

Summary

Tuesday, November 2, 2021 7:56 PM

The **Peoples Temple Agricultural Project**, better known by its informal name "**Jonestown**", was a remote settlement in **Guyana**, established by the **Peoples Temple**, a **San Francisco**-based **cult** under the leadership of **Jim Jones**. The settlement became internationally known when, on **November 18, 1978**, a total of 909^[1] people died at the settlement, at the nearby airstrip in **Port Kaituma**, and at a Temple-run building in **Georgetown**, Guyana's capital city. The name of the settlement became synonymous with the incidents at those locations.^[2] In total, 918 individuals died in Jonestown,^[3] all but two from apparent **cyanide** poisoning (a significant number of whom were injected against their will), in an event termed "revolutionary suicide" by Jones and some Peoples Temple members on an audio tape of the event, and in prior recorded discussions. The poisonings in Jonestown followed the murder of five others by Temple members at Port Kaituma, including United States **Congressman Leo Ryan**, an act that Jones ordered. Four other Temple members committed **murder-suicide** in Georgetown at Jones' command. Terms used to describe the deaths in Jonestown and Georgetown evolved over time. Many contemporary media accounts after the events called the deaths a **mass suicide**.^[4] In contrast, most sources today refer to the deaths with terms such as mass murder-suicide,^[5] a **massacre**,^[6] or simply **mass murder**.^[7] Seventy or more individuals at Jonestown were injected with poison, and a third of the victims (304) were minors.^[8] Guards armed with guns and crossbows had been ordered to shoot those who fled the Jonestown pavilion as Jones lobbied for suicide.

From <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonestown>>

Until the September 11th attacks, the tragedy in Jonestown on November 18th, 1978 **represented the largest number of American civilian casualties in a single non-natural event**. It is unfathomable now, as it was then, that more than 900 Americans – members of a San Francisco-based religious group called the Peoples Temple – died after drinking poison at the urging of their leader, the Reverend Jim Jones, in a secluded South American jungle settlement. **Photographs** taken after the carnage forever document the sheer enormity of the event: the bodies of hundreds of people, including children, lying face down in the grass.

From <<https://www.rollingstone.com/feature/jonestown-13-things-you-should-know-about-cult-massacre-121974/>>

In his 1980 study of Jonestown, the writer Shiva Naipaul, younger brother of VS Naipaul, argued that the Peoples Temple was at heart a fundamentalist religious project – "obsessed with sin and images of apocalyptic destruction, authoritarian in its innermost impulses, instinctively thinking in terms of the saved and the damned". The result, Naipaul wrote, "was neither racial justice nor socialism but a messianic parody of both".

From <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/17/an-apocalyptic-cult-900-dead-remembering-the-jonestown-massacre-40-years-on>>



The "Jonestown Massacre" occurred on November 18, 1978, when more than 900 members of an American cult called the Peoples Temple died in a mass suicide-murder under the direction of their leader Jim Jones (1931-78). It took place at the so-called Jonestown settlement in the South American nation of Guyana. Jones had founded what became the Peoples Temple in Indiana in the 1950s, then relocated his congregation to California in the 1960s. In the 1970s, following negative media attention, the powerful, controlling preacher moved with some 1,000 of his followers to the Guyanese jungle, where he promised they would establish a utopian community. On November 18, 1978, U.S. Representative Leo Ryan, who had gone to Jonestown to investigate claims of abuse, was murdered along with four members of his delegation. That same day, Jones ordered his followers to ingest poison-laced punch while armed guards stood by.

From <<https://www.history.com/topics/crime/jonestown>>

Jim Jones

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 5:32 PM

James Warren Jones (May 13, 1931 – November 18, 1978) was an American [cult](#) leader, political activist, preacher, and [faith healer](#) who led the [Peoples Temple](#), a [new religious organization](#) which existed between 1955 and 1978. In what he claimed to be a "revolutionary suicide", Jones and his inner circle orchestrated a [mass murder–suicide](#) in his remote jungle [commune](#) at [Jonestown](#), Guyana, on November 18, 1978.

Jones was first ordained as a Christian minister in the [Independent Assemblies of God](#). He attracted his initial followers while participating in the [Pentecostal Latter Rain](#) movement and the [Healing Revival](#) in the 1950s where Jones was endorsed by and conducted joint revival campaigns with the movement's prominent leaders, [William Branham](#) and [Joseph Mattsson-Boze](#). Jones founded the organization that would become the Peoples Temple in [Indianapolis](#) in 1955. Jones distinguished himself through [civil rights](#) activism, [founding the Temple as a fully integrated congregation, and promoting Christian Socialism](#). In 1964, he and Peoples Temple joined [Disciples of Christ](#), in large part due to the autonomy and tolerance granted to differing views within their denomination. In 1965, he moved the Temple to [California](#), where the group established its [headquarters in San Francisco](#) and became heavily involved in political and charitable activity throughout the 1970s. [In the 1970s, Jones began to openly reject traditional Christianity and began to publicly claim that he was God.](#)

Jones began constructing Jonestown in Guyana during 1974 and gradually began convincing and compelling many of his followers to live there with him, claiming that he was constructing a [socialist paradise free from the oppression of the United States](#) government. By 1978, media reports had surfaced of human rights abuses at Jonestown. Deciding to investigate these reports, U.S. Representative [Leo Ryan](#) led a delegation to the commune in November of that year. While boarding a return flight with some former Temple members who had wished to leave, Ryan and four others were murdered by gunmen from Jonestown. Jones then ordered and likely coerced a mass murder-suicide that claimed the lives of 918 commune members, 304 of them children; almost all of the members died by drinking [Flavor Aid](#) laced with [cyanide](#).

From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim_Jones>

Jim Jones, byname of **James Warren Jones**, (born May 13, 1931, Crete, near Lynn, [Indiana](#), U.S.—died November 18, 1978, Jonestown, Guyana), American cult leader who promised his followers a [utopia](#) in the jungles of [South America](#) after proclaiming himself messiah of the [Peoples Temple](#), a [San Francisco](#)-based evangelist group. He ultimately led his followers into a mass [suicide](#), which left more than 900 dead and came to be known as the [Jonestown Massacre](#) (November 18, 1978).

