



STILL RISING

*Refusing to ever descend after
My mother, grandmother, great grandmother
Have all endured broken wings
To ensure that I would one day be able to catch wind
I rise*

*Because Maya said so
Explaining to me my existence
Is never burden
Not curse
No, I am heavenly
Her voice like gospel
And I will always respond to good news
I rise*

*Cuz I know no other direction
Built into me like going south for winter
Internal compass passed down
Through North Star guidance
This is instinct
There is nowhere to go but
Up*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The family of Susan V. Lee would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to everyone for their kindness during this most difficult time.

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



Susan Valerie Lee

SUNRISE: DECEMBER 17, 1963 - SUNSET: FEBRUARY 21, 2023

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2023
FUNERAL SERVICE - 11 A.M.

BENTA'S FUNERAL HOME, INC.
630 SAINT NICHOLAS AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10030

REVEREND PETER TABRON, *Officiating*
MR. ALSON FARLEY, *Musician*

Order of Service

ORGAN PRELUDE - Mr. Alson Farley

SELECTION - "Blessed Assurance"

SCRIPTURE READING

Old Testament: Habakkuk 3:17-18 NKJV - Ginger Gibbs

New Testament: John 14:2-6 NKJV - Michelle Wiggs

PRAYER OF COMFORT - Jaqueline Sawyer

REFLECTIONS

Frank Lee

Sylvia Helm

Cynthia Katori Walker

Suzanne Guard

READING OF THE OBITUARY - Gayle T. Williams

SELECTION - "Total Praise"

EULOGY - Reverend Peter Tabron

BENEDICTION - Reverend Peter Tabron

RECESSIONAL - Mr. Alson Farley

Interment

WOODLAWN CEMETERY

BRONX, NEW YORK

Obituary

Susan Valerie Lee was born on Tuesday, December 17, 1963 to the late Ernestine (Green) Lee and George Lee.

Her elementary schooling began at St. Joseph's Montessori School in Mount Vernon, NY and at the age of 12, Susan entered the Academy of Mt. St. Ursula in the Bronx. An honor student during her four years of high school, Susan entered Barnard College at the age of 16, and graduated in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. Later, she earned a master's degree in developmental psychology from Teachers College of Columbia University.

As an undergraduate student, Susan began working in the Financial Aid office at Barnard, and she never left. After earning her bachelor's degree, she began working there full-time and progressed for 28 years, retiring in 2012 as the department's Associate Director. In those roles, Susan certainly used her excellent listening skills and displayed her selfless consideration of others. After retirement, Susan actively volunteered her time with a number of causes, including New York Cares and Swing Left. She was also a ceramicist, and created many beautiful pieces as a member of the Mugi Pottery Studio in Manhattan.

A lover of diverse cultures, cuisine and languages, Susan traveled to many national and international destinations. She was an avid reader and maintained a large personal library of books by African-American authors.

Her parents' only child, Susan is survived by the love of her life, her daughter, Nicole Brezina Elizabeth Hines; an uncle, Frank Lee; an aunt, Gwen Blackwell; a host of cousins, including Clarissa Barksdale, The Rev. Peter Tabron (Juliette), Dianne Tabron-Felder, Gregory Barksdale (Sydney), Ginger Gibbs, Yvette Lee Postadan (Romstead), Aryn Lee, Ryan Lee, Marissa Lee; and an "aunt," Jackie Sawyer. Susan is also survived by a wealth of "family" – friends who were like family – including Beverly Christian, Karen Diamond, Suzanne Guard, her godsister Michele Wiggs and Gayle Williams.

Susan was a most loving daughter, mother, cousin, niece and friend, who cared deeply about anyone in her midst. May we continue her legacy by looking after those around us.