



Mrs. Magnolia Jean (Baird) Davis

April 17, 1935 - February 4, 2026

DEERFIELD, NY - Mrs. Magnolia Jean (Baird) Davis, age 90, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, February 4, 2026. Most people called her by her middle name, Jean.

She was born in Deerfield on Good Friday, April 19, 1935. Jean lived in Deerfield until she and her mother, Anna Baird, moved to Utica when she was eight years old. Jean counts her mother among her role models, as well as Mrs. Bessie E. Hicks, the founder of the Cosmopolitan Center.

Jean graduated from Utica Free Academy and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Utica College and a master's in education from SUNY Cortland. She worked at Griffiss Air Force Base and the Utica Municipal Housing Authority, where she began as a cashier and rose to tenant relations assistant, responsible for renting all New York State-aided projects in the City of Utica.

Jean had a passion for teaching. She was Utica's first Black Head Start teacher. She later became a respected elementary teacher in the Utica School District. She is remembered by many local adults who attribute their success to the exemplary education and guidance she provided as a teacher. She worked in the school district until 1992 and was a volunteer with the district until the age of 70.

Jean was a lifetime member of Hope Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church. An accomplished musician, she began her musical training on piano with Mrs. Bessie E. Hicks and sang in both the Utica College and Hope Chapel choirs. Jean was the substitute pianist for Hope Chapel for many years until Mrs. Constance Whitfield retired in the 1980's, whereupon she became the full-time pianist for Hope Chapel.

Jean was a longtime chartered member of New Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, Inc. She was a cherished comrade and loved all her sorority sisters. One of her AKA sisters was her loving niece, Lori Baird.

Jean was preceded in death by her mother, Anna (Roberson) Baird; father, Andrew Delos Baird; husband, George Davis; brothers, Raymond (Martha), and John Baird; and sister, Elizabeth Jones.

She is survived by her two sons, Craig Owens (Laura), and Allen Owens (Kristina); two grandchildren, Holly Cardone (John), and Joseph Cochise Owens; two great-grandchildren, John, and Joey Cardone; and numerous loving nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins; brother-in-law, Franklin Jones; and close family friends.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, February 19, 2026, from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Hope Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, 751 South Street. Magnolia's Home Going Service and Celebration of Life will commence at 12:00 p.m. at the church. Those unable to attend may be present virtually at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3802383785>, Meeting ID: 380 238 3785, Passcode 1234. Memorial contributions in Magnolia's honor may be considered to the Hope Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church After School Program online at www.hopechapelamezion.org; envelopes will also be available at the funeral home. Interment will take place in Holland Patent Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

This obituary was lovingly composed by Jean's family.

Cemetery Details

Holland Patent Cemetery

Holland Patent, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 19. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Hope Chapel AME Zion Church
751 South St.
Utica, NY 13501

Home Going Service

FEB 19. 12:00 PM (ET)

Hope Chapel AME Zion Church
751 South St.
Utica, NY 13501

Tribute Wall

DG

“ Sending prayers and condolences to the family, with all of God's love. Mrs. Jean grew up with my mom Dorothy Williams-Gibbs. She will be greatly missed. Mom is one of the Williams family that attended the Hope Chapel Church. May God Rest her Soul 🙏🙏🙏
😭

Deanna Gibbs - February 19 at 05:17 PM

BB

“ Every year Jean and her AKA Sorority sisters visited the ABC House (A Better Chance) in Clinton. My husband and I were the resident directors for two years where we met Jean. The eight young men sat in their circle and spoke of their lives in Clinton. So many have told me, “It was the most needed and wonderful experience of the program”. I remember Jean the most. She made Dan and I feel enriched and more knowledgeable about our role in our young men’s lives. We have lost a Treasure. She gave of herself throughout her life. I feel blessed to have known her.
Barbara Beigel

Barbara Beigel - February 19 at 11:33 AM

MW

“ Our sincere condolences to the family of Mrs. Jean Davis. We are so sorry for your loss and she will be truly missed. Rest well our friend. Mary and Bobby Wells. 🙏🙏❤️

Mary/Robert Wells - February 19 at 09:20 AM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Magnolia Jean (Baird) Davis.*



February 18 at 04:31 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Magnolia Jean (Baird) Davis.