As a young child, Jones became a regular churchgoer, and, after graduating from [Butler University](#), he decided to enter the ministry. In the 1950s and '60s in [Indianapolis](#), Indiana, Jones gained a reputation as [a charismatic churchman who claimed to have psychic powers such as the ability to foretell the future and miraculously heal those who were sick. He was a vocal proponent of racial integration](#), a position that ran afoul of some church elders. In 1955 he established the Wings of Deliverance, a Pentecostal church that eventually became known as the Peoples Temple. During this time he was noted for his work with the homeless, and in the early 1960s he served as director of Indianapolis's Human Rights Commission. Fearing a nuclear war, Jones relocated his church to northern California in 1965, first settling near [Ukiah](#) and then in San Francisco in 1971. Following the move, Jones, [who adopted the name "the Prophet,"](#) apparently became obsessed with the exercise of power. Before long, he began to face various allegations, most notably that he was illegally diverting the income of cult members to his own use. Amid the mounting accusations, Jones and hundreds of his followers emigrated to [Guyana](#) and set up an agricultural commune called [Jonestown](#) (1977). As ruler of the sect, Jones confiscated passports and millions of dollars and manipulated his followers with threats of blackmail, beatings, and probable death. He also staged bizarre rehearsals for a ritual mass suicide.

From <<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jim-Jones>>

Jim Jones’ Cruelty and Madness Were Rooted in His Childhood

People have wondered how Jim Jones, a man who [preached racial and social equality](#), turned evil. But as Tim Reiterman explained in *Raven*, Jones' dark qualities – [his need to control people](#), his deceit, and his anger toward people who betray or abandon him – could be traced to his childhood in Indiana. A loner during his youth, Jim would entertain his playmates in the loft of his family's barn and made them his captive audience (one time, he even locked up his young friends in the barn). [He performed experiments on animals and conducted funerals for them.](#) "I thought Jimmy was a really weird kid," Jones' childhood friend Chuck Wilmore recalled in the 2006 [documentary](#) *Jonestown: The Life and Death of Peoples Temple*. "He was obsessed with religion; he was obsessed with death. A friend of mine told me that he saw Jimmy kill a cat with a knife." According to Jeff Guinn's book, *The Road to Jonestown*, Jones also had an early fascination with Adolf Hitler. "[When Hitler committed suicide in April 1945, thwarting enemies who sought to capture and humiliate him, Jimmy was impressed,](#)" he wrote.

From <<https://www.rollingstone.com/feature/jonestown-13-things-you-should-know-about-cult-massacre-121974/>>

Jim Jones	
 <div>Jones in 1977</div>	
Born	<div>James Warren Jones</div> May 13, 1931 <div> Crete, Indiana, U.S.</div>
Died	November 18, 1978 (aged 47) <div> Jonestown, Guyana</div>
Cause of death	Suicide by gunshot
Known for	Leader of Peoples Temple
Spouse(s)	Marceline Baldwin
	(m. 1949)
Children	9

From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim_Jones>

When Guyanese officials arrived at the Jonestown compound the next day, they found it carpeted with hundreds of bodies. Many people had perished with their arms around each other. [Jim Jones, age 47, was found in a chair, dead from a single bullet wound to the head, most likely self-inflicted.](#)

From <<https://www.history.com/topics/crime/jonestown>>

Jones' declining physical and mental health

Jones' health significantly declined in Jonestown. In 1978, Jones was informed of a possible lung infection, upon which he announced to his followers that he in fact had [lung cancer](#) – a ploy to foster sympathy and strengthen support within the community^[1] Jones was said to be abusing injectable Valium, [Quaaludes](#), [stimulants](#), and [barbiturates](#).^[2] Audio tapes of 1978 meetings within Jonestown attest to Jones' declining physical condition, with the commune leader complaining of [high blood pressure](#) which he had since the early 1950s, small [strokes](#), and [weight loss](#) of 30 to 40 pounds in the last two weeks of Jonestown (although he was still noticeably overweight on the final day), temporary [blindness](#), [convulsions](#), and, in late October to early November 1978 while he was ill in his cabin, grotesque swelling of the [extremities](#). Jones often mentioned chronic [insomnia](#); he would often say he went for three or four days without any rest. During meetings and public addresses, his once-sharp speaking voice often sounded slurred; words ran together or were tripped over. Jones would occasionally not finish sentences even when reading typed reports over the commune's PA system.^[3] Reiterman was surprised by the severe deterioration of Jones' health when he saw him in Jonestown on November 17, 1978^[4] After covering Jones for eighteen months for the *Examiner*, Reiterman thought it was "shocking to see his glazed eyes and festering paranoia face to face, to realize that nearly a thousand lives, ours included, were in his hands"^[5]

From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonestown#Jones'_declining_physical_and_mental_health>



Peoples Temple

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 5:33 PM

The **Peoples Temple of the Disciples of Christ**, commonly shortened to **Peoples Temple**, was an American [new religious organization](#) which existed between 1954 and 1978. Founded in [Indianapolis, Indiana](#), by Reverend [Jim Jones](#), the Peoples Temple spread a message that combined elements of [Christianity](#) with [communist](#) and [socialist](#) ideology, with an emphasis on [racial equality](#). After Jones moved the group to [California](#) in the 1960s and established several locations throughout the state, including its [headquarters](#) in [San Francisco](#), the Temple forged ties with many [left-wing](#) political figures and boasted 20,000 members (though 3,000–5,000 is more likely). The Temple is best known for the events of November 18, 1978, in [Guyana](#), when 909 people died in a [mass suicide](#) and [mass murder](#) at its remote settlement, named "[Jonestown](#)", as well as the murders of [U.S. Congressman Leo Ryan](#) and members of his visiting delegation at the nearby [Port Kaituma](#) airstrip. The incident at Jonestown resulted in the greatest single loss of American civilian life in a deliberate act prior to the [terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001](#). Because of the killings in Guyana, the Temple is regarded by scholars and by popular view as a [destructive cult](#).

From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peoples_Temple>

Origins of the Peoples Temple

Prior to the terrorist attacks of [September 11, 2001](#), the tragedy at Jonestown marked the single largest loss of U.S. civilian lives in a non-natural disaster. The megalomaniacal man behind the tragedy, [Jim Jones](#), came from humble beginnings. Jones was born on May 31, 1931, in rural [Indiana](#). In the early 1950s, he began working as a self-ordained Christian minister in small churches around Indianapolis. In order to raise money to start a church of his own, the charismatic Jones tried various ventures, including selling live monkeys door-to-door.

