



## Leola Graham Linnen

December 8, 2020

### A Time to be Born

Leola Graham Linnen, was born in Savannah, Georgia on October 29, 1933 to the loving White family of Beaufort County, South Carolina She was raised and nurtured though out her formative years by her Grandmother Judy, Uncle Matlon and Aunt Jannie Weese White, and parents, Ephrom and Lottie White. After 87 years of life, in the early morning of December 8, 2020, Leola peacefully slipped away into eternal rest.

### Early Years

Leola grew up on Hanover and Line Streets in Charleston, South Carolina. She attended Charleston's Henry P. Archer Elementary School, and graduated from Burke Industrial High School. At an early age, Leola joined Jerusalem Baptist Church of Charleston, S.C. (Rutledge Avenue). At Jerusalem, she accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as her personal Savior, and was baptized. Jerusalem Baptist Church served as Leola's nurturing ground for teaching and singing the Word of God, and, her young melodious voice was a powerful presence in Jerusalem's Junior & Young Adult Choirs. It was at Jerusalem where Leola rendered her first solo, "God will Take Care of You." Beyond singing in the choir, Leola was an active Jerusalem member who developed a fervor for representing the Lord Jesus Christ with zeal and excellence. Leola continued to serve at Jerusalem in various ministries but her

deep passion was teaching in the Youth department of the Church's Sunday School. She was also an outstanding Class Reader in the Baptist Young People's Union Department.

### Migrating North

In the mid 1950's, right at the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement, Leola's mother urged her to move to New York. Upon settling into New York's city culture, Leola joined Second Canaan Baptist Church in Harlem under its late pastor, Reverend John P. Ladson. At Second Canaan, Leola served God through her melodious "Canary-like" voice and teaching in the Sunday School. She later answered the call to Mission service at Second Canaan, and went on to serve in leadership positions during her 60-year membership that include, President of the Missionary Ministry, Dorcas Society, and Matrons; Servant Leader of The New Disciples Ministry, Chair of The Board of Christian Education, Sunday School Teacher for Youth, Young Adults and Adults; Church Anniversary and Women's Ministry Chair, and member of the Pulpit Committee. Her member affiliation at Second Canaan spanned five decades of ministerial leadership, and her Ministry as a Missions Workshop Facilitator was widely requested by Pastors throughout New York City across forty years.

### The Joy of Her Life

According to her children, Persephonie, Lawrence, and Naomi Graham, and granddaughter Lauren, Leola was, without question, the Best Mother/Grandmother Ever! In 1973, Leola met and married the late Jonathon Linnen of Teaneck, New Jersey. She and her family settled in at 12 Lerome Place, and it was at this residence that Leola became a Home Decorator par excellence. Leola Linnen was also an excellent cook, who could burn in the Kitchen. On holidays, friends and family would stop by 12 Lerome Place for a plate of Leola's delicious Macaroni & Cheese and Candied Yams!

## A Virtuous Woman

Leola was indeed a Virtuous Woman. In addition to her faithful work in the church, she was an accomplished seamstress who designed made wedding gowns and fine dresses for First Ladies. She could also sing like a bird and was featured in numerous concerts around New York State as a dramatic soloist. Leola loved serving in the Sanctuary Choir at Second Canaan, and her love for music led her to join the world famous Ebony Ecumenical Ensemble (directed by Dr. Bettye Forbes).

Leola's professional career began in the early 1960's at The New York Telephone Company (Ma Bell now Verizon). While working at the Telephone Company she also sold Tupperware, Avon, Sarah Coventry Jewelry, and in the evening worked at Gimbel's Department Store. After retiring from Verizon in 1993, Leola began working at Cokesbury Religious Book Store in Teaneck.

## Pressing On the Upward Way

After fervent prayer and seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit, in March 2017, Sister Linnen joined The Abyssinian Baptist Church in the City of New York under the pastorate of Reverend Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III. Leola faithfully attended Abyssinian's Sunday worship services, and the Monday Noon-Day Bible Study. Of Abyssinian she would often say, "I Love my Church and my pastor!" Every Sunday, rain or shine, Leola Linnen and her sister Catherine, could be found in the pews of Abyssinian, praising the Lord with great enthusiasm.