February 18 at 04:31 PM



“ From Faye Short purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mrs. Magnolia Jean (Baird) Davis.



From Faye Short - February 18 at 03:34 PM



“ From Faye Short planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Magnolia Jean (Baird) Davis.

From Faye Short - February 18 at 03:34 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Magnolia Jean (Baird) Davis.*



February 18 at 10:22 AM



“ *The Winterstein & McMahon Families purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mrs. Magnolia Jean (Baird) Davis.*



The Winterstein & McMahon Families - February 15 at 08:45 PM



“ *Jim and Kim Miller purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mrs. Magnolia Jean (Baird) Davis.*



Jim and Kim Miller - February 14 at 02:19 PM



“ *Just one of those “one of a kind type of person’s” that leave such a wonderful impression on you to become the best you can be. She definitely will be missed but not forgotten by many. Mr. Anthony as she would refer to me. Anthony “Butch” Sisti*

Anthony Sisti - February 14 at 07:45 AM

EB

Mrs. Jean Davis..was my very 1st Black professional office administrator in which I had the opportunity to meet while she was working in the rent office at Goldbas apartments. I felt very Proud and respected because she seen and knowledge me when I would visit with my mother to paid the rent...she had an Impact on me and my life from my 1st time I had met her. She was always nice and pleasent with a wonderful smile and warm spirit!!..her contributions and service will be gravely missed.. because of her job was Well done!..I miss and loved Mrs. Jean Davis!!..//

Eugene Bradley - February 18 at 10:05 PM

EB

I was in Utica's 1st Headstart class..when I 1st met Mrs Jean Davis - 60 years old..//

Eugene Bradley - February 18 at 10:29 PM

JP

“ *Jesse and Norma Pittman purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mrs. Magnolia Jean (Baird) Davis.*



Jesse and Norma Pittman - February 12 at 01:18 PM

LB

“ *Lonnie Brown lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Magnolia Jean (Baird) Davis*



Lonnie Brown - February 11 at 08:06 PM

CC

“ *Carl (Joey) Ciccarelli*
Jean was a wonderful neighbor growing up in N. D. Peters. My sincere condolences to Craig and Allen, my childhood friends. I will always remember how proud of me Jean was when I completed my education and began my teaching career in Utica. She was a wonderful role model. Whenever our paths crossed we greeted each other with a big hug. I will miss those hugs.

Carl Ciccarelli - February 11 at 05:35 PM

MH

“ *Mrs. Magnolia raised an amazing son that I look up to everyday. Thank you for providing that for me. May you rest in paradise.*



Maxwell Hutchinson - February 10 at 07:37 PM

DL

“ *David M Luciano lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Magnolia Jean (Baird) Davis*



David M Luciano - February 10 at 04:07 PM

DL

“ Betty & David Luciano send our condolences of the loss of a wonderful woman. As my head start teacher and my downstairs neighbor at N D Peters Apts which you could always find me. We have many memories we shared together especially you teaching me play piano. I will always hold a special place for you in my heart
❤️ Love David

David M Luciano - February 10 at 04:04 PM

VB

“ Jean,
You have always been a special part of my life. From the day I was born until the day I will join you in paradise. You will be missed and I will carry your memory forever.
Vernard (Nard)

Vernard K. Brown - February 10 at 01:51 PM

PB

“ Paulette Brown-Haithcox lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Magnolia Jean (Baird) Davis



Paulette Brown-Haithcox - February 10 at 11:10 AM

VL

“ Vernard K. Brown and Markus Luksch purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Mrs. Magnolia Jean (Baird) Davis.



