



Mrs. Lila Hobson-Stearns

September 23, 1922 - October 7, 2016

Celebrating The Life Of Lila Hobson-Stearns:

Lila Hobson Stearns was born on September 23, 1922 in Beloit, Wisconsin to Maggie Jane and Chester Hobson. She was the first, and sole survivor, of four children – Lila, Horace, Doris and Chester, Jr.

At an early age, she joined the Second United Methodist Church in Beloit, Wisconsin and worked diligently in the church. She sang with the choir, played the piano for Sunday school, and was a member of several youth auxiliaries.

Lila was an intelligent young woman. She graduated fourth in her class of 365 students from Beloit High School. That accomplishment was truly remarkable, especially given the fact that during that time, there were only four African American students in her class.

After completing high school, Lila decided that she wanted to attend a historically Black university. With that decision made, she chose the largest and best university to attend – Howard University located in Washington, D.C. Again she demonstrated her intellect by graduating cum laude in June 1945 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. She then matriculated at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and received her Masters of Arts degree in English in the summer of 1946.

Over the following years, she did further graduate work at the University of Southern California, University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma City University, and Central State University in Oklahoma.

Lila was initiated in the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Alpha Chapter, at Howard University on November 24, 1942. She served as Basileus (president) of the Alpha Chapter and two additional chapters during her lifetime. She was a life member, a silver soror (25 years) and a golden soror (50 years).

Lila began her teaching career as an English instructor at Lincoln University located in Jefferson City, Missouri in September 1946. She taught at Lincoln University for four years. She also sang with the Lincoln University choir.

In the fall of 1951, she arrived on the campus of Langston University in Langston, Oklahoma. On her first day on campus, she visited the president's office. It must have been fate, because on that first day in the president's office, she met her future husband, Hollis Delton Stearns, an assistant professor at Langston. From that first day on Langston's campus until his untimely death in 1971, Hollis and Lila were a couple. They married in the spring of 1952, and Anita and Camille were the products of that loving union.

In 1955, Hollis decided to leave the field of teaching and to depart from Langston University. He accepted a position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farmers Home Administration. In 1956, he moved the family from Langston to Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

After moving to Okmulgee, Lila began her teaching career in the Okmulgee Public Schools, first at Dunbar Junior Senior High School and later at the Okmulgee Middle School. She taught English for 22 years and retired in May 1983.

During her years in Okmulgee, Lila was active in numerous organizations and served on many boards, including the following:

- President, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Okmulgee Graduate Chapter
- Choir director, assistant pianist and vacation bible school teacher, Eastside Baptist Church
- President, Pierian Federated Club
- Chair, American Association of University Women, Okmulgee Chapter
- Corresponding Secretary, Business and Professional Women's Club, Okmulgee Chapter
- Member, American Legion Auxiliary, Okmulgee Chapter
- Life member, naacp
- Member, Jack & Jill, Tulsa Chapter
- Member, Board of Directors, Okmulgee Memorial Hospital Authority
- Member, Board of Directors of Oklahoma Council of Teachers of English
- Member, Oklahoma Governor's Commission on the Status of Women
- Member, Governor's Historical Records Advisory Board.

In 1986, Lila decided to relocate to Detroit. She joined and was a dedicated member of Second Baptist Church. She recently retired from singing with the Progressive Choir, something she dearly loved to do.

During her time in Detroit, Lila was a member of the Detroit Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (Alpha Rho Omega), the Renaissance Chapter of Links, Incorporated, the Howard University Alumni Club of Detroit, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, and the Friends of the Detroit Public Library.

Lila was welcomed by all of you, and the family thanks you for your kindness extended to her during her time in Detroit.

On October 7, 2016, Lila died peacefully at her home.

Previous Events

Family Hour

Friday, Oct. **14.** 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

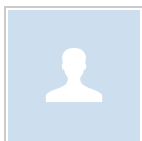
Second Baptist Church of Detroit
441 Monroe Ave
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 961-0920

Funeral Service

Friday, Oct. **14.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Second Baptist Church of Detroit
441 Monroe Ave
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 961-0920

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Lila Hobson-Stearns*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Lila Hobson-Stearns. My God greatly comfort you during your time of our dear family member.*

*Your cousin
Linda Buggs-Simms*

Linda Buggs-Simms - October 14, 2016 at 09:47 PM



“ *My sincerest condolences to the family. The 23rd Psalm can be comforting.*

Sanual Mixon, sanualm@aol.com

Sanual Mixon - October 14, 2016 at 08:06 PM



“ *Please accept my sincere condolences for the loss of your dear, loved one. Death is hard to deal with. Even Jesus gave way to tears when Lazarus died (John 11:35). But our Heavenly Father views death as an enemy and promises to put an end to it (1 Cor 15:26). We can look forward to being reunited with our loved ones again. For additional information please visit <http://bit.ly/1K38EFt>. I can also be reached at vickisherell@gmail.com.*

Victoria Sherell - October 14, 2016 at 01:26 PM

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“ Shirley Rabb & Kids - San Antonio, TX (Mt.Zion) purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Mrs. Lila Hobson-Stearns.



Shirley Rabb & Kids - San Antonio, TX (Mt.Zion) - October 12, 2016 at 01:16 AM