## May The Work I've Done Speak for Me

Leola Linnen rendered diligent service to the United Missionary Baptist Association and its branch of Christian Education for over 50 years. She was introduced to United Missionary Baptist Association in the mid 1960's and quickly "advanced through the ranks." In UMBA, Sister Linnen served two-terms as President of the Women's Auxiliary. She was also an instructor of UMBA's Leadership School. She was most proud of her Teaching training under the tutelage of late Horatio Hill, Reverend Randolph Thompson, Pearl Tuthill, Annie Mae Robinson, and Lottie B. Heath. Ministers throughout New York City area and beyond have shared that they were spiritually nurtured and biblically enriched by Leola Linnen's Sunday School and Bible instruction.

On the State level, Leola Linnen served in The Empire Baptist Missionary Convention as 1st Vice President of the Women's Auxiliary. For several years she worked with EBMC's former Women's Auxiliary leaders: Clovis Drake, Gloria Jones, Mary Webster, Gertrude Ulmer, and Iley Wallace. The EBMC Shoe Rally was a "special joy" for Leola Linnen as she enthusiastically led fund-raising activities to "up the ante" to surpass previous year's amounts. Sister Linnen believed that the EBMC Women's Auxiliary Shoe Rally was a wonderful fellowship for "RAISING FUN and FUNDS!"

On the National level, Sister Linnen loved traveling to The National Baptist Convention, USA. Inc. annual gathering in September with her sisters in Christ. During "the convention," she was always front and center at the Women in White session representing the Women's Auxiliaries of Empire Baptist Missionary Convention and United Missionary Baptist Association.

Forever committed to God's work and His will for her life, Sister Linnen's mantra was unwavering, "If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living will not be in vain." Leola Linnen will always be remembered as a zealous yet humble Servant in the Lord's Vineyard. She was an awesome woman of God who inspired generations to live their best life for the cause of

Christ.

## Well Done Thou Good and Faithful Servant

An inimitable mother, Grandmother, Sister, Friend, Auntie, Educator, Servant of the Most High God and mentor, Leola Linnen is survived by family and friends who will forever Cherish her in Memory. They include, three loving children, Persephonie Graham, Lawrence Graham (Juanita), and Naomi Lee Graham. One Grandchild, Lauren Graham; Sisters, Catherine McPherson (Bronx, NY), and Dolly Brenda Myers (S.C.); Connie Williams (Eddie), and all of her sisters and brothers with whom she was raised in the White Family; Three nephews: Jerome McPherson (Cynthia), Marion McPherson, and Michael McPherson (Michelle); Grand-nieces and nephews, among the large number, her beloved Xaviera, Ara, Candice and Carlton. Great-grand nieces and nephews, a host of cousins, family and friends “back home” in Charleston, S.C. and “In the Country”(Yemasee, S.C.); The Spencer Family; The Abyssinian Baptist Church Family, The Second Canaan Baptist Church Family, Special Friend, Sally Ann Ladson; Her “Girl” from Charleston, S.C.; Beloved co-laborers of The United Missionary Baptist Association, and The Empire Baptist Missionary Convention; and a whole host of friends all over the country who were touched by the light of her spirit.

# Cemetery Details

## George Washington Memorial Park

234 Paramus Road  
Paramus, NJ 07652

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 13. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Teaneck  
789 Teaneck Road  
Teaneck, NJ 07666  
(201) 836-0202  
info@volkleber.com  
<https://www.volkleber.com>

## Visitation

DEC 13. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Teaneck  
789 Teaneck Road  
Teaneck, NJ 07666  
(201) 836-0202  
info@volkleber.com  
<https://www.volkleber.com>

## Visitation

DEC 14. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Teaneck  
789 Teaneck Road  
Teaneck, NJ 07666  
(201) 836-0202  
info@volkleber.com  
<https://www.volkleber.com>

## Funeral Service

DEC 14. 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM (ET)

