

Memorial Book



In Loving Memory of

Jeanne Kayirangwa

(June 23, 1963 - December 20, 2005)



This memorial website was created to remember our dearest **Jeanne Kayirangwa** who was born in **Bujumbura, Burundi** on **June 23, 1963** and passed away on **December 20, 2005** at the age of **42** in **Kigali, Rwanda**. You will live forever in our memories and hearts.

We also remember Jeanne's cousin, **Gilbert Seromba**, born **December 15, 1974** and passed away on **December 22, 2005** at the age of **31** as he travelled to attend Jeanne's interment.

"Even when I walk through the dark valley of death, I will not be afraid, for you are beside me." Psalm 23:4

"We are wondering how time goes by so fast. It seems like it happened yesterday... yet it is still hard to believe... It means a lot and it is so painful ...but we must accept this fact, so that we can face the challenges they left us ...even though they left a gap that will never be filled." (*Claire Ilibagiza - Jeanne's beloved Sister-in-law*)

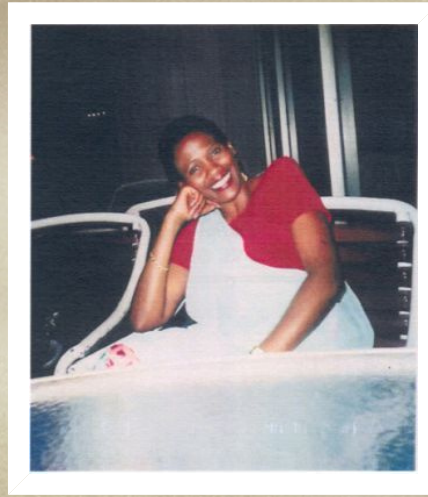
The background is a textured, mottled brownish-gold color. In the upper right quadrant, there are two roses. The one on the left is smaller and more tightly curled, while the one on the right is larger and more fully bloomed. The word "Gallery" is written in a white, elegant cursive font, centered horizontally and partially overlapping the roses.

Gallery

so sweet, so unforgettable...



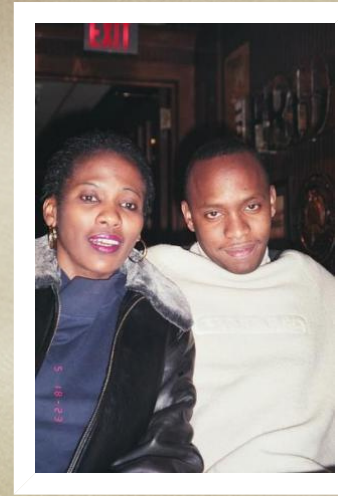
Gilbert, a loved son and cousin...



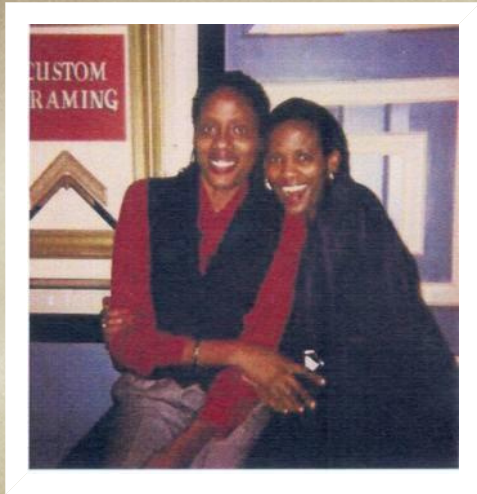
Loving Heart - Moman Jeanne, Evelyne MUNYEMANA



MamiJeanne - Wash, D.C.



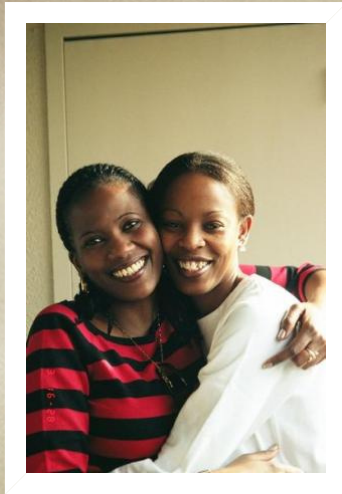
Munyemanas - Wash, D.C.



with Liz - Wash, D.C.



with Ruth and Susanna - Wash, D.C.



with Susanna - Wash, D.C.



bonne soirée, with family... Wash, D.C.



with Roger, Ruth, Liz and Malaika...



adored...



a best friend and sister...



