

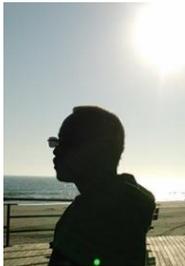
Rod leaves behind his soulmate and life partner, Melanie E L Bush and their cherished daughter Sarafina F. Bush; beloved son and daughter Malik L. Bush and Thembi Bush Tillman (Betty Ann Penda Kane); adored granddaughter Tajalia; four treasured grandsons Angelo, Orlando, Jedidiah, Wisdom; very loved god-daughter Isabella and her parents; dear longtime friends Arcee "Pete" James and Renzie Taylor; dear mother-in-law "Rozzie", brother-in-law, Ethan Levine; sister-in-law Rita Vermeulen; nieces Laura and Robyn Levine; son-in-law Jamal Tillman; daughter-in-law Donna Bush; potential future son-in-law Christopher Siegenthaler; aunts, uncles and a multitude of cousins, friends and family from many different communities and networks. He was preceded in death by one dearly loved daughter Sojourner Truth Bush (Cynthia Arnetta Holliday).

See www.rod bush.org for more information about Rod's life and work or to submit your own reflections. To communicate with the family, please email melanie.e.l.bush@gmail.com.

Much gratitude is expressed to all those who contributed in all different ways to putting together this event. We appreciate each and every gesture. Most particularly to Donna Truong, Muriel Herring, and Jesse Adamo Grimes.

We, the family, extend our sincere appreciation for your acts of kindness and assistance during this challenging time.

*Your caring gestures are deeply treasured and will always be remembered. We know that our loved and special person is also very special to you. May you receive blessings is our prayer.
Amen, Amen, Amen!*



CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
RODERICK DOUGLAS BUSH

November 12, 1945 - December 5, 2013



Sunday, June 8, 2014, 4:00 p.m.

Flatbush Reformed Church
890 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, New York
Rev. Dan Ramm, Pastor
Rev. Cheri Kroon, Pastor

**Rev. Brian L. Carter, Chaplain, Mt. Sinai Hospital
Presiding**



PROCESSIONAL (FAMILY)

“Many Rains Ago”, Quincy Jones and Caiphus Semenya

WELCOME (MASTER OF CEREMONIES)

Robin D. G. Kelley, Professor, University of California, LA

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Brian L. Carter, Chaplain, Mt. Sinai Hospital

SELECTION

Voices of Victory, Director, Nigel W. Gretton

Remy A. Martin, soloist "I'll See You Again", Richard Smallwood

Darria Credle, soloist, "Come Sunday", Duke Ellington

REFLECTIONS & TRIBUTES

Video: Christina Sneed, Anyesha Battle, Pablo Sanchez, Colleen

Fonseca, Glynis Johns, Donya Nasser (St. John's University)

Daniel Douglas, Doctoral candidate, Graduate Center, CUNY

Natalie Byfield, Associate Professor, St. John's University

Matt Birkhold, Independent Organizer, Crown Heights resident

Godfrey T. Vincent, Assistant Professor, Tuskegee University

SELECTION

Zhi Jie Chen, pianist; Prelude in B minor, Johann Sebastian Bach

Grande Valse Brillante in E-flat major, Op.18 by Frédéric Chopin

REFLECTIONS & TRIBUTES

Latoya A. Lee, Doctoral student, Binghamton University

Jumaane Williams, New York City Council Member

Donna Truong, St. John's and Adelphi Universities alumnus

Walda Katz Fishman & Jerome Scott, Founding members, Project South; members, US Social Forum National Planning Committee and League of Revolutionaries for a New America

SELECTION

Adela C. Ruiz, saxophonist “A Change is Gonna Come”, Sam Cooke

REFLECTIONS & TRIBUTES

William W. Sales Jr., Associate Professor, Seton Hall University

Frances Fox Piven, Distinguished Professor, Graduate School, CUNY

Mojubaolu Olufunke Okome, Professor, Brooklyn College

Stephen Steinberg, Distinguished Professor, Queens College

Immanuel Wallerstein, Senior Research Scholar, Yale University

SELECTION

Colleen Fonseca, soloist

“I Know Where I've Been,” Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman

REFLECTIONS & TRIBUTES

Loretta Chin, Independent Journalist, long-time friend

Rozzie (Roslyn Levine), Beloved mother-in-law

Rev. Renzie Taylor, Childhood friend, Assistant Pastor,

True Light Missionary Baptist Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Melanie E. L. Bush and Family

SELECTION

Zhi Jie Chen, pianist

Piano Sonata No. 11 in A major, K. 331, 3rd Movement, W. A. Mozart

CLOSING WORDS

Robin D. G. Kelley

SELECTION

Voices of Victory, Mercedes Taitt-Harmon, Robert Pope, Remy A.