Teaneck  
789 Teaneck Road  
Teaneck, NJ 07666  
(201) 836-0202  
info@volkleber.com  
<https://www.volkleber.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Volk Leber Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Leola Graham Linnen*



**Volk Leber Funeral Home** - December 14, 2020 at 08:12 AM

CS

*To Naomi & family. Ms. Linnen was a special lady that I've always admired from way back during when I was a member of St. Matthews B.C. when she would bring her beautiful hats. Always greeted me with that beautiful smile & words of wisdom. My heartfelt condolences to the family.*

*Cynthia Scarborough*

**Cynthia Scarborough** - December 14, 2020 at 11:20 AM

FM

*Very nice going home service may she S.I.P TO the family Naomi peachy and Lawrence I love you all praying for healing.*

**Frances Morris** - December 14, 2020 at 11:28 AM

SC

*To my dear sister Naomi and family: Please know that my heart is heavy at the loss of your mother, our beloved Sis. Leola Linnen. However, my spirit is also rejoicing in the knowledge that she is now lead soprano in the Heavenly Choir above! I will remember Sis. Linnen's beautiful style, lovely coordinated hats, her wisdom, hospitality, generosity, homemade cooking, and for giving me a strong fundamental start in biblical wisdom as my Sunday School teacher. She will be missed. Rest well, dear teacher and mentor.*

*Stephanie Y. Cole, New York, NY*

**Stephanie Y. Cole** - December 14, 2020 at 11:43 AM

DS

*How precious are the memories of those we have walked with, shared life experiences and enjoyed our position in Christ Jesus. Leola was a dear friend from the time I first met her. She was always the same. I will always hold memories of her dear to my heart, her impeccable dress, her voice lifted in song of praise to our God whom she loved. Her thoughtful contemplation of the Word she shared in those teaching moments, her laughter. and her time of prayer and devotion. Rest in the arms of our Lord my friend and Sister!!! Dorothy Simmons*

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**Dorothy Simmons** - December 14, 2020 at 11:43 AM

RR

*Peaches, Lawrence and Naomi. The Rivers Family are extending their heartfelt condolences to you on the passing of your mother. Know that our thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of bereavement. Cousin Leola, was a truly an admirable woman. She was an inspiration to our entire family. Now that she has passed to the other side, she will be dearly missed by our family and so many others. Heaven has gained an angel.*

*The Rivers Family, Beaufort, South Carolina*

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**Rosa Rivers-Griffith** - December 14, 2020 at 11:46 AM

GJ

*To Naomi. Peaches and Lawrence:  
She blessed so many, she gave so generously, and she shaped me with her words and actions. She poured into my life when I was a child and shared love with me and my family. We love her and thank God that she was part of our lives. Our hearts and prayers are with you.*

*Wonderful service...Gina Jacobs-Strain*

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**Gina Jacobs-Strain** - December 14, 2020 at 11:56 AM

SJ

*Thank you for sharing your mommy she was such a beautiful woman of God and a true reflection of what it means to be the church and not just attend church. I will forever be grateful for her constant unconditional love she showed towards anyone who had the pleasure of meeting her. Sending Love ❤️*

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**shakoiya jones** - December 14, 2020 at 12:02 PM

RS

*An absolutely incredible homegoing service. A service that was just as classy as she was. Great job Punkin, "Sputnik" and Peachie. I'm so very proud.*

**Rudenia Spencer** - December 14, 2020 at 12:15 PM

ND

*"PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD"  
SHE WILL BE TRULY MISSED LOVE YOU COUSIN LEOLA. R.I.P.*

**Natalie Doctor-McBride** - December 14, 2020 at 12:22 PM

DE

*Beautiful Celebration. Yes Mrs Linnen wore her obituary everyday she was such a sweet woman of God..  
Family keep her living in vain.  
Prayer for you all..  
Weeping may endure in a night but JOY comes in the morning*

*Deborah Wallace*

**Deborah** - December 14, 2020 at 12:24 PM

BM

*To God be the glory for the life of Mother Leola. We love you mom for loving on us through the years growing up in 1481. We will miss you. May your beautiful soul rest peacefully in Paradise. Brenda and Herbert McLaughlin*

