

Order of Events

4:30 pm Visit with guests & family

5:00 pm Come together for remarks

- Opening Prayer
- Remembrances
 - Bruce Raeburn, Hogan Jazz Archive (Host)
 - Carol Watson
 - Marc Johari Laws
 - Dodie Simmons
 - Serra Bording-Jones
- Closing Remarks

5:30 pm Visit with guests & family

Notes

- Lula chose the music that you're hearing:
 - "The Creator Has a Master Plan" - Pharaoh Sanders
 - "A Love Supreme" - John Coltrane
 - Songs from the album "Nina Simone and Piano" - Nina Simone
- All flower photos in the slideshow were taken in Lula's garden. John and the Carver Hummingbirds have declared that this year's garden will be dedicated to Lula and called Queen Lu's Garden.
- There will be a memorial jam session Saturday at 2 pm at the Old U.S. Mint. Check the website for jam session details, dining recommendations and event follow-up. <http://celebratelula.com>

Acknowledgements

The family would like to thank:

Bruce Raeburn and the Hogan Jazz Archive, Tulane University

Matthew Hampsey and the National Jazz Historical Park

All participating musicians

Everyone that has shown support

You are all appreciated.

Celebrate Lula



A Memorial Birthday Celebration of Life

for Lula Lowe Lewis

June 10, 2016

Jones Hall, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

Lula Lowe Lewis

Formative Years

Sixty-nine years ago on June 10th, Lula was born to Muriel and Daniel Lowe in Granite Quarry, North Carolina, a small, rural town, with a closely knit community. Lula was the oldest girl in a family with 10 children. Her core values of hard work, family and community were established at an early age. She also got an early grounding in activism by participating in Freedom School and later joining the Congress for Racial Equality (CORE) with her older brother Thomas.

Growing up Lula spent several summers in New York City. While there she discovered the intersection of arts, culture and activism. This, especially progressive jazz, made a huge impression that stayed with her forever.



Education

Lula graduated from Dunbar High School in 1964. At age 16, she left home to attend Barber-Scotia College in Concord, North Carolina. As a student there, she continued civil rights activism and participated in the Selma to Montgomery March in 1965. She also became a founding member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.'s Barber Scotia College chapter and received her Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Education. After graduating Lula joined Teacher Corps which gave her the opportunity to help kids that needed it the most. This led her to St. Louis where she earned a Master's degree in Education at the University of Missouri.



Making History

In St. Louis she found others with an appreciation of progressive jazz and activism and became an avid supporter of the Black Artists' Group (BAG). In 1972 Lula moved to New Orleans. She missed the social and musical environment she had left behind so she set out to create it. With the support of like-minded friends, she and Charlie Bering opened Lu and Charlie's Potables Sustenance and Jazz. Located in the historic Treme neighborhood, Lu and Charlie's was the first contemporary jazz club in New Orleans. It provided a cultural sanctuary for musicians, artists, and patrons and was a premier place for jazz. The impact of Lu and Charlie's continues today.

Love, Laughter, & Leadership

Queen Mother & Educator

In 1973, Lula had her first child Celu. She continued teaching the students that needed the most help at Delgado Community College, the Treme Street Academy at St. Marks, & the Milne Boys Home.

In 1981 Lula married John Lewis, II. Over the next six years they had three children (Sunshine, John III and Fela) and moved to Pensacola Florida. In addition to homeschooling, Lula continued activities in support of children, education, gardening, activism, music, and history.

In 1998 Lula and John founded the Lu & Charlie's Preservation Society. Through the society Lula and John began to document and share the stories and historical significance of the club through interviews, educational programs, and concerts. They also explored and shared broader topics such as Blacks in Mexico and edible landscaping.



The Legacy

Lula strongly believed in the importance of teaching children cultural history and values. In this spirit, Lula and John created a youth organization for their grandchildren. Named the Carver Hummingbirds for inventor/scientist George Washington Carver and the hummingbird story recounted by Nobel Laureate Wangari Matthai; the group encourages members to "always do the best you can".

Throughout her life, Lula consistently gave her best effort to everything she did. Lula moved through the world with a generous, loving, and humorous spirit that touched everyone she met.

We are here today to cherish her memory and carry that spirit forward. The memories you share and the connections you make with each other fulfill the ideals that Lula dedicated her life to.



Her family encourages everyone to **Celebrate Lula** and...

Love, Laugh, Lead