Did you know? More than 400 unclaimed bodies from the Jonestown tragedy are buried at the Evergreen Cemetery in Oakland, Cali fornia, where many of Jim Jones' followers were from. A stone memorial to the Jonestown victims was unveiled at the cemetery in 2008.

Jones opened his first Peoples Temple church in Indianapolis in the mid-1950s. His congregation was racially integrated, something unusual at the time for a Midwestern church. In the mid-1960s, Jones moved his small congregation to Northern [California](#), settling first in Redwood Valley in Mendocino County. In the early 1970s, the ambitious preacher relocated his organization's headquarters to [San Francisco](#) and also opened a temple in Los Angeles.

Jim Jones: Rise of a Cult Leader

In San Francisco, Jones became a powerful figure. He curried favor with public officials and the media, donated money to numerous charitable causes and delivered votes for various politicians at election time. **Peoples Temple ran social and medical programs for the needy, including a free dining hall, drug rehabilitation and legal aid services. Jones' message of social equality and racial justice attracted a diverse group of followers, including idealistic young people who wanted to do something meaningful with their lives.**

As Jones' congregation grew (estimates of the group's size vary; a 1977 expose by New West magazine put the number of Peoples Temple members at **20,000**), negative reports began to surface about the man referred to as "**Father**" by his followers. Former members described being forced to give up their belongings, homes and even custody of their children. They told of being subjected to beatings, and **said Jones staged fake "cancer healings."**

Faced with unflattering media attention and mounting investigations, the increasingly paranoid Jones, who often wore dark sunglasses and traveled with bodyguards, invited his congregation to move with him to Guyana, where he promised them they would build a socialist utopia.

From <<https://www.history.com/topics/crime/jonestown>>

Peoples Temple	
	
	
Classification	 Christian new religious movement and Utopian/social change church movement
Orientation	Eclectic Pentecostal with Christian socialist and communist elements / Theosophical / New Thought
Polity	Semi-congregationalist
Leader	James Warren "Jim" Jones (1955–78)
Region	Defunct from 1978, formerly present in: <div><div> United States</div><div><div> Indiana</div><div> California</div><div> Guyana</div><div> Jonestown</div></div></div>
Founder	Jim Jones
Origin	1954 and Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.
Defunct	December 4, 1978
Congregations	7 in California (prior moving to Guyana)
Members	3,000–5,000 (over 20,000 claimed but not substantiated)

From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peoples_Temple>

By the 1970s, the Peoples Temple, now based in San Francisco, had gained significant political influence. Jones's fierce advocacy for the downtrodden earned him the admiration of leftwing icons like **Angela Davis and Harvey Milk and the support of groups like the Black Panthers** – a tragically misguided political affinity, given that **more than two-thirds** of Jonestown's eventual victims were **African American**.

From <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/17/an-apocalyptic-cult-900-dead-remembering-the-jonestown-massacre-40-years-on>>

Jonestown

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 5:32 PM

The story of Jonestown begins with Jones, a **white minister who preached unconventional socialist and progressive ideas to a predominantly African-American congregation**, called the Peoples Temple. At the height of its popularity during the 1970s, **the Temple had a membership estimated in the thousands and was courted by local politicians in San Francisco**, including Harvey Milk. But by 1977, Jones had grown paranoid from the media scrutiny over the Temple's suspicious activities, so he and his numerous followers moved to an agricultural settlement (a.k.a. Jonestown) in Guyana, the remote country east of Venezuela.

From <<https://www.rollingstone.com/feature/jonestown-13-things-you-should-know-about-cult-massacre-121974/>>

In the fall of 1973, after critical newspaper articles by [Lester Kinsolving](#) and the defection of eight Temple members, Jones and Temple attorney [Tim Stoen](#) prepared an "immediate action" contingency plan for responding to a police or media crackdown.^[2] The plan listed various options, including fleeing to [Canada](#) or to a "Caribbean missionary post" such as [Barbados](#) or [Trinidad](#).^[2] For its Caribbean missionary post, the Temple quickly chose Guyana, conducting research on its economy and extradition treaties with the U.S.^[2] In October 1973, the directors of the Temple passed a resolution to establish an agricultural mission there.^[2]

The Temple chose Guyana, in part, because of the group's own socialist politics, which were moving further to the left during the selection process.^[2]

^[2] Former Temple member Tim Carter stated that the reasons for choosing Guyana were the Temple's view of a perceived dominance of racism and multinational corporations in the U.S. government.^[2] According to Carter, the Temple concluded that Guyana, an English-speaking, socialist country with a predominantly indigenous population and with a government including prominent black leaders, would afford black Temple members a peaceful place to live.^[2] Later, Guyanese Prime Minister [Forbes Burnham](#) stated that Jones may have "wanted to use cooperatives as the basis for the establishment of socialism, and maybe his idea of setting up a commune meshed with that".^[2] Jones also thought that Guyana was small, poor, and independent enough for him to easily obtain influence and official protection.^[2]

Jones was skillful in presenting the Guyanese government the benefits of allowing the Peoples Temple Agricultural Project to settle within its borders. One of the main tactics was to speak of the advantages of their American presence near Guyana's disputed border with [Venezuela](#). This idea seemed promising to the Burnham government, who feared attack from Venezuela.^[2]

In 1974, after traveling to an area of northwestern Guyana with Guyanese officials, Jones and the Temple negotiated a lease of over 3,800 acres (1,500 ha) of land in the jungle located 150 miles (240 km) west of the Guyanese capital of [Georgetown](#).^[2] The site was isolated and had soil of low fertility, even by Guyanese standards.^[2] The nearest body of water was seven miles (eleven kilometres) away by muddy roads.^[2] Jonestown's location stood not far from Guyana's disputed border with Venezuela, and Guyanese officials hoped the presence of American citizens would deter a military incursion.^[2]

Jonestown before mass migration^[edit]



Houses in Jonestown

As 500 members began the construction of Jonestown, the Temple encouraged more to relocate to the settlement.^[2] Jones saw Jonestown as both a "socialist paradise" and a "sanctuary" from media scrutiny.^[2] In 1976, Guyana finally approved the lease it had negotiated (retroactive to April 1974) with the Temple for the over 3,000 acres (1,200 ha) of land in northwest Guyana on which Jonestown was located.^[2] In 1974, Guyanese officials granted the Temple permission to import certain items "duty free".^[2] Later payoffs helped safeguard shipments of firearms and drugs through Guyanese customs.^[2]