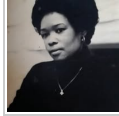
**Brenda McLaughlin** - December 14, 2020 at 12:35 PM

BM

*Beautiful home-going service fit for a Queen that Mother Leola is. This is hard for my brother and I as we always looked forward to seeing her in church every Sunday. We will forever hold our sweet and loving memories of her close to our hearts. To our Sister Naomi and family, we send you love and light and know that we are praying for you and with you during this difficult hour.*

*Herbert and Brenda McLaughlin*

**Brenda McLaughlin** - December 14, 2020 at 12:55 PM



*My deepest sympathy in you loss. Your mother was a true woman of God. Who shared her love of Him through her wisdom. She was a beacon in our Association. We shared a joy which were hats. I would see her downtown in the spring stocking up. A life well lived. She will be missed.*

**Hustonlette Owens** - December 14, 2020 at 01:26 PM



*A GREAT service for a GREAT woman!*

**Henry Davis III** - December 14, 2020 at 01:55 PM



*Mrs Leola Graham Linnen, a wonderful legacy.I thank God for the many conversations that we had at Cokesbury,sharing South Carolina memories,and Teaneck experiences.Mrs. Linnen's smile was overwhelming.May God's favor continue upon her family."Servant of God well done,rest from thy loved employ,the battle's fought,the victory's won. Enter thy Master's joy".*

*Rev. Booker T. Sears, Jr.*

**Rev. Booker T. Sears, Hr.** - December 14, 2020 at 01:56 PM



*My heart felt blessing to the Graham and Linnen families. It was a pleasure to see Miss Linnen in church very Sunday morning. Every Sunday I would propose to her to marry me and she would say 'Boy get on out of here" and we would laugh together. May Miss Leola Rest in Heavenly Paradise. She will be greatly missed, but still in our hearts.*

*my name is Herb McLaughlin*

**Herb McLaughlin** - December 14, 2020 at 02:30 PM



*My deepest condolences to the family, friends and loved ones of Ms. Linnen. What an honor and privilege to have had her as a beloved Sunday School teacher. Her beautiful smile and voice will be missed.*

**Adeatrice Mapp-Smith** - December 14, 2020 at 03:47 PM

DG

*Deacons Wesley and Daisy Green*

*Mrs Leola Linnen has a wonderful spirit. She always had an encouraging word for my husband, Deacon Wesley. Green and I whenever we saw her at the different associations. I can never forget the hat shows that she did with my aunt, Seabird Arrington-Miller at the various church's. She truly will be missed.*

*May God Bless*

*Deacons Wesley and Daisy Green*

*Paradise Baptist Church*

*Pastor, Rev Lee A. Arrington*

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**Daisy Green** - December 14, 2020 at 03:56 PM

JM

*Naomi and family. What a great spiritual service. What more can I say about your mother than what has already been said not just in her death but also while she lived. She nurtured me spiritually in so many ways. I loved her and it gave my heart so much pleasure to hear her sing again and to hear you. Praying God's favor on you and the family.  
Jeanie Melson-Wilburn*

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**Jeanie Melson-Wilburn** - December 14, 2020 at 11:06 PM

BL

*Great service for a wonderful woman . She was one of my favorite Sunday school teachers ! Naomi your voice is truly anointed like your mother's!! Much love Barbara Lawrence*

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**Barbara lawrence** - December 15, 2020 at 09:21 AM

MF

*Great service for a great woman of God. The Heavenly choir is rejoicing. It was so good to hear her voice again and yours too Naomi.  
May God be with your family.  
Love Mary and Geno Foster*

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**Mary Foster** - December 15, 2020 at 03:40 PM



“ *Leola Graham Linnen*

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October 08, 2023 at 09:59 PM



“ *Leola Graham Linnen*

October 08, 2023 at 06:27 PM



“ *Leola Graham Linnen*

August 30, 2022 at 02:48 PM



“ *Peaches, Lawrence, and Naomi,*

*I was a little girl when I met your mother at Second Canaan Baptist Church. I have many fond memories of her! She was an outstanding teacher, singer, missionary, and leader. And she was part of a cohort of beautiful, faithful, SCBC women. I am saddened to hear that she has passed away. I'm remembering your wonderful mother and wishing you comfort.*



