

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

Jean "Gigi" Goldsmith

A LIFE OF GRACE, STRENGTH & LOVE



*"It's okay...
and it's
going to be okay."*

AUGUST 21, 1927 ~ AUGUST 4, 2026

BELOVED MOTHER • GRANDMOTHER • GREAT-GRANDMOTHER
MENTOR • FRIEND • COMMUNITY LEADER

A LIFE OF *Grace, Strength & Love*

Jean "Gigi" Goldsmith peacefully departed this earthly life on August 4, 2026, leaving behind a remarkable legacy of grace, dignity, strength, service, and unwavering love. Just seventeen days shy of her ninety-ninth birthday, Jean had lived through nearly a century of extraordinary change, meeting each season of life with determination, intelligence, elegance, and an abiding devotion to family.

Born Lillie Jean Hallums on August 21, 1927, in Greenville, South Carolina, Jean was the daughter of Caroline Leland Hallums and James Arthur Hallums. She entered the world alongside her twin brother, Billy Dean Hallums, who died in infancy in 1927. Jean was the last of twelve children in a large Southern family that included Carrie Lou, William L., Betty Hallums-Davis, Mildred, Clarence, Velma "Pie" Hallums-Reid, James, Arthur Jr., Emma Ola Hallums-Griffin, Alma Lois Hallums-Melton, and her twin Billy Dean.

From an early age, Jean possessed a combination of independence, poise, curiosity, and determination that would characterize the woman she became. South Carolina gave her roots, but her ambitions carried her north. As a young woman she made her way to New York City, where she would build a family, pursue higher education, establish a distinguished career, and spend decades serving the Harlem community she came to call home.

Jean's life with Calvin Boggs began through family and friendship. As the story was passed down through the family, Jean and Calvin first came together on a double date with Calvin's sister Louise Boggs and her husband Floyd. What began that evening developed into marriage and family. Calvin was remembered as a devoted husband and father whose world centered on Jean and their daughters, Patricia Boggs-Artope and Antoinette Johnson.

Music ran deeply through the Boggs family. Calvin and members of his family performed together as The Victory Gospel Singers, a talented gospel group that recorded several LPs. The musical tradition remained an important thread through succeeding generations.

After Calvin's passing, Jean later married Samuel Douglas Goldsmith, with whom she continued another chapter of her life. She first established herself in Harlem's Lincoln Houses and, around 1969, moved to Esplanade Gardens, which became the center of much of her family, civic, social, and community life.

Jean believed strongly in education and demonstrated that belief through her own achievements. She earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the College of New Rochelle, graduating with honors. She was also the recipient of the Johnston Award for After-Hours Study, receiving Top Honors. Education was not merely an accomplishment to her; it was one of life's great investments and a means of opening doors that determination alone could not always unlock. Her academic discipline reflected the same persistence that characterized nearly every aspect of her life.

Professionally, Jean devoted approximately thirty years to Chemical Bank, later Chase Manhattan Bank, ultimately retiring as a respected Financial Manager. She built her career during an era when both race and gender could present formidable barriers, yet she carried herself with professionalism, competence, and confidence.



Retirement did not mark the end of Jean's working life or her service—it simply opened another chapter. For more than twenty years, she served as a New York State Bar Examination Proctor through the New York State Board of Law Examiners and New York University School of Law, bringing the same discipline and sense of responsibility to that role that she had brought to banking.

Her commitment extended far beyond the workplace. Jean faithfully served her Harlem community through the Tioga Carver Democratic Club, where she was active from 1974 through 2019, and through the Harlem Democratic Club. She served as a Judicial Delegate and County Committee member in the 71st Assembly District and worked for many years with the New York City Board of Elections, including as an Election Inspector and Election Coordinator at Esplanade Gardens. Along the way, she worked with and supported notable public servants including Charles B. Rangel, Herman "Denny" Farrell, Inez Dickens, Bill Perkins, Keith L. T. Wright, and Brian Benjamin.

Though petite in stature at 4'9", Jean's presence was unmistakable. She was a woman of style, class, and conviction—known for her elegant dress, poised manner, signature sway, and ability to make others feel seen, respected, and welcomed. She lived by the principle: "Whatever you do, do it with class."

Just as memorable was the life Jean created at home. Her home was a place of gathering, comfort, and tradition—especially during Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, the Fourth of July, Sundays, and countless other occasions. Daughters, grandchildren, sisters, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, neighbors, musicians, and singers passed through her doors to share food, conversation, television, music, laughter, and even the occasional family disagreement that somehow became part of the joy. Gigi was an exceptional cook, and there was always plenty of food—meals that became part of the family's most treasured memories. She was wise, loving, direct, disciplined, sweet, strong, and wonderfully no-nonsense, and her home reflected all of it.