Jones reached an agreement to guarantee that Guyana would permit Temple members' mass migration. To do so, he stated that they were "skilled and progressive", showed off an envelope he claimed contained \$500,000, and stated that he would invest most of the group's assets in Guyana.^[2] The relatively large number of immigrants to Guyana overwhelmed the government's small but stringent immigration infrastructure in a country where immigrants had outweighted locals.^[2] **Guyanese immigration procedures were compromised to inhibit the departure of Temple defectors and curtail the visas of Temple opponents.**^[2]

Jonestown was held up as a benevolent communist community, with Jones stating: "I believe we're the purest communists there are."^[2] Jones' wife, [Marceline](#), described Jonestown as "dedicated to live for socialism, total economic and racial and social equality. We are here living communally."^[2] Jones wanted to construct a model community and claimed that Burnham "couldn't rave enough about us, the wonderful things we do, the project, the model of socialism".^[2] Jones did not permit members to leave Jonestown without his express prior permission.^[2]

The Temple established offices in Georgetown and conducted numerous meetings with Burnham and other Guyanese officials.^[2] In 1976, Temple member Michael Prokes requested that Burnham receive Jones as a foreign dignitary along with other "high ranking U.S. officials".^[2] Jones traveled to Guyana with Dymally to meet with Burnham and Foreign Affairs Minister Fred Willis.^[2] In that meeting, Dymally agreed to pass on the message to the State Department that socialist Guyana wanted to keep an open door to cooperation with the U.S.^[2] Dymally followed up that meeting with a letter to Burnham stating that Jones was "one of the finest human beings" and that Dymally was "tremendously impressed" by his visit to Jonestown.^[2]

Temple members took pains to stress their loyalty to Burnham's Peoples National Congress Party.^[2] One Temple member, Paula Adams, was involved in a romantic relationship with Guyana's ambassador to the U.S., Laurence "Bonny" Mann. Jones bragged about other female Temple members he referred to as "public relations women" giving all for the cause in Jonestown.^[2] [Viola Burnham](#), the wife of the prime minister, was also a strong advocate of the Temple.^[2]

Later, Burnham stated that Guyana allowed the Temple to operate in the manner it did on the references of Moscone, Mondale, and Rosalynn Carter.^[2] Burnham also said that, when Deputy Minister [Prolemy Reid](#) traveled to [Washington, D.C.](#), in September 1977 to sign the [Panama Canal Treaties](#), Mondale asked him, "How's Jim?", which indicated to Reid that Mondale had a personal interest in Jones' wellbeing.^[2]

From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonestown#Survivors_and_eyewitnesses>

Jones, who had long believed the US was in danger of imminent nuclear holocaust, had been searching for a place where his church would be "safe" during an apocalyptic event. A magazine article [alleging](#) abuse in the Peoples Temple spurred Jones's desire to relocate. He chose Guyana, a former British colony in South America whose socialist regime was politically sympathetic. In 1977 the Peoples Temple moved its headquarters to a remote area of Guyanese wilderness. Here, Jones declared, **they could build a utopian society without government or media meddling**. Battling an oppressive tropical climate and limited resources, they began to convert the dense jungle into a working agricultural commune, soon known as "Jonestown".



The Peoples Temple office in Georgetown, the capital of Guyana. Photograph: Ken Hawkins/Alamy

The church delivered Jones's rambling monologues to Jonestown's inhabitants by megaphone as they worked. In the evenings they attended mandatory propaganda classes. Jones's writ was enforced by armed guards called the "Red Brigade". Jonestown had little reason to expect interference from [Guyana](#) – a "cooperative republic" whose government happily ignored signs of the cult's authoritarian and paranoid bent. Back in the US, however, parents of Jonestown inhabitants – concerned by the strange letters, or lack of letters, they received from their children – had been lobbying the government to investigate. After a family in the US won a custody order for a child in Jonestown, paranoia escalated. The commune became an armed camp, ringed by volunteers with guns and machetes, threatening to fight outsiders to the death. During the (imaginary) siege, Black Panthers Huey Newton and Angela Davis spoke to Jonestown inhabitants by radio patch to voice solidarity. Davis [told](#) Jonestown inhabitants that they were at the vanguard of revolution, and right to resist what she called "a profound conspiracy" against them. Sometime during this period Jonestown began drills called "white nights", in which inhabitants would practice committing mass suicide.

From <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/17/an-apocalyptic-cult-900-dead-remembering-the-jonestown-massacre-40-years-on>>

Trouble in Paradise: Prelude to Jonestown

In 1974, a small group of Jones' followers went to Guyana to establish an agricultural cooperative on a tract of jungle in the tiny nation of Guyana. (Guyana, which gained its independence from Great Britain in 1966, is the only country in South America with English as its official language.) In 1977, Jones and more than 1,000 Temple members joined them and moved to Guyana. However, Jonestown did not turn out to be the paradise their leader had promised.

Temple members worked long days in the fields and were subjected to harsh punishments if they questioned Jones' authority. Their passports and medications were confiscated and they were plagued by mosquitoes and tropical diseases. Armed guards patrolled the jungle compound. Members were encouraged to inform on one another and were forced to attend lengthy, late-night meetings. Their letters and phone calls were censored.

Jones, who by then was in declining mental health and addicted to drugs, had his own throne in the compound's main pavilion and compared himself to [Vladimir Lenin](#) and Jesus Christ. He was convinced that the government, the media and others were out to destroy him. He also required Peoples Temple members to participate in mock suicide drills in the middle of the night.

From <<https://www.history.com/topics/crime/jonestown>>

Notes from deceased residents^[edit]

Found near Marceline Jones' body was a typewritten note, dated November 18, 1978, signed by Marceline and witnessed by Moore and Maria Katsaris, stating:

I, Marceline Jones, leave all bank assets in my name to the Communist Party of the USSR. The above bank accounts are located in the Bank of Nova Scotia in Nassau, Bahamas.

Please be sure that these assets do get to the USSR. I especially request that none of these are allowed to get into the hand s of my adopted daughter, Suzanne Jones Cartmell.