Compassionate, inspiring, loving, caring, warm...



Warm and charming - Ryals Tamera (Sister In-law)



Amahoro yawe, n'urukundo ntizuzabyibagirwa, Kwibuka inseko yawe nziza bizahora bidusurutsa,
Aunty Joy

**You are a joy, our pride, sweetest daughter. Fare thee well
Kayirangwa cherie! (Aunty Joy)**



Jeanne Chouchou, God has a beautiful garden in heaven so he picked you our beautiful Rose.
Those who live in the hearts of those they leave behind never die.

**It is not goodbye Jeanne... Just Goodnight (Jane Sofali Aseli - long
time friend)**

The background is a textured, mottled brownish-gold color. In the upper center, there are two roses, one slightly to the left and one slightly to the right, rendered in a lighter, almost white tone that blends with the background. The roses are in various stages of bloom, with some petals clearly defined.

Memorial Candles

our words, your light...

03/13/2007

alice seromba

Dear Jeanne, will always remember u forever more until we meet again, i know that the 2 of u are now happy together! sweet dreams!

03/13/2007

Alice Seromba

Sweet brother although u'r go but u'r still alive within my heart. u'r not dead but just sleeping, sweet dreams dear bro.

03/11/2007

Liz

Gilbert, alot happened when u went back 2 Nbi n was always waiting 4 u 2 cme bc! bt God needed u d sme tme! till we meet again!

03/11/2007

Liz

Jeane, Sweethear t, like the nickname i had given u, still ma sunshine! and will always be till we meet again. love u always

01/11/2007

Junne

You will forever shine and light our hearts with joyous memories! Go to sleep our dear Angel!

12/29/2006

Susan H

Rest In Peace,

12/28/2006

Richlyn Ophelia

It was time, your work on the earth was finished. God / Allah called you home, only He knows why. Rest in Peace.

12/28/2006

Brenda Wilson

The Lord has chosen the 2 of you (Angles) . He has set his table to welcome you both into his kingdom. God Bless you, Brenda

12/27/2006

Chuck

Rest in peace

12/26/2006

Zawadi

Though we have never met, I know how deeply missed you are by the ones who love you. We shall all be together one day..AMEN.

12/23/2006

Flo

We love you and God loved you too, so much that he called you home. Rest in peace

12/21/2006

Néné K.

I miss you so much my dear. You were such a sunshine. God bless you. Que ton âme repose en paix. Amen.

12/21/2006

William Odongo

Jeanne & Gilbert, you are both thought of dearly each and every day by all...

12/21/2006

Liz

My friend, as we would say to each other, 'badae' (until later). Love You.

12/20/2006

Arsene Behinan

Dont know what to say with all those tears in my eyes can't even type.rest in peace kayirangwa cherie,love always.

12/20/2006

Tamera

Gilbert, Although h we never met, I pray for you. You are my family and I respect you and love you the same. Rest in Peace

12/20/2006

Mwenzu Gogo

We shall never forget your smiles and hospitality.

12/20/2006

Tamera

A day does not go by that I do not think of you. I miss you so much sister. You will always be in our hearts. I love you.

12/20/2006

andre Ndoli

May god bless you ,we will always remember ,rest in peace.

12/20/2006

Roger

Jeanne, I still see you everywhere I go. For me, you are still with us, and will be for the rest of our lives.

12/20/2006

Gaëlle

I know that your are amongs angel right now,pray for us here on earth and rest in peace beloved sister.we love you and miss you.

12/20/2006

Lillianne N.

Like a bright light you shone into our hearts and even with your demise, it will never dim, neither will your smiling face fade.

12/20/2006

Emmanuel TZ

I will always remember you.