Jean's greatest pride was her family. She was predeceased by both of her beloved daughters, Patricia Boggs-Artope and Antoinette Johnson. She was also predeceased by her granddaughter-in-law Clara Montague Artope, yet their love remained central to her spirit. She leaves to cherish her memory her grandchildren West Artope, Cali West, January Johnson, and Wendy; great-grandchildren Jordan Artope, Chanse Artope, Clara Rivera, Sincere, Serenity, Juelz, Josiah, Jonathan, Charlie, and Mary-Ann; nieces Betty Renee Hallums-Hall and Caroline Lydia Griffin-Rose; favorite nephew Kirby Cheeks; South Carolina relatives Judy Austin and Franklin Austin; godchildren Evon Qualls and Sarah Logunleko; and a host of relatives, friends, neighbors, colleagues, and loved ones whose lives were enriched by her wisdom, warmth, and enduring example.

Her story does not end here.

*It continues in every lesson she taught, every life she touched,
and every heart that carries her memory forward.*

HER GUIDING PHILOSOPHY

*"Whatever you do,
do it with class.
Be true to your principles,
respect the right of others
to be true to theirs,
and never let your
differences keep you
from treating people
with dignity and respect."*

— Jean "Gigi" Goldsmith

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Order of Service

PRELUDE - MUSIC

"Hallelujah"

Le'Andria Johnson

PROCESSIONAL - MUSIC

"Better Benediction 2"

PJ Morton

INVOCATION

Pastor Gooding

MUSICAL SELECTION

Fabian Ralth

POEM

"They Call Me JEAN"

Written by West Barrington

• Read by Ms. Jaquie Stephens

PRAYER OF COMFORT

Pastor Gooding

MUSICAL SELECTION

"The Way We Were" - Ms. Melonie Daniels

Gladys Knight

OBITUARY

Ms. Bette White

OPEN REFLECTIONS

Led by Ms. Normajean Campbell

Family & Friends

EULOGY

Pastor Gooding

MUSICAL SELECTION

"To God Be the Glory" - Ms. Melonie Daniels

Andraé Crouch

RECESSIONAL - MUSIC

"Better Benediction 1"

PJ Morton

*A life remembered with grace,
strength & love.*

HER JOURNEY

Grace Through the Years



Young Jean — poise from the beginning



Education and achievement



Family roots and love



A youthful spirit



Style, confidence and unmistakable presence

From South Carolina to Harlem, from family life to higher education, from banking to public service, Jean moved through every chapter with determination, intelligence, discipline and class. Her life was not defined by a single accomplishment, but by the way she continued to grow, serve, and show up.

FAMILY & JOY
The Woman We Called Gigi



Gigi's greatest joy was her family. Her home was a place where generations gathered, where food, stories, laughter, music and everyday life became memories. She made the people around her feel welcomed, seen and loved.

Her legacy was how deeply she loved — and was loved.

SERVICE & COMMUNITY

She Showed Up



Jean's commitment extended far beyond the workplace. She served Harlem through the Tioga Carver Democratic Club, the Harlem Democratic Club, and the New York City Board of Elections, where she worked as both an Election Inspector and Election Coordinator. Her public-service years placed her alongside elected officials, neighborhood leaders, colleagues, and generations of residents. Her faith and compassion also found expression through Convent Avenue Baptist Church and volunteer service with the Gutman Breast Center of New York. Gigi's service was not performative; it was steady, practical, and rooted in the belief that people deserved dignity.



*She did not merely attend community life —
she helped sustain it.*

POEM

They Call Me Jean

by West Barrington

I was raised in a place
Called the Southern Lina,
To a Momma of esteem
And a Poppa never finer.

I shared a womb
With another one;
The love that we knew
Was second to none.

My name was Lillie,
But they called me Jean.
Momma saw something
The world had not seen.

A spark in my spirit,
A strength in my stride—
Something already
Awake deep inside.

Then I boarded a train
With New York on my mind,
Leaving all that was familiar
And comfort behind.

Some may have wondered
If Jean had gone insane,
But destiny had called me,
And I answered its name.

The last of twelve,
But afraid of none,
I learned very early
My race had begun.

Deep in her heart,
Right from the start,
Momma knew what life would reveal:
There was strength in my soul,
There was fire in my heart,
And the blood of a Queen at the wheel.

I became wife.
I became mother.
I worked and I learned
To serve like no other.

I loved with conviction,
Stood firm when I must,
And learned that a life
Is made worthy through trust.

And now I sit with you today,
After nearly a century
Has passed my way.
I've known joy and sorrow,
Loss and gain,
Sunshine long enough
To outlast the rain.

So listen closely
To what I mean:
Cherish the blessings,
Hold fast to your dreams.
I loved you all—
My kings, my queens—
From the one known as Lillie—
But they called me JEAN.

Acknowledgements

The family of Jean "Gigi" Goldsmith gratefully acknowledges your prayers, love, presence, and every expression of kindness shown during this time of bereavement. Your support has brought comfort and strength, and it will never be forgotten.

The Goldsmith, Boggs & Artope Families

ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO

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