

*In Loving Memory of*



*Janie Jones-Gathers*

*Sunrise*  
*April 11, 1933*

*Sunset*  
*April 10, 2020*

**Lisa S. Dozier Funeral Service Inc.**  
2200 Clarendon Road • Brooklyn, New York 11226

## Obituary

**Janie** was born April 11, 1933 in Hawkinsville Georgia, to George Jones and Elizabeth Parthon. Due to the “institution” of Jim Crow, the family was transplanted to Clewiston Florida, where Janie was raised as a child and a teenager. There she was immersed in the values of family, religious faith, community partnerships and the necessity to acquire an education. In 1948, Janie and her mother relocated to Brooklyn, NY (Brownsville), and shortly thereafter, experienced the worst snow storm in the 20th century.

Janie attended Prospect Heights High School, and enjoyed traveling to Harlem with girlfriends to “party” at the SAVOY ballroom. Soon thereafter, Janie met and married, Julius Gathers, through an arranged rendezvous (by a cousin) on the “A” train at the JAY street station in Brooklyn. The marriage produced two sons, Victor, and Audwin. Janie was initially a factory worker (Brownsville), and, waitress ( Bed- Stuy). In the early 1960’s, Janie became one of the first Black employees at Sears & Roebuck, working in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn . Specifically, she worked in the jewelry, electronic, housewares & cafeteria departments and was nicked named – “Miss SEARS” by customers and neighbors. To demonstrate her commitment to education, in March, 1992, Janie received her NEW YORK STATE HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY CERTIFICATE.

Janie enjoyed the religious camaraderie, spiritual exaltation and inspired godliness of her home church, Salem Missionary Baptist. As a member, Janie was active on various committees and faithfully attended “Salem” as long as she was physically able. When not in church, Janie was always in deep prayer and her favorite scripture was the 23rd Psalm.

Anyone who knew Janie was aware of her out-going personality, and her knack for individual self-expression. Janie was a loving mother, and Aunt who taught her own children, in addition to, her nieces and nephews, through example and instruction, how to survive and navigate societal conditions, act respectfully, and give GOD the glory.

Janie was preceded in death by her father, mother, former husband Julius, her son Audwin, her Aunts, and all her siblings, their husbands and wives: Maggie Flagg Tolbert and Rufus Tolbert, Albert Ward and Geraldine Ward, Laura Lilly Brown and Herbert Brown, Christine Goode Johnson and Robert Johnson. Nephews Leon E. Flagg, Rufus Tolbert jr., Robert Johnson, Jr., Donnie Ward; nieces Veronica Ward, Vernita Ward, Gwendolyn Johnson, and great nephews and nieces, too numerous to mention at this time.

Left to mourn Janie’s passing are her family and friends; her son, Dr. Victor Gathers and daughter in law to be, Gerri Jones Crowell; her Grandchildren: Dr. Sekuleo Gathers and his wife Carine Gathers, Rachel Moses, Naquan Gathers, and Audwin Gathers, Jr.; great Grandchildren; Nia Gathers Ramsey Gathers, Sarai Gathers, Jajuan Gainey, Audrey Gathers and Skyler Moses; daughter in law, Juanita Gathers, former daughter in law Barbara Brown-Gathers, and former granddaughter in law, Keisha Doyley- Gathers; nephew(s), Joseph L. Flagg, Charles Tolbert, Phillip Tolbert, David Tolbert, Herbert Brown, jr , Kenneth Ward, Albert Ward, jr., and many great nephews; nieces : Martha

Tolbert Butts (Howard), Lolita Brown , Evelyn Ann Coleman (Johnny), Constance Johnson Belvin (Willie), Joyce Ann Lee, Arbuary Vera Canty and a host of great and grand nieces and nephews.

Adopted family and friends; Ruth Ferguson & family, Linda, Tashuan, Allen, Debra Harris & family, Thelma Daniels Faulding &family, King, Marisa Lenoir & family, James (Jimmy) Myers & Krystyna Chmielinski, Jeffrey Hayes & family, and Gerri Alston & family.

“This old building began to lean; it began to spring leaks, and with every twist and turn needed to be propped up. So, just as I did when I lived in Bed-Stuy , Brownsville, and East New York , I had to move. But this time it was God who moved me. Thank You Jesus, I won’t have to move no more! I finally found somewhere that’s storm proof, flood proof and Corona Virus proof. It ain’t cold and it never snows and there’s no raising the rent here either, you see my Jesus already paid it. It’s better for me here, and for you too. So y’all get your stuff together so you can come too, when its time”. ....

*In Peace And Grace.....Amen*

### *Order of Service*

Opening Sentences.....	Dr. James A Thornton
Hymn.....	“What A Friend We Have In Jesus”
Scripture Readings	
Old Testament Lesson - Psalm 90.....	Dr. James Thornton
New Testament Lesson - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.....	Dr. Betty Holley
Hymn.....	“Blessed Assurance”
Church Letter.....	Dr. Betty Holley
Selection.....	Musician
Eulogy.....	Dr. James Thornton
Committal.....	Dr. James Thornton
Benediction.....	Dr. James Thornton

**Final Disposition**  
Greenwood Crematory  
Brooklyn, New York

## *I'm Free*

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me  
I took his hand when I heard Him call*

*I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day.*

*To laugh, to love, to work or play.*

*Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I found that peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void,*

*Then fill it up with remembered joy.*

*A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,*

*Oh, yes these things I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow,*

*I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.*

*My life's been full, I savored much.*

*Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,*

*Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.*

*Lift up your heart and share with me,*

*God wanted me now, He set me free!*

## *Acknowledgement*

*The family of **Janie Jones-Gathers** would like to express their profound and heartfelt gratitude for every act of love and kindness extended to them during their season of bereavement.*

*Professional Services Provided By*

*Lisa S. Dozier Funeral Service, Inc.*

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