12/20/2006

Nilufar's Family

May Allah Bless Your Beautiful Soul, our Dear Daughter and Sister we did not have a chance to meet, but will love and remember

12/20/2006

Sara, Arsene, Florence

*Rest in Peace, Our Love -
Jeanne!!!! You will always
be in our hearts! Nilufar on
behalf of Sara, Arsene,
Florence*

12/20/2006

Tembo

Will always be with us.

12/20/2006

Nilufar

*This is for my sister and my
best friend, Jeanne, Rest in
Peace. Love always*

Two roses are positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image. The rose on the left is smaller and more tightly curled, while the one on the right is larger and more fully bloomed. The background is a mottled, textured olive-green color.

Condolences

from the deepest of our hearts...

coco

Friend

December 24, 2006

Tu seras toujours dans nos coeurs.

Betty Muganda

Such a friend!

December 21, 2006

How does one begin? Where does one begin? What does one say? How does one comfort the family, friends, colleagues?

To quote the Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral who once said,

"Death is nothing at all,

I have only slipped into the next room.

I am I and you are you.

Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.

Call me by my old familiar name,

Speak to me in the easy way which you always used.

Put no difference in your tone,

Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together.

Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.

Let my name be ever the household world that it always was,
Let it be spoken without effect, without the trace of shadow on it.
Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same as it ever was, there is unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?
I am waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near,
Just around the corner.
All is well."
Amen to that!

Matilda Nyunja

My true friend

December 20, 2006

My true friend,
dear to my heart,
always remembered,
sincerely missed.

Nilufar

You Were and Are My Heart

December 20, 2006

I look for you everywhere and am still waiting for you to call me one day....I am waiting for you to break the silence with your laughter...I miss you. I miss you everyday and every moment. My heart is crying for you, my dear friend, my dear sister and my soul-mate...God bless your soul, my love. God bless the soul of your two cousins. God bless the souls of your two late brothers and your beautiful sister.

God bless your Mom, Tembo, Clement, Richard, Claire, their kids and your grandmothers, Anty Joy and Anty Jamima.

My heart will always be with you all.

Andre Ndoli

friend

December 20, 2006

I will never forget you jeanne

Erick Munyaburanga

Jeanne is still around!!!

December 20, 2006

http://www.123greetings.com/encouragement_and_inspiration/sympathy/sympathy1.html

Emmanuel TZ

we will always remember you

December 20, 2006

you were good friend and you were like my sister.i will always pray for you.

Two roses are positioned in the upper center of the image. The rose on the left is smaller and more tightly curled, while the one on the right is larger and more open, showing more of its petals. The background is a mottled, textured olive-green color with subtle variations in tone and some faint, larger-scale floral patterns.

Shared Memoirs

all the gray you turned into colors...

Betty Muganda



When I first saw the email from Lilian saying Jeanne had passed on, my only reply was "which Jeanne?". Of course, there was only one Jeanne whom I knew, but it couldn't be the same Jeanne. No! Questions raced through my mind--how? when? why? But there were no immediate answers and so I silently said a prayer to God for "the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh". I prayed for peace and comfort and understanding. And I needed to get through the day and the night until the next email response from Lilian confirming my worst fears!

Jeanne and I first met at Kianda College, Nairobi, back in the early 80s. We met again in the US and worked together at the International Monetary Fund for several years before she decided to move back to Rwanda. Jeanne was a friend in the true and whole sense of the word. And for her, once a friend, always a friend nomatter the distance. Jeanne, like me loved giggling, and whenever she came to my office, or I went to hers, there was a whole lot of giggling going on! And we were know for that at the IMF!

Jeanne and I talked alot just before her return to Rwanda. For like her, I too was planning to go back to Kenya. And so, we shared our concerns, fears, excitement, apprehensions all the emotions of returning back home after so many years away. We stayed in touch by email and to date, I find it very hard to erase her email address from my address book!

There are some lingala songs that when I listen to I literally see Jeanne getting down! Yes, Jeanne loved dancing! The many parties I had at my place, Jeanne would always be there and there would be giggling and dancing and merry making! And I know she has not stopped dancing to all the angelic tunes streaming in Heaven!

I can't believe that as I am writing this, am getting all teary! Shamelessly! For me, like many of you, it still

seems so unreal!

