

*In Loving Memory of*

*Wender "Wendy" Gaines*

*Sunrise*  
*April 7, 1952*

*Sunset*  
*January 29, 2013*

## Obituary

**Wender Brown Gaines** better known as “Wendy” was born on April 7, 1952 on the Warner Robins Airforce Base, in Macon, Georgia to the late Charles Brown, Sr. and Lovell (Paulhill) Brown. In the earlier part of her childhood, her parents settled in Passaic, NJ where she went to grammar school and high school. While in Passaic High she actively participated in extra curricular activities such as band and cheerleading. After graduating high school she attended Rutgers University in New Brunswick formerly known as Livingston College, where she graduated with a BA in Education.

While living in Piscataway, NJ she married Anthony James in 1973 and the union was dissolved in 1977. Upon her return to Passaic she began her career with the Passaic Board of Education as an outstanding teacher. She then went on to meet the late Kenneth Harris and in September of 1981 gave birth to her most prized possession a daughter named, Cierra Harris. Although they never married they jointly were involved in their daughter’s upbringing and remained amicable until his death in 2001. On November 24, 1995 she got remarried to her husband of seventeen years, Gerald Gaines. She taught within the Passaic Public School System for over twenty-seven years, but for her, learning didn’t stop after 3’oclock. She touched the lives of many through teaching, tutoring and mentoring. Even though her days were long and to some may have seemed like a lot, to Wendy it was all in a day’s work. She was active in her community by being involved in various school and social functions.

As an avid believer in the motto “The More You Know The More You Grow” Wendy went on to acquire a Master Degree in Education and a second Master Degree in Counseling. In 2008, she retired early from the Board of Education and relocated to Virginia to care for her beloved Mother. She loved music, the arts, classic movies and traveling. She enjoyed exploring and experiencing various cultures and things. Her personal and passionate relationship with the Lord began early at the Union Baptist Church in Passaic, NJ. Upon relocating to Midlothian, Virginia, she became an active member of Faith and Family Church in Richmond, Virginia. Under the leadership of Pastor Calvin Duncan and First Lady Barbara Duncan. Wendy held fast to her everlasting faith in God and believed although her chapter on earth may have come to a close her work along side Him as one of the Greatest Guardian Angels Ever has just begun.

She leaves behind: her wonderful mother, Lovell Brown; her loving and devoted daughter, Cierra Harris; a free spirited and twin like granddaughter, Michaela Harris-Cross; a caring and devoted husband, Gerald Gaines; two younger and handsome brothers, Charles Brown II and Timothy Brown; and their beautiful wives, Cecilia and Rosylyn; cousins, Jacqueline Scaperotta and Phil Jones, Tina and Tamaka Herbert, Matline Rozier and Timothy Rozier, Robert Harris and Jamie Driskell, Gwendolyn Whitted and all of their children; two sister like friends, Christine Gardener and Nina Dubose and her godchildren, Denisha Davis, Melvin Toran and Keenan McMurray. Wendy leaves behind her nephews, Charles Brown, III, Elijah Naymon, Darius T. Brown, Titus Brown, Ethan Brown, Caseen Gaines, Jordan Edwards, Teddy Harris, Curtis Gaines III and Isaih Almonza; nieces, Timethia Briana Brown and Naomi Almonza; also mother-in-law, Rosetta Gaines; brother-in-law, Curtis Gaines and his wife Bernadette Gaines; and

*Friday, February 8, 2013 - 7:00 p.m.*

**UNION BAPTIST CHURCH**

221 Myrtle Avenue

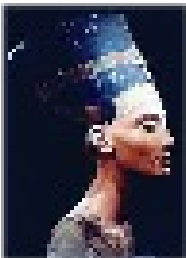
Passaic, New Jersey 07055

*Lawrence Mitchell, Organist*

---

*Order of Service*

- Prelude ..... Music Selections
- Processional ..... Clergy
- Musical Selections
- Message of Scripture
  - Old Testament
  - New Testament
- Prayer of Consolation
- Acknowledgements/Resolutions
- Reading of Obituary
- Expressions (two minutes) ..... Phil Jones & Daughter  
Family & Friends
- Poem ..... By Jacqueline Scaperotta
- Video Tribute
- Musical Selection
- Eulogy ..... Pastor Calvin Duncan
- Recessional ..... Clergy, Family & Friends



**Interment**  
*East Ridgelawn Cemetery*  
*Clifton, New Jersey*



## For The Butterflies

### For Wendy



She sets her flight path to glory.  
Scribing her life with the blood of the  
heroes that came before her,  
She wears her heart on her chest.  
She decorates her canvas with their war paint.  
Taking Destiny into her womb she constantly  
Nourishes it with the living water.  
She is the word and the word was with God  
So the word is God seeded within her hips.  
Next to her name the book of ages reads  
"Limitless Possibilities"  
She carries out her destiny in defiance  
Of the skewed history that  
Continuously attempts to erase her.  
The mishaps of the miseducated  
Chase her footsteps place in the hot sands.  
But she is the living water washing  
Against the shore and always escaping the enemy.  
She is a butterfly, always operating  
In the conscienceness of her translucent wings,  
Never forgetting the fragility of her cocoon.  
However she will never fall back  
Into the trap of low self-esteem  
Born again and now immaculately pristine.  
Giving her life to the beat of any heart  
That will listen, she remains unbruised.  
Though careful not to fall prey to  
The weapons formed against thee.  
Unlike the weaponry, she shall prosper,  
Giving life to a fallen dream.  
Living today to provide knowledge,  
Share wisdom and empower a new breed of girls  
Who will one day birth a nation of women life YOU.



*Written by: Denisha Lashawn Davis*

### *Acknowledgements*

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation every thought  
and act of kindness extended towards them during this time.*

*May God bless you all.*

---

Professional Services Provided By

*The Madonna Multinational*

**H O M E   F O R   F U N E R A L S**

109 Howe Ave @ Madonna Square  
Passaic, NJ 07055 • ph (973) 777-6011  
[www.madonnafuneralhome.com](http://www.madonnafuneralhome.com)



[www.honoryou.com](http://www.honoryou.com)