For anyone who finds this letter, please honor this request as it is most important to myself and my husband James W. Jones.^[2]

Moore also left a note, which in part stated: "I am at a point right now so embittered against the world that I don't know why I am writing this. Someone who finds it will believe I am crazy or believe in the barbed wire that does NOT exist in Jonestown." The last line ("We died because you would not let us live in peace.") is written in different color ink. No other specific reference is made to the events of the day. Moore also wrote, "JONESTOWN—the most peaceful, loving community that ever existed." In addition, she stated, "JIM JONES—the one who made this paradise possible—much to the contrary of the lies stated about Jim Jones being a power-hungry sadistic, mean person who thought he was God—of all things." And "His hatred of racism, sexism, elitism, and mainly classism, is what prompted him to make a new world for the people—a paradise in the jungle. The children loved it. So did everyone else."^[2]

Found near Carolyn Layton's body was a handwritten note signed by Layton, witnessed by Katsaris and Moore, dated November 18, 1978, stating, "This is my last will and testament. I hereby leave all assets in any bank account to which I am a signatory to the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R."^[2]

From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonestown#Jones'_declining_physical_and_mental_health>

Leo Ryan

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 5:32 PM

Leo Joseph Ryan Jr. (May 5, 1925 – November 18, 1978) was an American teacher and politician. A member of the [Democratic Party](#), he served as the [U.S. Representative](#) from [California's 11th congressional district](#) from 1973 until his assassination during the [Jonestown massacre](#) in 1978. Before that, he served in the [California State Assembly](#), representing [the state's 27th district](#).

After the 1965 [Watts riots](#), Ryan took a job as a substitute school teacher to investigate and document conditions in the [Los Angeles](#) area. In 1970, he launched an investigation into California prisons. While presiding as chairman of the Assembly committee that oversaw prison reform, he used a pseudonym to enter [Folsom State Prison](#) as an inmate. During his time in Congress, Ryan traveled to [Newfoundland](#) to investigate the practice of [seal hunting](#). He was also known for his vocal criticism of the lack of [congressional oversight](#) of the [Central Intelligence Agency](#) (CIA), and co-authored the [Hughes–Ryan Amendment](#), passed in 1974, which requires the [President of the United States](#) to report covert CIA activity to Congress.

In 1978, Ryan traveled to [Guyana](#) to investigate claims that people were being held against their will at the [Peoples Temple](#) Jonestown settlement. He was shot and killed at an airstrip on November 18, as he and his party were attempting to leave. Shortly after the airstrip shootings, 909 members of the Jonestown settlement died in a mass murder–suicide by drinking cyanide-laced [Flavor Aid](#). Ryan was the second sitting member of the U.S. House of Representatives to be [assassinated in office](#), after [James M. Hinds](#) in 1868.^{[[c](#)ite needed]} Ryan was [posthumously](#) awarded the [Congressional Gold Medal](#) in 1983.

From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_Ryan

Airstrip Ambush

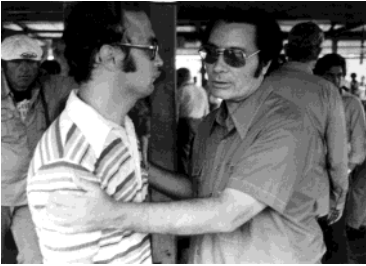
Leo Ryan, a U.S. representative from California, heard from some of his constituents that their family members were people being held against their will at Jonestown and decided to go there to investigate. Ryan arrived in Guyana in November 1978, with a delegation that included news reporters and photographers, along with concerned relatives of some of the Peoples Temple members.

On November 17, the congressman and reporters were welcomed to the Jonestown compound, to their surprise, with a dinner and evening of entertainment. Jones even agreed to meet with reporters. However, during the visit, some Peoples Temple members asked Ryan's group to help them get out of Jonestown.

On November 18, Ryan and his group, which also included a small contingent of Peoples Temple defectors, left Jonestown. While waiting at a nearby jungle airstrip, they were ambushed by gunmen sent by Jim Jones. Ryan was killed, along with a reporter and cameraman from NBC, a photographer from the San Francisco Examiner and a female Peoples Temple member who was attempting to leave.

From <https://www.history.com/topics/crime/jonestown>

Jonestown



Jim Jones, right, with an unidentified man at Jonestown on November 18, 1978. Shortly after taking the picture, the photographer was killed during the ambush at the airport. AP Photo.

California Congressman Leo Ryan was concerned. He'd been hearing that there was trouble in "Jonestown," the makeshift settlement carved out of the jungle of Guyana by the charismatic Jim Jones and his cult-like following called the Peoples Temple.

The allegations were serious: Jonestown sounded more like a slave camp than a religious center. There was talk of beatings, forced labor and imprisonments, the use of drugs to control behavior, suspicious deaths, and even rehearsals for a mass suicide.

In the fall of 1978, Ryan decided to visit Guyana to find out what was happening to the more than 900 members of Jonestown, many of whom were his constituents from the San Francisco area who'd followed the scandal-plagued Jones to South America.

Ryan and his congressional delegation flew to Guyana on November 14, 1978—29 years ago Wednesday. A few days later, they arrived in Jonestown along with various government officials and a group of reporters. There, Ryan met with Jones and interviewed many of his followers. Not surprisingly, some families and several individuals asked to leave with Ryan, while others apparently left on foot on their own. Jones was not happy.

Ryan wanted the entire group to fly out together, fearing retribution to any left behind, but that required a second plane and delayed the departure. The group eventually assembled at a local airstrip on the afternoon of the 18th, but as Ryan's plane prepared to leave, a dump truck from Jonestown arrived with several armed men. They opened fire on one plane, while a cultist named Larry Layton on board the other pulled out a gun and began shooting. In the melee, Ryan and several others were killed and many wounded.

Meanwhile, back at the compound, Jones was hatching an unthinkable plan. He called his followers together and essentially ordered them to swallow a fruit drink that was apparently laced with cyanide. He rationalized that the attack on the planes would bring harm to the residents of Jonestown. A few apparently objected, but in the end, more than 900 cultists, including more than 200 children, were soon lying lifeless on the ground. Jones, too, was dead, with a gunshot wound to the head.

We soon launched an extensive investigation in concert with other agencies, with our jurisdiction based on a congressional assassination law passed six years earlier. Working with authorities in Guyana, agents interviewed survivors of the mass murder/suicide, while fingerprint and forensic experts from our Disaster Squad identified the many victims and Jones himself. Agents across the nation also searched out and talked with members of the Peoples Temple in the U.S. for further insights.