Martin, soloists "The High Place" Traditional, Arranged by David B. Gates & Nigel W. Gretton

CLOSING PRAYER: Rev. Brian L. Carter



In Loving Memory: Roderick Douglas Bush

Born on November 12, 1945, Roderick Douglas Bush passed on December 5, 2013, six years to the day that his beloved mother, Margaret Janette Craddock Bush was laid to rest.

Rod's life began in Sanford, Florida, weighing only one pound. He often told the story that the hospital encouraged his mother to go home as there was no way he was going to live. She refused to accept that fate and told them she was going to take her baby and love-love-love him. And so, right from the start, Rod not only beat the odds, but was surrounded by generous love, dedicated family and a caring community.

During his early childhood, he lived in the Oviedo and Snowhill area of Florida. Many of his closest longtime friendships were made during these years, as well as deep connections to the Bush, Craddock, Muller and Mobley families and a host of other kin. He often stayed with his grandma "Barkoo" Arbesto Johnson and "Aunt Honey" Margie Whipper especially after his mother moved to Rochester, NY as part of the great northern migration. Rod joined her in 1959.

Rod was a proud 1963 graduate of Madison High School in Rochester, where he excelled in math and science, and was president of the school's chapter of the National Honor Society. He ranked third in his senior class, above all but 1 of the 90 white students in the class of 150. He went on to obtain a Bachelor's degree from Howard University in 1967 where he studied with extraordinary scholars such as Toni Morrison and Sterling Brown. In 1972, he completed coursework for a PhD in Clinical Psychology at the University of Kansas.

In Kansas City, Rod worked as a psychologist and an urban planning analyst in Black and working class communities. His developing political commitment led him to become a member of the Congress of African People (CAP), the Student Organization for Black Unity, Youth Organization for Black Unity (SOBU/YOBU), the Revolutionary Workers League (M-L), and the African Liberation Support Committee (ALSC). These years were extremely important in his emerging political consciousness and praxis.



"Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public."

Cornel West

In 1979, Rod moved to the San Francisco Bay area to devote himself full time to community organizing and political engagement. He worked on projects such as the Grassroots Alliance initiatives to tax the corporations, Full Employment Project of Oakland, USOCA: US Out of Central America, USOSA: US Out of South Africa and with the Institute for the Study of Labor and Economic Crisis. It was during this time that he met Melanie and their life paths were joined.

In 1985, they relocated to New York in the Flatbush area of Brooklyn. Rod worked at the NYC Technical College Rikers' Island Project, and the Brooklyn Educational Opportunity Center, while commuting 213 miles each way to Binghamton University to complete his PhD in Sociology in 1992. They made regular trips to Rochester during this time to visit with his mother, and attend Memorial AME Zion Church with her.

In 1993, Rod began teaching at Seton Hall University; in 1997 he moved to St. Johns' University where he was made a Full Professor of Sociology last year. Hundreds of students studied under his guidance and were mentored as undergraduates; hundreds completed their Master's; and dozens moved on to complete their doctoral degrees. Throughout this time, Rod earned many awards for his scholarship, teaching and service.

Rod was a member of the national council of the Black Radical Congress and more recently of the Executive Board of the Left Forum. He built bridges between the Black left and Black nationalist communities and with progressive and radical movements at large. Rod firmly upheld that Black nationalism as expressed by the oppressed has been broad in vision and historically provided leadership to the struggle for human rights overall. He wholeheartedly believed in the interconnectedness of the fate of all humanity and had unwavering faith in the power of the people to overcome.