Till we meet again, rest in peace, Jeanne. Rest in peace! AMEN!

MATILDA NYUNJA

MY SILENT PRAYER

BY MATILDA NYUNJA

It was my prayer that despite the darkness of the hour Jeanne parted, God would enable us to see the stars and give us strength beyond the grave. This is a consolation and an affirmation as a Christian that death is not a period that ends the great sentence of life, but a comma that punctuates its significance. May we all find strength for this short life well lived and may the peace of God that passeth all understanding be our potion now and always.

My true friend,
dear to my heart,
always remembered,
sincerely missed.

Nilufar

It is almost impossible for me to express how I felt that morning, exactly one year ago (already a year) on that cold early morning when I received a phone call from Aunty Joy. Everything I knew about life, love, friendship, sisterhood and family changed for me that very moment. And my life would never be the same after that day...

I have been fighting with myself this entire year trying to understand and accept what happened. I am still not convinced why... Perhaps because I was the last one to see her among her dear friends... maybe because I have the last image of Jeanne when she came to the airport to say good bye to me... I do not know...And pls forgive me if I sound selfish...I think we all were selfish when it came to our friendship with Jeanne.. she was an unbelievable friend and a soul-mate for all of us...

Maybe my turmoil will come to some sort of an end when I go back to Kigali, sometime next year. I have to. We all have to. I am preparing myself for this moment because I am scared to lose my mind when I would have to face the reality that I won't be able to find Jeanne in Kigali when I get there...and more than that, I do not want to bring more pain into the family by again revealing the hurt and the love that is burning my heart since she left me, she left us...But I will find my way to face it, inshallah...

I will always love you, Jeanne....always...

Now, dear friends and family, I also wanted for all of you to know that I arranged a couple of things in the memory of Jeanne. First, I asked a colleague here in Kabul, Afghanistan where I am currently stationed, to request a full prayer (Hatma) to be conducted by 4-5 mullas (Muslim priests) to honor Jeanne's life. They will be reciting KORAN for a few hours tomorrow all day along by taking turns; and after the ceremony they would distribute sweets, cookies and a cake for children who come from poor families and other needy. This is the Muslim tradition we all follow in this part of the world.

Second, I also asked my mother back in Uzbekistan, who unfortunately did not have a chance to meet Jeanne and embrace her with her love, to do her part of paying respect to Jeanne. She would prepare a special food and make a prayer for Jeanne's and Gilbert's souls. The food will be then again distributed to her close neighbors.

I also think that we should help Jeanne's family with some money. Let us do it, please, altogether like we did last time. Any amount would be appreciated. We should send it to Claire by Western Union. I am sending my portion tomorrow morning.

ELIZABETH OLOO

REFLECTIONS

BY ELIZABETH OLOO

When Jeanne passed last year, I could not find any words of comfort to offer her family and those close to her who loved her so. Jeanne remains so clear in our memories that sometimes the pain is unbearable and words seem so inadequate to describe such a person as Jeanne, and what she brought to our lives. Her joy, her laughter, her smile, her insatiable thirst for life. It seems so unfair that such a bright star could be gone from our lives. However, we must remember how Jeanne loved God, and apparently He loved her too, so He took her back. Difficult words to utter, a difficult place to reach. We can only pray that despite the circumstance of her passing, she still finds peace. Knowing Jeanne, she would want us to rejoice her life, and this is what she would probably say to us:

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God has laid you see.
I took His hand when I heard him call
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way
I found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and peace to thee
God wanted me now; He set me free.

AFANDI (RUTH) MULAHI

DEDICATIONS TO JEANNE KAYIRANGWA

BY AFANDI (RUTH) MULAHI

Family,

Like many others whose paths crossed with Jeanne's will say, she was also my best childhood friend, my sister, my confidant, and in many, many ways, my source of strength and courage. How does one begin to eulogize a loving friend, a sister, a confidant, a present force (irrespective of distance and time)? Like all those who loved her so dearly (and there is a world of us out here), there aren't appropriate words in any language to put what I feel now into words. My prayer is that Jeanne's steadfast faith in God (who she served so well in her short life here on earth), and her unrelenting good deeds and thoughts will continue to be a strength and inspiration to all of us in our sojourn.