*With sincere sympathy,*

*Lori McIntyre, New York*

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**Lori McIntyre** - February 26, 2021 at 09:48 PM

JB

“ Ms. Graham, you have my heartfelt condolences for the loss of your mom. Many people, including myself, do not know what to say to the bereaved during this time, but I do know that every time someone I know loses their mother, it brings back the pain I endured when I loss my mom. I remember the few times that I've had a chance to chat with Ms. Linnen, at either Bible class on Mondays or at church on Sunday, she was always very sweet and kind; and our brief chats were always delightful. And no matter what topic we were discussing, it always ended with us talking about some form of fashion.... specifically us complimenting each other about our church Hats. Your mom was a lovely woman, and her presence will definitely be missed when we all get back to worshipping once again, inside of Abyssinian in 2021

*Be Blessed and Stay Prayerful!*

*Sister June Broxton*

*PS: I know it is hard now, but the loss will get a little better. However, in the meantime, rejoice in the fact that your mother is up in heaven, singing and shouting and having a glorious time. And you know that she doesn't want you down here being sad.*

*PPS: I heard you singing at your mom's homegoing service... and you have a beautiful voice Ms. Graham. God Bless!.*

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**June Broxton** - December 27, 2020 at 01:30 AM

HH

“ *To the Graham and Linnen families:  
I am sending my deepest condolences for the passing of your mom.  
I pray that your heart and soul will find peace and comfort knowing  
that God will not leave you comfortless.  
I will always remember her smiles that exuded kindness and love. I  
felt so comfortable whenever I was in her presence.  
Thank you for sharing her with us.  
Much love, Harriett v Harrison*

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**Harriett V Harrison** - December 25, 2020 at 09:38 AM



“ *Mari Ladson Perkins - "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift."  
II Corinthians 9:15  
She was an Angel that walked among us. Beautiful treasure, loving,  
dedicated and joyful in all she touched. These are just some of the  
attributes that I use to describe God's gift, Aunt Leola. May her light  
continue to shine in all of our hearts! A legacy left. You took care of  
us now rest in God's arms. Gone but not forgotten.*

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**Mari Perkins** - December 20, 2020 at 12:35 PM

RR

“ *To the Family:  
I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I remember Leola from  
Charleston, SC, a member on my grandmother's side of the family. I  
saw her two years ago, for the first time in over 50 years. However, I  
am praying for your strength and comfort as you navigate through  
this great loss of your mother and grand-mother. May her soul rest  
in Heavenly Peace!*

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**Rosalie Randall** - December 17, 2020 at 09:44 PM

BL

“ To Naomi, Peachie and Lawrence my heart felt condolences. Your mom will surely be missed. She has earned her wings and now she will be sharing her beautiful voice in that heavenly choir. The services were truly heart felt and the kind words were uplifting. May the blessings of Lord rest with you the family.

Lovingly,  
Barbara Ladson Pariss

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**Barbara Pariss Ladson** - December 16, 2020 at 12:15 PM



“ With Our Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Leola Graham Linnen.



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December 15, 2020 at 06:23 PM

DS

“ I would love to to extend my deepest sympathy to my family. Even though I am unable to be with you all in person. I and my family are all with you in spirit. We love you all and know that God is always with you. Draw your strength from him when things get tough in the days ahead. Mom looked beautiful and you all had a beautiful service celebrating her life. I will miss you cousin Leola. S.I. P. my Queen.

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**Deborah Parker Stewart-Washington** - December 15, 2020 at 07:33 AM

JL

“ To my Cousins Naomi, Peachie & Lawrence, and the Linnen Family, on behalf of the Ladson Family (Sally Ann, Barbara, Mari and myself), we wanted to express our sincere prayers and condolences on the passing of Aunt Leola. We so much wanted to be there personally to hug and console each of you. So many memories of the times our families spent together growing up. Heaven has gained another Angel, and we will always treasure the memory of Aunt Leola, and what she has meant to the Ladson family over all of these years. Love y'all Cuz.

