

*In Celebration of the Life  
of  
Sarah Louise Gregory Banks*

*Sunrise  
June 11, 1946*

*Sunset  
July 25, 2015*

**Service**

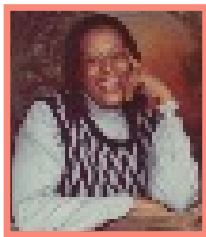
Wednesday, July 29, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.

**MT. NEBOH BAPTIST CHURCH**

1883 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. • New York, NY

***Rev. Johnnie Green, Officiating***

# *Sarah's Life Journey*



**Sarah Louise Gregory Banks**, the second eldest of three children, was born on Tuesday, June 11, 1946, in New York, New York to Gilfrey T. (Sr.) and Sarah E. Gregory. Her parents, two brothers: Gregory T. (Jr.), and James V., and son, Duke Gilyard, Jr., have all preceded Sarah in death.

**Sarah** was enrolled in the New York City Public Schools and attended New York Public School 10, Wadleigh Middle School, and graduated Washington Irving High School, in June 1963. At an early age, she was confirmed and attended St. Thomas of the Apostles Roman Catholic Church. In 1993, she joined Mount Neboh Baptist Church (under the pastorate of Reverend Watkins), where she remained an active member. She worked as an assistant teacher for the New York City Department of

Education and, for many years, served as President of the Parents' Teachers' Association.

**Sarah** was affectionately called 'Lou' by her husband, Leon, and Ms. Louise; Big Lou; Weezie; Ma Weezie; and Grandma Weezie, by her friends. She was a mother to many and extended her home, hand and heart to anyone in need. She was the 'go to' person for advice (even if you didn't want to hear the truth). She did not hold back in steering you away from bad decisions. Her words were raw and uncensored; yet, never judgmental. She loved life and had an infectious personality. She loved to laugh, hear and tell good jokes. She was loved by many and will be sorely missed.

**Sarah**, as a community activist, was a force to be reckoned with. She served as Treasurer of the Tenants' Association (and Task Force Member) of the A. Phillip Randolph Houses. She was a vigorous advocate for the A. Phillip Randolph overhaul construction project that will transform the Randolph Houses into a mixed-income development of public and private housing (as noted in [The New York Times](#), March 30, 2014, entitled: "Harlem Housing Relic From The 1800s Is Set For a Long-Promised Overhaul"). She stood for tenants' rights and led the fight, oftentimes from within, making sure her fellow tenants were kept abreast of proposed repair dates, relocation efforts, contractor matters and budgetary concerns — down to the penny! She worked tirelessly and fearlessly with experts on historical preservation, federal budget allocations, tax credits, developer RFP submissions, local elected officials and community leaders, assuring that the A. Phillip Randolph Houses tenants' rights were not violated while obtaining pertinent information addressing their needs during the plan to rebuild the units. If there were any questions about the rehabilitation, you could believe that Sarah had the answers. She was steadfast, patient and never overwhelmed. She would often state, "If I don't know, I know people who know."

Upon being diagnosed in 2010 with Stage 4 colon cancer and knowing death was imminent with this type of disease, **Sarah** courageously continued to do what she loved best — community activism and extending a helping hand to all who needed her. She never resented nor questioned God about her illness. She pushed forward in faith and humility and lived her life five additional years with strength and courage.

On Saturday, July 25, 2015, at 9:15 a.m., God, in His infinite mercy entered **Sarah's** hospice care room at Calvary Hospital, Bronx, New York and tenderly called her to eternal rest.

**Sarah** leaves to cherish her memory: her husband of 38 years, Leon Banks, II; three sons, two daughters and two sons-in-law, David Gilyard, Denise (Andre) Brown, Yolanda Banks (Gregory) Jackson, Leon Banks, III, and Carinthein Haywood; one sister-in-law, Barbara Gregory; very special friends, Audrey Clayton, Sandra Gibson, Sandra Gilmore, Loretta Myers, and Teddy Williams; fifteen grandchildren: Davon, Tia, Darnell, Chelsea, Duke III, Davena, Andre, Diondre, Danasia, David, Jr., Jordan, Madyson, Mason, MacKenzie, and Kendra; five great grandchildren, Taylor, Kennedy, Kadence, Aniyah, and Malihky; one niece, Delores DeLoach; five nephews, Dwight Gregory, Gilfrey Gregory, III, Donald Gregory, Tobias Gregory and Dabney Gregory; ten godchildren, George Lucas, Robin Monroe, Sonya Thomas, David Myers, Jr., Shaniqua Ferrell, Chauniqua Burse, Gerald King, Carlton Georges, IV, Jewel Davis, Corey Danzy; cousins, great nieces and nephews and a host of other relatives and friends; and last but certainly not least, not just a cousin, a neighbor and friend but a devoted watchful guardian to our family, Frances King.

Lovingly submitted by,  
The Family

# Order of Service

*Processional*

*Selection*

*Scripture*

*Prayer*

*Selection*

*Acknowledgements*

*Remarks*

*Poem*

*Obituary*

*Selection*

*Eulogy*

*Committal*

*Viewing*

*Recessional*

## Interment

*George Washington Memorial Park • Paramus, New Jersey*

*“On Christ, the solid rock I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand”*



*"I love life and  
life love me"*

## *You Are Loved So Much*

Over the years you were sometimes a daughter,  
sometimes a sister, sometimes a mother, sometimes  
a wife, sometimes an aunt, and sometimes a friend

You played so many roles and touched so many  
lives each in a unique way

You seem to offer so much love, care,  
and kindness the best you knew how,  
yet ask for nothing in return

Over the years your smiles were heartfelt,  
your wit made us laugh  
and your words were a comfort

These words just begin to describe you,  
one of the superwoman of our lives

You Are Loved So Much!

## *Grandma Wezz,*

God looked around His garden and found an empty space. Then  
He looked down upon the earth and saw your face. He put His  
arms around you and lifted you to rest. Gods garden must be  
beautiful. He only takes the best, Love Andre

## *Acknowledgement*

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of  
kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour.  
May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*

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*"Your Loved Ones Deserve The Best - Unity"*

