl with Friends

Acknowledgement & Gratitude

THE FAMILY OF THE LATE DARRYL WAYNE ROCHESTER EXTENDS OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR THE MANY KIND EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY THAT HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED DURING THIS TIME OF BEREAVEMENT. ALTHOUGH WE WISH WE COULD HAVE CELEBRATED DARRYL'S LIFE IN PERSON, WE ARE GRATEFUL TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE VIRTUAL CELEBRATION HELPING TO TURN IT INTO A COLORFUL DANCE WITH OUR MEMORIES, BRINGING A MEASURE OF COMFORT UPON HIS SUDDEN PASSING.

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him and he helps me. My heart leaps for Joy, and with my song I praise him."

Psalm 28:7

-THE ROCHESTER-CARNEY FAMILY

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY:
WHIGHAM FUNERAL HOME

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Newark, NJ 07102

973-622-6872

Carolyn Whigham, Director