*John P. Ladson, Jr.*

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**John Ladson** - December 14, 2020 at 02:26 PM

DJ

“ Blessings to the Graham,

*George and I extend our sincere condolences once again to the family. We are your extended family and will always will be there when you need us. May God continue to bless, strengthen, and comfort you for the days to come.*

*Thanks God for my Spiritual Mentor, Big Sister and Friend. Leola has fought the good fight, she has finished the race, and she kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7*

*Much Love With Great Respect,  
Mr. George and Dr. Janice Jacob*

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**Dr. Janice A Jacob** - December 14, 2020 at 01:25 PM

DU

“ To The Graham Linnen Family: Rev.& Mrs. Nelson C. Dukes, Jr and the entire Fountain Spring Baptist Church send you our deepest condolences for the passing of your beloved Leola Graham Linnen. She was such a lovey, elegant and classy woman of God who will be missed by all who knew her. She was not only a hearer of God's Word, she was a doer of God's Word. She had such a gentle and kind spirit but was also one who knew how to get things done. She set such a wonderful example of how a woman of God should carry herself and she had both young and older women saying, "I want to be like Sis. Linnen when I grow up." LOL...She was a treasure trove of information about our local, state and national conventions and worked tirelessly in them as well as in her home church. She leaves behind a great legacy for us all as to what a walk with Christ should look like. May God grant you favor as you begin a new season of life without her. Know that she is at peace and is resting in the arms of our heavenly Father... God bless all of you.

Fountain Spring Baptist Church  
Rev. Nelson C. Dukes, Jr., Pastor

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Dukes - December 14, 2020 at 01:12 PM

RC

To Peachie, Lawrence and Naomi, what a beautiful celebration of life. I was blessed to meet your mother in 1971 at New York Telephone. Lee became my friend, my mentor in Christian living and family matters. She made my first hat when I was the chairperson for Women's Day at Fountain Spring BC. Lee has truly inspired many people during her Christian journey. I'll never forget what she's done for me. Love and miss you always.

Roslyn Johnson Chambers

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Roslyn Johnson Chambers - December 23, 2020 at 04:28 PM

CE

“ Naomi, Lawrence and Peaches, I am saddened to have just learned of your mother's passing this morning. She epitomized my vision of a virtuous woman! She first supported me following a performance at Monroe High School. Then, following college graduation and my return to NYC, she helped me transition from my Catholic upbringing to accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. Years later, she offered her wise counsel when I experienced a challenging relationship. For all these things, I remain eternally grateful. May you find comfort in your precious memories during the coming days and nights! Thank you for sharing her with me.

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**Charisse M. Penalver, Esq.** - December 14, 2020 at 01:02 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Leola Graham Linnen.



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December 14, 2020 at 12:34 PM

CP

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Deacon Lawrence Graham, Lauren and family today and always. May your memories help sustain your spirits during this time.  
Cassandra Peters-Johnson, The People's Community Baptist Church

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**Cassandra Perters-Johnson** - December 14, 2020 at 11:24 AM

DF

“ *DEBRA WALLACE & FAMILY purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Leola Graham Linnen.*



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**DEBRA WALLACE & FAMILY** - December 14, 2020 at 11:14 AM

RS

“ *My prayers and deepest sympathy are extended to the entire bereaved family of Sister Leola Graham Linnen. She was a dedicated hard working Christian woman in the service of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! She was a dear friend to my Late Mother & Father- Rev .Dr. Samuel B. Joubert, Sr & Rev. Doris Joubert of Bayside,LI., New York. I can remember her generous financial support of Foreign Mission work and ministry in general! May God bless her family and may her work forever be recognized in The Christian Church. Rev. Dr .Phillip Charles Joubert Sr- Pastor & Teacher, New Light Missionary Baptist Church 22 Lexington Avenue Norwalk, Connecticut 06854*

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**Rev Phillip Charles Joubert Sr** - December 14, 2020 at 10:24 AM

