

We Are Grateful

The family would like to thank all who, with their presence and their wishes of condolences, have made a very difficult time bearable. We thank you and pray the Most High will bless you all for your kindness.

Those who wish to remember Rabbi Eliyahu in a special way may make a donation to the National Kidney Foundation.



Celebrating the Life of the Rabbi Eliyahu ben Hammurabi ben Yehudah



Sunrise
August 20, 1946

Sunset
April 17, 2024

Monday, April 22, 2024 9:00 AM - 10 AM
Plaza Jewish Community Chapel
630 Amsterdam Ave., New York, NY 10024

Internment at Washington Memorial Park
855 Canal Rd. Mount Sinai, NY 11766

Repast will be held at 127-03 Jamaica Ave., Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Community Room 1st Floor

Rabbi Yeshurun Ben Levi, Presiding

Order of Service

Processional..... Joshua Hines, Drummer
Opening Remarks. Rabbi Yeshurun Ben Levi
Prayer Rabbi Zikiyahu Ben Levi
Opening Prayers Rabbi Yeshurun Ben Levi
Song23rd Psalm..... Rev. Juwan Bey
Psalm 145 Matthew Williams (son)
Reading of the Obituary Meshael Danielson
Reading - Ecclesiastes 3:1-16 Bro. Rabbenu
Eulogy Rabbi Yeshurun Ben Levi
Comments Rabbi Zikiyahu Ben Levi
Reading of Resolution from IIB of Rabbis... Rabbi Sholomo Levy
Acknowledgements by family and friends
El Maleh Rachamim Rabbi Yeshurun Ben Levi
Prayer..... Rabbi Sholomo Levy



Obituary

James J. Williams, Rabbi Eliyahu ben Hammurabi ben Yehudah, died April 17, 2024, in Jacksonville, Florida. He was born on August 20, 1946, in Flushing, Queens, New York, the son of James John Alfred Williams, Sr. and Gloria Ethel Lashley-Williams.

James graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School, Brooklyn, New York, Class of 1964. Following graduation, he earned his Associates of Arts Degree from New York City College of Technology. After graduating, he worked at the New York Stock Exchange as a Clerk for 7 years, until he decided to pursue his Bachelor's degree at Brooklyn College.

James married his love, Patricia Banfield, and settled in Queens, New York. They celebrated 44 years of marriage in this past March.

James was a realtor for 35 years in Southeast Queens, New York where he owned and operated an office as a Broker. James was an accomplished musician who studied under Earl Coleman. He would later perform at the Carnegie Recital Hall and Lincoln Center and with the Latin-Jazz band that Latin Soul Drivers. James was an Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America where he was a member of the Order of the Arrow, and a God and Country Award recipient. James would later serve as a Scoutmaster for his sons' Scout Troops.

James was always concerned about his people and their plight. He met and studied with Dada Conrad Falasha Luka where he facilitated the "Tribute to the Ancestors" home service. As he continued his studies he enrolled in the Israelite Academy where he received his rabbinic degree and Sh'meka. The now, Rabbi Eliyahu was an assistant rabbi at Beth Elohim in Queens, NY. He along with Rabbi Zikiyahu and Chazzan Nathaniel concurrently founded Beth TeChiah as a Beth Midrash while continuing to serve Beth Elohim. He was the former President of the Israelite Board of Rabbis, NY Local, founder of the Israelite Community Vision Council, former Treasurer of the African Poetry, and Co-Founder of the Midbar African Dance Troupe.

Rabbi was a 7th Degree Royal Arch Mason and Past Master of the Sons of Light Lodge #1114, Queens, New York. He had many hobbies and was active in his community. He enjoyed cycling, reading, watching movies, and playing the alto and soprano saxophones. Rabbi Eliyahu was a generous and charismatic man who used his insight and strong will to forge life-long friendships throughout his community. These qualities were only second to his everlasting love and loyalty to his wife, Rabbinit Nadivah (Patricia). Rabbi Eliyahu is survived by his wife, his sons; Matthew and Ephraim, his daughter, Ruhammah; Daughters-in-law Khadija and Jantella.

Granddaughters; Carley, Francelle, and Madelyn, his Grandson, Evan, his sisters; Barbara and Deborah; and many nieces, nephews, and friends