



Annetta L. Jefferson

December 5, 1927 - December 16, 2009

Annetta Louise Gomez-Jefferson, born in Detroit, Michigan, December 5, 1927 to Hazel Thompson Gomez and Reverend Joseph Gomez, Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, died at her home in Wooster on December 16, 2009. She received most of her formal education in the Cleveland Ohio Public School System, at Wilberforce University and then Erwin Piscator's Dramatic Workshop (1948-50) in New York City. She earned her B. A. in English (Magna Cum Laude-1957) from Paul Quinn College in Waco, Texas, her M.A. in English (1959) from Western Reserve University (now Case Western Reserve) in Cleveland, Ohio, with further graduate work at Western Reserve, John Carroll in Cleveland, and Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana.

From 1959-66, she taught in the Cleveland Secondary Public Schools, the upward Bound Summer Program at Western Reserve University, the College Summer Program for High School Seniors at Western Reserve University and at Case School Of Technology. She was a Master Teacher in the MAT Program at John Carroll University, and served as a writer for the Educational Research Council of America in Cleveland.

From 1967-74 she was Writer/Producer for WVIZ Educational Television Station in Cleveland. Her series' included: Blackpeoplehood (Ford Foundation grant), Brother Man (Ford Foundation Grant), Black Journal: Cleveland Response, which she also hosted, The History of Black Americans and Reflections in Black (history and literature series for high schools funded by

Martha Holden Jennings Foundation), Behavior Modification and Individualization of Instruction (for public School teachers), four shows for Inside/Out, an Award winning National Instructional T.V. Series for which she received an Emmy Citation, and Four Christmas Specials highlighting African American artistic talent in Cleveland.

From 1974 to her retirement in 1995, Professor Gomez-Jefferson was a member of the faculty at the College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio, where in 1982, she was asked to develop and chair a Theatre Department. During her years at the College Of Wooster, she directed 42 plays, 5 Black Arts Festivals and as well as the original plays: In Both Hands, My Soul Looks Back In Wonder, Drown The Wind (musical, music by Brian Dykstra), Amandla, and The Fish Monger. She founded and directed the Stage Right Repertory Company (summers 1982-86).

Her other professional experiences include Guest Director: at The Humanist Theatre, Karamu House, Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland, Ohio; Wooster High School (Black Arts Festival) Wooster, Ohio; and at Paul Quinn College, Waco, Texas.

Annetta served as Director of the Speakers' Bureau for the Cleveland Branch of the NAACP during the 60's, Awards Banquet Speaker for the Indianapolis Chapter of the NAACP, did poetry readings at Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, and Oberlin College, and served as Guest Lecturer for one semester (1972) at Oberlin College where she taught "Writing For Television". She has been a Guest Speaker at numerous A.M.E. Churches throughout the country, at Cleveland State University, Kent State University, and Wilberforce University and during her Sabbatical from Wooster at several Polytechnic Colleges in London, England. Professor Jefferson's publications include: Four biographical sketches for Black Women In America, I&II, second edition, Brooklyn: Carlson Press, Darlene Clark Hines, Ed., 1993, 2005; editor, Through Love To Light: The Sermons, Addresses and Prayers of Bishop Joseph Gomez, Nashville: A.M.E. Sunday School Union, 1997; In Darkness With God: The Life Of Joseph

Gomez, a Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1998; "An Odyssey In Black Leadership, Joseph Gomez, a Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church", Narratives Of Leadership, Wauconda, Ill.: Bolchazy-Carducci, Inc., Vivian Holliday, ed., 2000; The sage Of Tawawa: Reverdy Cassius Ransom, 1861-1959, Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 2003; Poetry in the A.M.E. Review, The Black Scholar, Free Lance Magazine, and Thistle; and articles in the A.M.E. Church Review with recent writings including (Commissions On Publications, Nashville, Tenn.): "Abu Gharib" (Poem) April-June 2004; "The Unrighteous Religious Right and African Methodism" (article) October-December 2004; "America's Underside Disgorged: A Commentary on Hurricane Katrina" (article) July-September 2005; and "Rosa" (Poetic tribute to Rosa Parks) October-December 2005. At the time of her death, Annetta was working on a book of poetry, Cinnamon Secrets and her autobiography, Born Alive.