RD

“ To our Naomi and Family,

*May the peace and comfort of God surround you in the days ahead as you cherish memories of your beloved mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. I have many fond memories of Miss Leola, including her loving comfort and prayers during my own season of grief. I will continue to remember that beautiful voice and countenance as she represented Jesus Christ to all those she encountered.*

*With gratitude,  
Robyn Y. Davis*

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**Robyn Y Davis** - December 14, 2020 at 09:36 AM

LW

“ To Her Beloved Children,

*I met Sister Linnen in 1986 at the February Congress Retreat, being introduced by my late Mother in Love, Sis Clara B Williams, my late Aunt in Love, Sis Mary B Webster and my now church Godmother, Rev Ann Marie Wyche. She was bubbly, smart, energetic and passionate about church work.*

*She soon became one of the church women who literally pulled me into "Women's Work." and into the Baptist work of the church. She taught, mentored and we both sang together on countless programs in our Local churches, the associations, the State Convention work and the National Baptist Convention, down thru the years.*

*I bought many hats from her hand when I became a First Lady and the laughing we did together was everything, when we were on any one of the several road trips in church vans. From 2nd Canaan to Trinity to White Rock BC in Mt Vernon I looked forward to her Sageness and her wit.*

*I imagine her on the Heavenly choir now, singing in her Soprano voice "Because He Lives!" Tomorrow has come Sis Linnen, save a seat in the choir for me,. I'll see you when I get there!*

*Min. Lynnessa H Joyner*

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**Lynnessa H Williams** - December 14, 2020 at 09:22 AM

MJ

“ Minister Lynnessa H Joyner purchased the Ghirar delli Galore for the family of Leola Graham Linnen.



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**Minister Lynnessa H Joyner** - December 14, 2020 at 08:50 AM

MF

“ *Mary Foster sent a virtual gift in memory of Leola Graham Linnen*



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**Mary Foster** - December 13, 2020 at 10:23 PM

JS

“ *To: Naomi, Peaches & Lawrence,*

*Words can not express how I felt of hearing of the transition of your dear mother. I'm sending my love and condolence to the family.*



*Sister Linnen was a doer of God's Word, a true Evangelist, Teacher and Missionary. All persons that came under her tutelage gain knowledge that was more precious than silver or gold. The work she has done speaks volume of her life.*

*Sleep on our dear Sister Leola Graham Linnen you have earned your Crown.*

*Love you all,  
JoAnn Rivers Skinner & family*

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**JoAnn Skinner** - December 13, 2020 at 08:56 PM

RW

“ *Too the Linnen family. You have my prayers and condolences. May God bless and comfort you all. I have known and worked with sister Linnen since 1973. I will miss her, but will see her at the Resurrection. Love ❤️ to the family. Rev Ann Marie Wyche.*

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**Rev. Ann Marie Wyche** - December 13, 2020 at 03:43 PM

ND

“ To Cousin Peaches, Lawrence and Naomi:

*"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

*Words can't express how we feel but just know we love you and will always carry Cousin Leola in our hearts. We Love you.*

*Natalie, Ann Doctor & Family*



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**Natalie Doctor-McBride** - December 13, 2020 at 01:36 PM

RS

*To our awesome godsister Punkin, Peachie and Lawrence. We share and mourn the passing of Leola right along side of you. It's very difficult for us not to be physically there but our hearts are truly saddened. The Spencer family. Willie, Deanie, Mary, Traci and Meki.*

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**Rudenia Spencer** - December 13, 2020 at 10:17 PM

RS

*Sincere condolences to the family from Earline and Story Stevens. We love you Punkin.*

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**Rudenia Spencer** - December 14, 2020 at 11:12 AM

VW

*GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN REST IN PEACE IM REMEMBER THE FASHION SHOW AND HATS YOU MAD ME DO MUCH LOVE VIVIAN WARREN AND FAMILY YOU AND EVELYN JONE ARE TOGETHER AGAIN*

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**VIVIAN WARRE** - December 14, 2020 at 11:22 AM

RF

*A beautiful and sweet spirit, always kind, loving and inviting. Ms. Linnen will truly be missed. Family please know you are surrounded with the blessing of a Guardian Angel that truly earned her wings.*

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**Rochelle Flemister** - December 14, 2020 at 12:56 PM

CE

“ To Naomi and family,  
“May the Holy Spirit give you comfort at this  
time”.