Vernard K. Brown and Markus Luksch - February 10 at 09:14 AM



“ *Condolences to your family and friends.*

Rest in Power, Mrs. Davis! You gave me my first writing assignment in 5th grade and opened up the light I would need to survive a dark world.

Louise Hammonds - February 10 at 07:08 AM



“ *Lynn Feely purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Mrs. Magnolia Jean (Baird) Davis.*



Lynn Feely - February 09 at 11:45 PM



“ *Auntie Jean, thank you for adopting me and Pamie as your nieces. Thank you for the Godly, Motherly advice you gave me to be a good wife to My Jesse! We loved you as our own and miss you very much already! Family and friends be comforted in knowing that our Father has called His Precious Daughter from labor to reward. Our prayers are with you. Pastor Marilyn Maddox Bell*

Pastor Marilyn Maddox-Bell - February 09 at 08:29 PM

LW

My fondest memories of Jean was during me and my sister's time at Camp Healthmote where she was our camp counselor. She was always kind, supportive and served as a role model for who we could become if we studied hard and made good grades and obeyed our parents and respected our elders and had faith in God. She certainly will be missed for how she made a positive impression on us as children and served as a role model for us to follow. We love you Jean and will never forget how you inspired us. Love Norma Jean and Lillian the Hill girls.

Lillian Woods Woods - February 14 at 10:29 AM

BW

My dear friend and sister! Oh how I am going to miss you. Thank you for welcoming me when I came to Utica to teach from South Carolina. I have cherished our close relationship for all these years. You were a true friend to me , always there to give me good advise when needed. You were a good and faithful servant and now it is time for you to rest in God's care. You will always be in my memory, until we meet again my Dear Soror Jean. Bertha Whiteside-Robinson

Bertha Whiteside-Robinson - February 14 at 02:56 PM

FF

“ *From the Blackshear family purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Magnolia Jean (Baird) Davis.*



From the Blackshear family - February 09 at 04:56 PM

PW

“ *You named me The Marcy Gazette as a little girl. I have held true to the name.*

*To my cousins, your Mom lived a good life, she and my Dad were the last two of the Baird-Frank clan from their generation. Rest in peace cousin Jean
Paula*

Paula Workman - February 09 at 10:30 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Magnolia Jean (Baird) Davis.



February 09 at 08:01 AM



“ Chris, Carla, Zach, and Josh Padilla planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Magnolia Jean (Baird) Davis.

Chris, Carla, Zach, and Josh Padilla - February 09 at 08:01 AM



“ Dana Savage and Judy Sauritch purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Magnolia Jean (Baird) Davis.



Dana Savage and Judy Sauritch - February 08 at 07:40 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Ms. Jean passing. She was one of my Mom's Best friends. My condolences to her family. She will surely be missed..

Melanie brockman - February 08 at 06:51 PM



“ ToMrs Jean Davis family

Darlene Trombetta King - February 08 at 05:41 PM

DK

She was always so kind to me we had some nice conversations I will miss her RIP Miss Jean

Darlene Trombetta King - February 08 at 05:48 PM

DK

I am the wife of the late Harold King Junior

Darlene Trombetta King - February 08 at 05:50 PM

 J
Carter

... may her family and so many friends find Comfort in God's Everlasting Grace! I remember her as being a cashier in rent collection at Washington Courts many, many years ago!

J Carter - February 09 at 09:16 AM

DW

“ *Praying For The Families We Are Sending You Our Love & Condolences You Were Always So Nice & Calm Pleasant Telling Me The Stories. From Workman, Jackson, & Prince Families*



Dolores Workman - February 08 at 04:29 PM

TA

“ *Worked with Jean at Seymour school such a wonderful person always a smile on her face 🙏*

tom Arcuri - February 08 at 04:12 PM

JS

“ Aunt Jean, rest in peace. You were always so kind and loving to me and always reminded me of the “stock from which I came” having been so close to my mother Annabelle (Brown) Dorsey and her family. Love you dearly!

Jai R Dorsey Sr.

Jai R Dorsey Sr. - February 08 at 03:57 PM