Professor Gomez-Jefferson's Honors Include in 1974 appointment by Governor John J. Gilligan to the Ohio Educational Television Network Commission and in 1986 and 1990 she was awarded a Luce Grant for Distinguished Scholars; in 2000 she received the Ohioana Citation for Distinguished Service in the Field of Theatre and in 2008, The Ohioana Pegasus Award for Distinguished Service in the Arts.

She is survived by sons Curtis Gomes of New York City and Joseph Jefferson of Wooster; four grandchildren, Bruno, Marco Valerio, and Ariel and great-grandchildren; her sister Eula Viviana Williams and brother-in-law, Harold B. Williams of Woodland Park, Michigan.

Funeral services will be Tuesday, December 22, 1:30 p.m. at Freedlander Theater at The College of Wooster, 329 E. University St., with the Reverend Carole LeBlanc, Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church officiating, followed by interment at Wooster Cemetery. Visitation will be Monday, December 21, from 6-8 p.m. at Custer-Glenn Funeral Home, 2284 Benden

Dr., in Wooster.

Memorial contributions may be made in lieu of flowers to: Hospice and Palliative Care of Greater Wayne County (2525 Back Orrville RD, Wooster OH, 44691) and Save the Children ID323 411 (c/o/Joseph Jefferson, 2631 Tanglewood Dr., Wooster OH, 44691}.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at: www.custerglenn.com.

Samuel A. Glenn

Owner/Director

Custer-Glenn Funeral Home

330-264-7776

as revised by v.holliday

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Previous Events

Service

DEC **22**. 1:30 PM (ET)

Freedlander Theater
329 E. University St.
Wooster, OH

Tribute Wall



“ *The last time I saw you was in 1970 in bed with a cold being watched over by your mother and father.*

You were always kind to me and made me feel welcome in your home.

I wish I could find your son and my long lost buddy Curtis.

May God bless you and keep you in Jesus name.##imported-begin##Mr.##imported-end##

October 21, 2011 at 05:59 PM



“ *Our deepest sympathies on the passing of Annetta. Curtis and Joseph; you must be very proud of your mother's many accomplishments. We were very pleased, when reading her book, "In Darkness With God", that Nerene's Great Aunt, Kathleen Holland Forbes, was a part of your mother's life. Annetta made a significant contribution to our historical records writing about your remarkable grandfather. Those of us who did not know her personally could certainly feel a kinship through her writings. Through her breadth of achievements, she has left a legacy that will continue to enrich the lives of generations to come. Ontario , Canada##imported-begin##Nerene Virgin & Alan Smith##imported-end##*

March 22, 2010 at 09:31 PM



“ On behalf of our mother Anna Bell Hicks and her family it is with regret to see the passing of Annetta. We pray that you will allow the Lord to guide you through your tearful days and night and that you will continue to care and embrace each other.

Our prayers will forever be with you##imported-begin##Mamye Hicks##imported-end##

February 22, 2010 at 07:30 PM



“ Annetta was my IS advisor along with Dale Seeds.

I hope that whomever took her place at the college knows what big shoes they have to fill -- and I hope they have the same impact on their students as Annetta did.##imported-begin##Peter McKiernan##imported-end##

January 18, 2010 at 11:53 AM



“ Dear Joe, I am so very sorry for your loss. It's been a long time since I saw you, remember Community Action. You will be in my prayers, and also your mother. She was such a great lady. And I know you will be sad for a long time, as I have lost my dad, my aunt and my best friend in the last 9 years, and I am still sad. But trust in Jesus, keep him in front at all times, and He will lead you. God Bless you and yours. Jean DeLuca from Shreve.##imported-begin##Jean DeLuca##imported-end##

December 24, 2009 at 04:39 PM



“ Annetta,

Rest peacefully. Memories of you will stay firmly nestled inside me. May the music play on for you, always. I thank you for giving me my best friend, Curtis--be assured that I will take very good care of him for you. I send heartfelt condolences to both Curtis and Joseph.

