

# *Mother to Son*

BY LANGSTON HUGHES

*Well, son, I'll tell you:  
Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.  
It's had tacks in it,  
And splinters,  
And boards torn up,  
And places with no carpet on the floor—  
Bare.  
But all the time  
I've been a-climbin' on,  
And reachin' landin's,  
And turnin' corners,  
And sometimes goin' in the dark  
Where there ain't been no light.  
So boy, don't you turn back.  
Don't you set down on the steps  
'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.  
Don't you fall now—  
For I've still goin', honey,  
I've still climbin',  
And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.*

## *Acknowledgments*

Our family wishes to extend our profound and sincere gratitude for the outpouring of love, support, and prayers during this difficult time. Through our cherished memories, **STEPHANIE** will live on in our hearts forever. May we continue to celebrate her life by living freely and with gratitude every single day that we have the ability to take a breath.

## *Arrangements Entrusted to:*

  
**BENTA'S**  
Funeral Home, Inc.  
630 St. Nicholas Avenue  
New York, NY 10030  
Phone: (212) 281-8850  
Fax: (212) 234-3600

# *Celebrating The Life of*



# *Stephanie G. McAllister*

SUNRISE: OCTOBER 13, 1958 - SUNSET: MARCH 8, 2024

## *Funeral Service*

Saturday, March 16, 2024 • 10:00 A.M.

**BENTA'S FUNERAL HOME**

630 St. Nicholas Avenue • New York, New York 10030

**PASTOR MICHAEL McALLISTER**, *Officiating*

**REVEREND TERRANCE KENNEDY**, *Minister of Music*

## *Interment*

**ROSE HILLS MEMORIAL PARK**

Putnam Valley, New York

# Order of Service

**MUSICAL PRELUDE**

**INVOCATION**

**MUSICAL SELECTION**

“AMAZING GRACE”

**PRAYER OF COMFORT**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

PSALM 23

**BAND**

**REFLECTIONS**

FAMILY & FRIENDS  
(TWO MINUTES PLEASE)

**MUSICAL SELECTION**

“HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW”

**OBITUARY READING**

**MUSICAL SELECTION**

“WIND BENEATH MY WINGS”

**EULOGY**

**COMMITTAL & BENEDICTION**

**FINAL VIEWING**

**RECESSIONAL**

# Obituary

Stephanie Gail Benton McAllister, beloved wife, mother, sister, and friend, passed away peacefully on March 8, 2024, leaving behind cherished memories and a legacy of love. Stephanie was born on October 13th, 1958, to her parents James Benton Sr. and Johnnie Mae Benton. She was raised in Manhattanville Projects in Harlem, NY!

Stephanie, affectionately known as “Steph,” was the loving sibling of James Benton Jr., Gwendolyn E. Benton, and Anthony Benton. She received her education from PS 129, JHS 43, Brandeis HS, and went on to earn a Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice from John Jay College.

In 1985, Stephanie married the love of her life, Kelvin McAllister Sr., with whom she shared a beautiful life and raised two wonderful sons, Kelvin McAllister Jr. and Kerry J. McAllister. Stephanie dedicated her career to serving others, working diligently at Bank Leumi and for the Administration of Children’s Services- ACS for over 30 years.

Stephanie’s zest for life extended beyond her professional pursuits. She found joy in making others happy, cherished family activities and Christmas, spending time outdoors, playing volleyball, bike riding, playing handball, and paddleball.

Stephanie’s passing leaves a void in the lives of her family and friends, but she will forever be remembered for her kindness, thoughtfulness, warmth, and infectious laughter.

She is survived by her loving family, including her husband Kelvin, sons Kelvin Jr. and Kerry, granddaughter Parker Kacey , nephew Brandon Benton, sister Pamela Phillips, god daughter Joanna Chisholm, sisters in law Sharon McAllister & Elizabeth McAllister, brothers in law Lanny, Morris & Lynwood, nieces Gina Joy, Johnetta & Love Lynn, nephews James, Lander, Ricardo, Eric, Martin, & Lynwood Jr., great nieces, Chastlyn & Ryann, great nephews, Jordan James & Jaden, Kenneth, Kevin & Darrell Brown, lifelong friends Camille Gladden, Rena Rolle, Lena Fernandez and a host of other relatives and friends. Stephanie’s memory will continue to live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

May she rest in peace, surrounded by the love she shared with all who knew her.

*“Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.”*

- Maya Angelou