

## Uncle Asiago

In my community and many others, we celebrate life's milestones birth, coming of age, and death. Traditionally, when someone passed, we'd gather, fast, and cry, mourning their loss. Including picking the body from the morgue and bringing him home in a procession.

But times have changed. We've come to understand that death is inevitable, and our approach has shifted. Now, when a loved one leaves us, we come together to celebrate their life, share stories, pray, sing ("He has risen"), and dance around the coffin. We comfort the grieving family with uplifting songs and joyful memories. It's not about forgetting the pain but finding strength in community. Pamoja.

At the graveside, we allow ourselves to grieve, but even then, music and songs of praise and worship guide us through the sorrow. This is how we honoured with Achim too my Uncle Asiago's life with love, dancing, and celebration of a life well-lived. May his soul rest in peace.

Patricia Nyanchama Makori, 2025