In the end, along with helping to unravel the chain of events and bring closure to grieving families, we were able to make a case against Larry Layton. Layton, the only member of the Peoples Temple tried in the U.S. for criminal acts at Jonestown, was ultimately extradited, convicted, and sentenced to life in prison.

Leo Ryan	
 <div>Ryan c. 1977–1978</div>	
 <div>Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from California's 11th district</div>	
 <div>In office</div>	
January 3, 1973 – November 18, 1978	
Preceded by	<i>New constituency</i> (redistricting)
Succeeded by	William Royer
 <div>Member of the California State Assembly from the 27th district</div>	
 <div>In office</div>	
January 7, 1963 – January 3, 1973	
Preceded by	Glenn E. Coolidge
Succeeded by	Lou Papan
Personal details	
Born	<div>Leo Joseph Ryan Jr.</div> May 5, 1925 <div>Lincoln, Nebraska, U.S.</div>
Died	November 18, 1978 (aged 53) <div>Port Kaituma, Guyana</div>
Cause of death	Assassination by gunshot
Resting place	Golden Gate National Cemetery, San Bruno, California, U.S.
Political party	Democratic
Spouse(s)	<div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><div>Margaret Ryan</div> </div> <p>(m. 1948; div. 1971)</p> <div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><div>Florence Ann Mehaffy</div> </div> <p>(m. 1976; div. 1977)</p>
Children	5
Alma mater	<div>Bates College (V-12)</div> <div>Creighton University (B.A., M.S.)</div>
Occupation	Politician
Awards	Congressional Gold Medal (posthumous)
Military service	
Allegiance	<div> United States</div>
Branch/service	<div> United States Navy</div>
Years of service	1943–1946

From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_Ryan

At the behest of concerned family members in the US, the California congressman Leo Ryan organized a delegation of journalists and others to make a fact-finding mission to Jonestown. The delegation arrived at Jonestown on 17 November 1978 and received a civil audience from Jones, but the visit was hastily called short on 18 November after a member of the commune tried to stab Ryan. The delegation headed back to the airstrip, accompanied by a dozen Jonestown inhabitants who had asked to leave the commune, and escorted by Jones's watchful deputies. The delegates never made it off the ground. As they boarded the planes, their escorts drew guns and opened fire. They shot Ryan dead, combing his body with bullets to make certain, and killed four others – including two [photographers](#) who captured footage of the attack before dying. Wounded survivors ran or dragged themselves, bleeding, into the forest. (One of Ryan's aides, Jackie Speier, [survived](#) five gunshots and is now a congresswoman representing California's 14th district.)

From <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/17/an-apocalyptic-cult-900-dead-remembering-the-jonestown-massacre-40-years-on>

To read our summary on the case, please visit our [Freedom of Information Act webpage](#).

From <<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/jonestown>>

Cyanide Poisoning

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 5:32 PM

What is cyanide?

Cyanide is one of the most famous poisons — from spy novels to murder mysteries, it's developed a reputation for causing an almost immediate death.

But in real life, cyanide is a little more complicated. Cyanide can refer to any chemical that contains a carbon-nitrogen (CN) bond, and it can be found in some surprising places.

For example, it's found in many safe-to-eat plant foods, including almonds, lima beans, soy, and spinach.

You can also find cyanide in certain nitrile compounds used [in medications](#) [Trusted Source](#) like citalopram (Celexa) and cimetidine (Tagamet). Nitriles aren't as toxic because they don't easily release the carbon-nitrogen ion, which is what acts as a poison in the body.

Cyanide is even a byproduct of metabolism in the human body. It's exhaled in low amounts with every breath

What are the symptoms of cyanide poisoning?

Symptoms of toxic cyanide exposure may appear within a few seconds to several minutes after exposure.

You [may](#) experience:

- overall weakness
- nausea
- confusion
- headache
- difficulty breathing
- [seizure](#)
- loss of consciousness
- [cardiac arrest](#)

How severely you're affected by cyanide poisoning depends on:

- the dose
- the type of cyanide
- how long you were exposed

There are two different ways you can experience cyanide exposure. Acute cyanide poisoning has immediate, often life-threatening effects. Chronic cyanide poisoning results from exposure to smaller amounts over time.

Acute cyanide poisoning

Acute cyanide poisoning is [relatively rare](#), and the [majority of cases](#) are from unintentional exposure.

When it does occur, symptoms are sudden and severe. You may experience:

- difficulty breathing
- [seizure](#)
- loss of consciousness
- cardiac arrest

If you suspect that you or a loved one is experiencing acute cyanide poisoning, seek immediate emergency medical attention. This condition is life-threatening.

If you have ingested cyanide, you may be given activated charcoal to help absorb the toxin and safely clear it from your body.

From <https://www.healthline.com/health/cyanide-poisoning#treatment>

Back at Jonestown, Jones announced that it was [time to undertake the final "white night"](#). To quell disagreement, he told inhabitants that Congressman Ryan had already been murdered, sealing the commune's fate and making "[revolutionary suicide](#)" the only possible outcome. The people of Jonestown, some acceptant and serene, others probably coerced, queued to receive cups of cyanide punch and syringes. The children — more than 300 — were poisoned first, and can be heard crying and wailing on the commune's own audio tapes, later recovered by the FBI. When Guyanese troops reached Jonestown the next morning, they discovered an eerie, silent vista, frozen in time and littered with bodies. A tiny number of [survivors](#), mainly people who had hidden during the poisoning, emerged. One [elderly woman](#), who slept through the entire ordeal, awoke to discover everyone dead. Jones was found dead of an apparently self-inflicted gunshot.

From <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/17/an-apocalyptic-cult-900-dead-remembering-the-jonestown-massacre-40-years-on>



Drinking the Koolaid

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 5:38 PM

900 Die at Jonestown

The same day as the murders at the airstrip, Jones told his followers that soldiers would come for them and torture them. He ordered everyone to gather in the main pavilion and commit what he termed a "revolutionary act." The youngest members of the Peoples Temple were the first to die, as parents and nurses used syringes to drop a potent mix of cyanide, sedatives and powdered fruit juice into children's throats. (Jones had reportedly obtained a jeweler's license at some earlier point, which enabled him to stockpile cyanide.) Adults then lined up to drink the poison-laced concoction while armed guards surrounded the pavilion. This horrific event is the source of the phrase, "drinking the Kool-Aid."