Blessings to Maman Evelyne Munyemana, our loving mother who has seen more than a fair share of pain in the years past. Blessings to Jeanne's brothers, Kabalisa, Tembo and Butera whom we have always thought of as our own. Blessings to our adopted sisters Claire and Tamara. Blessings to our lovely grandmothers who continue to be pillars of this strong family and community. Blessings to Aunties Joy and Jemimah who we all adopted as our own (Jeanne didn't quite give us a choice!), for remembering and embracing us all as their own. Blessings to all those who loved her and who cherished every moment we were privileged to spend with our dear Jeanne. It will be well. No, it is well.

I could write a long passage but I hear Jeanne say? Kwani, why do you want to put us all to sleep with the long speeches, pwana!?! So I'll sign off with a simple au' revoir to my best friend, my sister. Go well, Kina! I know there are many across the river who are waiting with open arms to embrace and welcome you home. We will look for that glowing star in the sky every day, knowing that you'll be looking down on us, caring and smiling, as always.

Go well Kina! Go well, Kina!

Lastly, grieve not my friends, grieve not my family, for our Jeanne's been set free...

BELLA AKINYI



EULOGY OF JEANNE KAYIRANGWA

BY BELLA AKINYI

My respects to Jeanne's dearest friend, her Mother who has known too much pain in her lifetime, too much loss. May Jehovah God be with you always to give you strength. My respects to Jeanne's remaining three brothers – Clement, Richard and Tembo. My respects to Aunty Joy and Aunty Jemima the loss of their niece who was like a daughter.

Jeanne was my best friend for over 26 years. We were young girls when we first met. Jeanne's command of the English language at the time was limited, but by the end of the four years, she was one of the best English students in Loretto Convent Girls School in Valley Road. She gave me an interest to study another language, French and it is because of her that my career path has led me to where I am today. Thanks to Jeanne.

How can I describe Jeanne? No words can express someone who is full of life. Beautiful inside and out. Intelligent. Jeanne's talents in the work place were legendary even when she worked here in the US at International Monetary Fund. They offered her a promotional position that would have paid her over thirty times her earnings in Rwanda, but she was faithful to her family and wanted to contribute to her country's growth and did not consider money as a factor. She was that kind of a person.

Everyone who met her, remembered her. She was a memorable person. Coming to terms with this tragedy is inconceivable as I hoped we would grow old together and one day live in the same locality. I hoped Jeanne would join us again in the US soon. I got to know every one who Jeanne loved in detail, even if I had not met them, I knew them, I am sure like they all knew me. Everywhere I went, I talked about Jeanne, at work everyone knew Jeanne even though she was in Rwanda. She always talked about her friends too.

Her loss is just too great for any spoken or written words to describe. My regrets, indescribable. Jeanne and I knew the bible well and we would spend hours in our growing years debating different parts of the scriptures. In the book of 1st Corinthians 15:26 it says "the last enemy death will be brought to nothing." Here death is described in the bible as an "enemy". Death is an enemy. Anything that takes away a bright shining star like Jeanne is my enemy.

We shall see Jeanne or Jay Kay – in paradise that Jehovah God has promised us in the book of Revelation 21:3 & 4 "death will be no more, neither will mourning...nor pain be any more. The former things have passed away. In the book of John 5:28 & 29 where it says the hour is coming when all those in the tombs will here his voice and come out, and those who did good things to a resurrection of life.." Believe me, Jeanne did good things, she was beautiful inside and out. That is the truth. Sleep my love. We shall see you in paradise.

The background is a textured, mottled brownish-gold color. In the upper right quadrant, there are two roses. The one on the left is smaller and more tightly curled, while the one on the right is larger and more fully bloomed. Both roses are rendered in a light, almost white tone, making them stand out against the darker background.

Life Story

every hour, every thought, every smile...

June 23, 1963

Born in **Bujumbura, Burundi** on **June 23, 1963**.

December 20, 2005

Passed away on **December 20, 2005** at the age of **42** in **Kigali, Rwanda**.

Our Deepest Sympathy
WWW.LAST-MEMORIES.COM