Rod was part of an extensive network involved in a project related to Transnational Africa and another related to the Social Forum movements. His work on race/white supremacy, democracy and globalization brought him to places such as Paris, France, Ibadan, Nigeria and Bahia, Brazil to study with scholars and activists concerned about these issues and their real time impact on ordinary people around the globe. His focus on both structure and agency stands out in his scholarship and practice and is as loving as it is unequivocally rooted in the struggle for justice.

His many publications include editorship of *The New Black Vote: Politics and Power in Four American Cities* (1984) and authorship of *We Are Not What We Seem: Black Nationalism and Class Struggle in the American Century* (1999), and *The End of White World Supremacy: Black Internationalism and the Problem of the Color Line* (2009). In 2014, he and Melanie's co-authored book *Tensions in the American Dream: Rhetoric, Reverie or Reality* will be published by Temple University Press.

Rod was strong, engaged, physically active, passionate and extremely happy right to the time when the forces of nature took over. This disease (bile duct cancer in the liver) moved rapidly from the point of diagnosis on November 8th (after a nosebleed and a week of mild stomach upset.) This is the typical path of this illness.

The passing of a loved one is traumatic when it happens fast and unexpected, but it is also not peaceful when it happens slow and anticipated. Just as the miracle of birth is both scientific and something more – so is this form of cell mutation. Moments like this call upon philosophical, spiritual and religious beliefs and reflections about life itself that are deeply personal. Rod's caring nature exemplified respect for the many ways of understanding these complex questions.

Rod came from and returns to a great and mighty stream – a powerful current that encompasses all those who struggle for dignity, wisdom, peace and justice. He proudly, defiantly, compassionately, generously, and wisely provides a model for us to draw upon as we move forward his legacy of belief in possibility, profound love for community and humanity and a rich and deep intellectual tradition dedicated to the common good.

Let his example make us stronger fighters for justice, more thoughtful thinkers and better, more loving people. May we count every blessing that we've had in knowing him and use these to lift us to fight for right, not some of our days but all of our days, and all day long. Rod has and will continue to be, an engaged scholar and a true warrior for the best of what we can be. We love him, and need always remember that he loves us forever and a day.

At the risk of seeming ridiculous, let me say that the true revolutionary is guided by a great feeling of love. It is impossible to think of a genuine revolutionary lacking this quality... We must strive every day so that this love of living humanity will be transformed into actual deeds, into acts that serve as examples, as a moving force.

Che Guevara Man and Socialism in Cuba

Many Rains Ago (Oluwa) (featuring Letta Mbulu)

(Words and music by Quincy Jones and Caiphus Semenya)

Weeping, willow tree tell me what you know-

River, were you crying? Many rains ago.

Ko le baje O (It cannot be destroyed)

Sacred, Baobab tree, lost your children to the sea-

Taken from the land, many rains ago.

Ko le baje O

Goodbye, motherland

Ko le baje O

Sing me, that old song from many rains ago.

Ko le baje O

When I die, I'll live on... For many rains to come.

Ko le daru o. Ise Oluwa, Ise Oluwa
(The work of our creator cannot be destroyed ever)

Under Pressure

One of the songs in the *Happy Feet Two* soundtrack. Artist(s): Alecia Moore (Pink).

(Erik) Dum dum dum dey dey dey (little seals) bum bum...

(All) Pressure

Pushing down on me, pressing down on you

No man ask for

Under pressure

That tears a nation down,

Splits a family in two Puts people on streets

Gloria (and all): Um ba ba be (people on streets)

Um ba ba be (da de da dey)

de dey da (people on streets)

de dey da.. (da de da de da de da)

It's the terror of knowing what this world is about

Watching some good friends

Scream! (Let me out)

Pray tomorrow (pray tomorrow)

Take me higher (higher high)

Pray tomorrow (higher highhigh)

Take me higher...!

Gloria : Why...? Oh! why...? Tell me why, (tell me why 4x)

Can't we give ourselves one more chance (one more chance)

Why can't we give ourselves, one more chance (one more chance)

Why can't we give love, give love, give love, give love

Everyday, every night, every hour. (give love 12x)

Gloria and Erik (and All)

Cause love such an old fashioned word and loves dares you

To care for the people on the edge of the night

And loves dares you to change our way of

Caring about ourselves

This is our last dance

(this is our last dance) This is ourselves.....(Creatures of the world

unite, strength in numbers we can get it right-one time!)