From <<https://www.history.com/topics/crime/jonestown>>

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our decades ago this Sunday, the Rev Jim Jones, the charismatic leader of an

American cult in the Guyanese jungle, ordered his followers to murder a US congressman and several journalists, then commit mass suicide by drinking cyanide-laced fruit punch. The Jonestown massacre was, before 9/11, the largest single incident of intentional civilian death in American history. More than 900 people died, many children. It was also a devastating cultural trauma: the end of the last strains of a certain kind of 1960s idealism and 1970s radicalism. Jonestown's legacy lives on in the ironic phrase "drink the Kool-Aid". (In actuality it was Fla-Vor-Aid.)

From <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/17/an-apocalyptic-cult-900-dead-remembering-the-jonestown-massacre-40-years-on>>

Survivors

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 5:34 PM

The death toll at Jonestown on November 18, 1978 was 909 people, a third of them children. A few people managed to escape into the jungle that day, while at least several dozen more Peoples Temple members, including several of Jones' sons, were in another part of Guyana at the time. In total, only [33 survived](#).

A terrifying recording of the event, known as the "death tape," helped investigators understand what happened that night. Researches also found over one thousand recordings of propaganda , conversations and sermons that painted a gruesome picture of the activities of the Peoples Temple.

From <<https://www.history.com/topics/crime/jonestown>>

Survivors and eyewitnesses^[edit]

Three high-ranking Temple survivors claimed they were given an assignment and thereby escaped death. Tim Carter and his brother Mike, aged 30 and 20, and Mike Prokes, 31, were given luggage containing \$550,000 in U.S. currency, \$130,000 in Guyanese currency, and an envelope, which they were told to deliver to the Soviet embassy in Georgetown.^[174] The envelope contained two [passports](#) and three instructional letters, the first of which was to Timofeyev, stating: Dear Comrade Timofeyev, The following is a letter of instructions regarding all of our assets that we want to leave to the Communist Party of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Enclosed in this letter are letters which instruct the banks to send the cashiers checks to you. I am doing this on behalf of Peoples Temple because we, as communists, want our money to be of benefit for help to oppressed peoples all over the world, or in any way that your decision-making body sees fit.^{[178][179]} The letters included listed accounts with balances totaling in excess of \$7.3 million to be transferred to the [Communist Party of the Soviet Union](#).^{[175][176][177]} Prokes and the Carter brothers soon ditched most of the money and were apprehended heading for a Temple boat at Port Kaituma. It is unknown how they reached Georgetown, 150 miles (240 km) away, since the boat had been sent away earlier that day.^[174] The brothers were given the task before the suicides began, and soon abandoned it when they realized what was about to happen; Tim Carter desperately tried to search for his wife and son, discovering his son in time to witness him being poisoned, and his wife killing herself in despair. At this point, Carter had a [nervous breakdown](#), and was pulled away from the village by his equally distraught brother. Just before the start of the final meeting in the pavilion, Garry and Lane were told that the people were angry with them. The lawyers were escorted to a house used to accommodate visitors. According to them, they talked their way past two armed guards and made it to the jungle, before eventually arriving in Port Kaituma. While in the jungle near the settlement, they heard gunshots.^[178] This observation concurs with the testimony of Clayton, who, having previously fled into the jungle, heard the same sounds as he was sneaking back into Jonestown to retrieve his passport.^[168] Rhodes volunteered to fetch a [stethoscope](#) and hid under a building.^[167] Two more people who were intended to be poisoned managed to survive.^[124] Grover Davis, 79, who was hearing-impaired, missed the announcement to assemble on the loudspeaker, laid down in a ditch and pretended to be dead.^{[24][174]} Hyacinth Thrash, 76, realized what was happening and crawled under her bed, only to walk out after the suicides were completed.^[4]

From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonestown#Jones'_declining_physical_and_mental_health>

Sharon Amos

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 5:35 PM

In the early evening of November 18, at the Temple's headquarters in Georgetown, Temple member Sharon Amos received a radio communication from Jonestown instructing the members at the headquarters to take revenge on the Temple's enemies and then commit revolutionary suicide.^[44] Later, after police arrived at the headquarters, Sharon escorted her children, Liane (21), Christa (11), and Martin (10), into a bathroom.^[45] Wielding a kitchen knife, Sharon first killed Christa, and then Martin.^[46] Then Liane assisted Sharon in killing herself with the knife, after which Liane killed herself with the knife.^[47] Stephan, Tim and Jim Jr. eventually found them dead after they arrived at the Temple headquarters in their efforts to return to Jonestown to stop the suicide.

From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonestown#Jones'_declining_physical_and_mental_health>

Sharon Amos



Sharon Amos worked for the People's Temple and was a member of Jones' innermost circle. She lived in Guyana's capital of Georgetown with her three children Christa, Liane, and Martin.

On November 18th, 1978 when the order was sent from Jonestown to the People's Temple headquarters in Georgetown to commit suicide, Sharon was the only member not living in Jonestown to do so. She took her 3 children to the bathroom and killed them, and then herself.

From <<https://digitaljonestown.library.drake.edu/sharon-amos/>>

How did Sharon Amos and her children die? What happened to the others in the Lamaha Gardens bathroom?

The initial stories out of Guyana following the deaths of November 18, 1978, reported that Temple loyalist Sharon Amos, who was working in the group's headquarters in Georgetown, took her three children into an upstairs bathroom, slit their throats, and then slit her own. They were the only four to die in Georgetown.

Two other people were in the bathroom as the deaths occurred, 10-year-old Stephanie Brown and 43-year-old Charles Beikman. Brown also sustained knife wounds, and Beikman was arrested and charged with attempted murder of the young girl.

The real story turned out to be more complicated.

It is known that Sharon Amos did kill her young two children, Christa and Martin Amos, as the early reports indicated. However, according to the two surviving witnesses, once the younger children were dead, Sharon and her 21-year-old daughter Liane Harris, faced one another, and each slit the other's throat. The wounds were mortal, although Liane apparently lived for several minutes.

As for the other two, Stephanie's wounds turned out to be superficial and non-threatening. The account given by both was that Beikman told the girl he would have to cut her to make it seem he was carrying out his instructions, but that she wouldn't be in any real danger. Then he did so. The account was confirmed by Stephan Jones, who arrived on the scene shortly afterwards.