Michele Tiff Hill##imported-begin##Michele Tiff-Hill##imported-end##

December 22, 2009 at 06:06 PM



“ Gomez and Joe--I'm thinking about you tonight, and hope you'll be comforted by the love of family and friends who are with you in body or in spirit. So glad I got to spend time with your mom--a wonderful, special woman. Love, Janet##imported-begin##Janet Leuchter##imported-end##

December 21, 2009 at 11:57 PM



“ Annetta had always told me to pursue my dreams. She was a true inspiration to me. I can remember the intense rehearsals and the stern observant look on her face, as I repeated my lines for her over and over again. I never knew right away if "I got it", but I know now that she brought the best out in all of us. It was a privilege to be her student and friend. God bless her soul and may she rest in peace. Much love to the family.##imported-begin##Maxime Alix Gilles, MD College of Wooster 89'##imported-end##

December 21, 2009 at 11:54 PM



“ Curtis and Joseph you have our deepest and sincerest condolences for your loss. Antinetta was such a wonderful and beautiful person. Remember when someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure.##imported-begin##Brenda, Birdie, and Charalyn##imported-end##

December 21, 2009 at 10:54 PM



“ Annetta will always be in my heart. I fondly remember all the productions we had worked together on at Wooster. I wish I could be there to express my feelings to you in person , but I'm not able to attend.
Joe, a great light has gone out of the world but she has moved on to her great rewards and I know that the Lord will open his arms and embrace her for all the good she has done on this earth.##imported-begin##Kim Vaughn##imported-end##

December 21, 2009 at 07:56 PM



“ We can only express our sincerest condolences at your loss, for it was our loss too. The love we feel for your mother can not be expressed in words. That same love is extended to Curtis, Curtis, and Joseph. May your hearts be lightened of this enormous burden, and our prayers are that God helps you to endure this episode in your lives. Annetta is in a better place, we're sure of it. She had a definite impact on this world while she lived.##imported-begin##Willie W. & Beverly J. Jefferson & Family##imported-end##

December 21, 2009 at 11:10 AM



“ *Annneta was the guiding force behind what the Department of Theatre and Dance is today. She embraced the performance of quality dramatic literature with the intent to challenge and inspire our students and her colleagues. She advocated for the synthesis of dance into our program. Perhaps most importantly, she championed honor and integrity through her own example. She will be missed, but the inheritance she left us will continue through our efforts to meet the standards she established.*

Dale Seeds, Chair, The Department of Theatre and Dance.##imported-begin##Dale Seeds##imported-end##

December 20, 2009 at 07:02 PM



“ *Sorry for your loss -- my condolences. Tom##imported-begin##Tom Perley##imported-end##*

December 20, 2009 at 05:12 PM



“ *A daughter, a mother, a neighbor, a friend, a colleague, a talented caring human being. Annetta will be missed by many, including us: Dee and Jim Perley. Our thoughts go out to Curtis and Joseph, two sons for whom she cared a great deal. We'll miss our chats but the memories still remain.##imported-begin##Dee and Jim Perley##imported-end##*

December 20, 2009 at 05:11 PM



“ *To The Family,
Thinking of you and praying that you will find comfort in the many
wonderful memories that you have of Annetta.*

Deepest Sympathy and Love.

*Jaruth##imported-begin##Jaruth Durham-Jefferson##imported-
end##*

December 20, 2009 at 02:39 PM



“ *I thank the LORD for the positive impact she had on my life and in
my growth down through the years. I will miss her and her wise
instruction.##imported-begin##Rev. L. A. Gatewood, Prsiding
Elder##imported-end##*

December 20, 2009 at 10:13 AM



“ *Sorry to hear of your loss Joe. I lost my mother a little over a year
ago,it is rough.When I read your mother's obituary I thought, so
much wisdom and the people of Evangel A/G never got to be
blessed by it,what a waste. I will be praying that the Holy Spirit will
comfort you and the family.Heaven is a much richer place right
now.What a loss for this world! She must have been in the Who's
Who of America.Holy Spirit ,comfort Joe and the family in Jesus
Name,Amen.##imported-begin##David Shilling##imported-end##*

December 20, 2009 at 01:37 AM



“ To Eula and Harold Williams I send my deepest sympathy and know that God is comforting each one of you at this time.

Lovingly, Mother Sarah F. Lowe##imported-begin##Mother Sarah F. Lowe##imported-end##

December 19, 2009 at 09:46 AM



“ A tremendous legacy has been left by Sister Jefferson for those who knew and loved her. The field of education will not be the same without her.

She is gone from labor to reward and now rests in the love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Eddie H. Renfroe, Pastor
Lee's Chapel AME Church
Wellsville, Ohio##imported-begin##Reverend Eddie H. Renfroe##imported-end##

December 18, 2009 at 06:40 PM