There are other factors suggesting this is true as well. Beikman got only five years in prison, a much lower sentence than had he actually been convicted of being involved in the deaths themselves.

Stephan also described Liane as a beautiful young woman who would never have dreamed of killing herself or anyone else, but on November 18, everything was crazy, and Liane's devotion to her mother, to comply with her mother's request, overrode everything else.

From <https://jonestown.sdsu.edu/?page_id=107294>

Larry Layton: Survivor of the Peoples Temple

Larry Layton, Quaker and pacifist, entered the Peoples Temple in 1968 to join the march to social justice as charted by the temple's mesmerizing leader, the Rev. Jim Jones.

Ten years later the road came to a dead end in the jungles of Guyana. The bodies of Jones and 912 cult followers lay sprawled under the tropical trees of the commune, victims of an incredible murder-suicide rite.

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Layton was accused of conspiracy to murder in the November, 1978, violence that triggered the mass deaths -- the airstrip attack on Rep. Leo Ryan and his party in which the congressman and four others were killed.

Ryan was gunned down by a band of temple members intent on stopping the visitors from leaving and reporting the doings of the cult to the outside world. Layton, 35, emerged as the only defendant alive and available for prosecution in the government's attempt to exact justice from the Jonestown horrors.

By all accounts, Layton was on a small plane about to leave Jonestown when the plot to kill Ryan was set in motion. According to trial testimony, as the attack began, Layton pulled a gun inside the plane and wounded two temple defectors.

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Hours later at the Jonestown encampment, Jones led the death rite of himself and his followers.

Layton was brought to trial in Guyana on charges of attempted murder and was acquitted. The U.S. trial was confined to the question of whether he plotted to kill Ryan and U.S. diplomat Richard Dwyer.

Layton joined the temple in the summer of 1968 at Redwood Valley, Calif., near the town of Ukiah, after his wife, Carolyn, became interested in the social philosophy of Jones, preaching from his wooded compound.

Layton was attracted to the Utopian principles of the temple and its multi-racial flock, living and working together under the guidance of Jones, a combination professed faith-healer and leftist political prophet.

In a book written by his brother, Thomas, after Ryan's death, Larry is quoted as saying he believed in the goals of the community, even though life was not always Utopian.

'Being in Peoples Temple wasn't always pleasant, but one had the feeling he was really doing something to advance society. Also there was a strong feeling of community -- people of all races who really cared about each other.'

Layton said the temple started out as a civil rights movement and he compared Jones to Martin Luther King Jr., but 'obviously things turned out differently,' he said.

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'I was a fool to leave California, but then I was a fool long before that,' he said.

After graduating from the University of California campus at Davis in 1968 with a degree in social science, Layton and his wife moved to the Ukiah area and soon met up with the temple.

They joined. The temple sent Layton to school for training as an X-ray technician. He was to use the skill when the flock made its planned migration to the Guyana settlement, which Jones already had picked out and named Jonestown.

In Ukiah, Layton's free will was already beginning to slip away, according to his



Marianne Bachers, Larry Layton and Frank Bell in 1981
(Frank Bell was an attorney who practiced in Northern California. A [remembrance by Marianne Bachers](#) appeared in the Jonestown report followed his death in February 2016.)

I have lived with the case of Larry Layton and his experiences as a member of Peoples Temple, especially on that fateful day in November 1978, when so many lost their lives, including Northern California Congressman Leo J. Ryan.

Larry Layton was the only person prosecuted for any of the events in and around Jonestown. I was one of Larry's lead lawyers in his first U.S. trial in 1981, which resulted in an 11 to 1 vote for acquittal on faulty charges of conspiracy to kill the congressman. I consulted with the defense during the government's appeal before the second U.S. trial, but I could not participate in that 1986 trial, because I was serving as California's State Public Defender.

Nevertheless, I followed the trial very carefully from my offices just three blocks from the San Francisco federal courthouse. I was surprised by the government's clever -- and, in my opinion, nefarious -- change of the theory of the case. I was disappointed when Robert Peckham, the very experienced and universally respected federal judge who had also presided over the first trial, felt compelled by the Courts of Appeals to allow the introduction of highly inflammatory evidence which he had barred from the earlier trial. I was shocked and saddened when the second jury found Larry guilty.

After Larry's sentencing I was involved in the initial parole hearings in 1991 to attempt to win his release, during which the parole authorities ignored an appeal by Judge Peckham for his release. I was also involved in a campaign asking President Clinton to invoke his clemency powers and release Larry during Clinton's final days in the White House. I also joined in Larry's final parole petition in 2001, although everyone involved in that campaign understands it was the testimony of Vern Gosney, one of Larry's victims and now a Hawaiian police officer, who flew from the Islands just days after September 11 to appear on Larry's behalf, that finally won his freedom. Larry was released from custody in April 2002, after 18 long years in prison.

From https://jonestown.sdsu.edu/?page_id=16973

lawyers.

Jones became enamoured with Carolyn Layton and told Larry he wanted her for his own. Layton complied, and Jones took Carolyn as his mistress. Jones then gave Layton permission to remarry a woman named Karen Tow.

Layton did so. Later, Jones also became enamoured of the new Mrs. Layton and soon added her, too, to his growing harem of temple members.

After Jones moved to Jonestown, and with Layton still in California, Layton's sister, a power in the hierarchy of the temple, defected and began to tell of atrocities at the jungle agricultural project.

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Almost immediately, Jones ordered Layton to Jonestown. He went, and pursued the destiny that brought him to trial in San Francisco.

By his own admission, Layton came of age in Berkeley, Calif., during the turmoil of student protests and the Vietnam war. He attended Berkeley High School and was the editor of a campus newspaper called The Liberal.

He is the son of Lawrence L. Layton, a prominent biologist at the University of California, and was raised in a cultural, intellectual atmosphere.

Although his mother was of German-Jewish descent, his family practiced the Quaker faith, and Larry was the family's firmest believer, according to his brother. Larry, sister Debbie and their mother, Lisa, all joined the temple while it was located in California.

As a temple member, Mrs. Layton separated from her husband and was said to have contributed \$250,000 in family assets to the cult. She died of cancer in Guyana three weeks before the death ritual

From <<https://www.upi.com/Archives/1981/09/26/Larry-Layton-Survivor-of-the-Peoples-Temple/7479370324800/>>