Sister Naomi, Ms Leola was such a joy to see  
every Monday at bible study, my girlfriend;  
Such a sweetheart. Thank you Father.

I thank God I had the opportunity to met and talk with her.

Always so impeccably dressed. You guys did a wonderful job in the  
caring of your Mom. Be proud.

Your sister in Christ,  
Celeste Hurst



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**Celeste** - December 13, 2020 at 09:14 AM

S"

“ LOVE 💕 You Naomi, Lawrence, an Peachy  
Your cousin "Laraine"

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**Sylvia Parker Thompson aka "Laraine"** - December 13, 2020 at 08:03 AM

S"

“ Naomi, Lawrence, and Peachy, my heart goes out to you today and everyday that you think about your mother. She has always been dear to me. I will forever remember her "Beautiful smile and Precious Voice." I enjoyed her sharing some of her childhood memories of her and my own Mom. She was so special to me and my family. I loved when you all would come down to Charleston for the summer or the time I spent with you in Teaneck. Cousin Leola was a wonderful cook. Your "Home Going" is so Gracious for all the hard work you have done here on earth. I will miss you 😭 dearly. I wanted to be there with you all in person, but know I am there in spirit. Praying for your strength and comfort in the Lord.  
Love 💕 Naomi, Lawrence, Peachy.



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**Sylvia Parker Thompson aka "Laraine"** - December 13, 2020 at 07:58 AM

MF

“ Much Love, Gloria Bradshaw and family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Leola Graham Linnen.



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**Much Love, Gloria Bradshaw and family** - December 13, 2020 at 01:14 AM

GP

“ To Naomi, Peaches, and Lawrence,  
Words cannot express how I feel. I have always admired Leola. She was so beautiful, charming, and intelligent. She would light up a room with her beautiful smile. I will never forget that infectious laugh that would spread love and humor when being around her. She often took us down memory lane by educating us about our family history, who is who and seem to giggle especially when telling us about the courtship of my parents, Dee and William, when she was a young girl. She always knew the right things to say to brighten your spirit and encourage you to keep striving to be the very best. When she was not speaking words of wisdom, Leola was singing with that glorious voice, giving praises to God. I remembered the last time hearing that beautiful voice when she sang at my mom's funeral. I have many fond memories of my dear cousin, Leola, that I will always cherish.

Although we shed tears of sorrow now, we are rejoicing knowing Leola is in a better place. Weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning. Just knowing she with love ones on the other side, I hope it gives you Peace, Joy and Comfort knowing she is home with her Lord.

With much love,  
Gloria Parker  
Atlanta, GA

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**Gloria Parker** - December 12, 2020 at 07:16 PM

HS

“ *Love and condolences to Naomi, my sister in Christ.  
Remembering your mother with tears of joys, even in this time of  
sorrow.  
I know the tears are God's reminder of the blessings I received  
sitting in the presence of Mother Leola Linnen.  
I remember the sparkle in her eyes and joy in her voice as she  
delighted in telling stories of her life journey.  
I visualize with pride, the elegance and innate beauty in the sense  
of style in the beauty of the hats she designed and wore so humbly.  
I will not forget her years of service in the Army of the Lord, devoted  
and God-driven to do whatever was needed to do until the battle  
was won.  
I shed tears of gratitude now for what I believe God will do for you in  
the days ahead because of your faith, your works and loving  
kindness in attending to your mother.  
I pray God's everlasting arms of love and mercy will shine upon you  
and give you peace.  
Respectfully submitted.  
Your Abyssinian Sister n Christ,  
Hazel Rosetta Smith*

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**hazel rosetta smith** - December 12, 2020 at 12:25 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for  
the family of Leola Graham Linnen.*



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December 12, 2020 at 11:51 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Leola Graham Linnen.*



December 12, 2020 at 10:13 AM



“ *Love, Barbara Parker Green & Family purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Leola Graham Linnen.*



**Love, Barbara Parker Green & Family** - December 11, 2020 at 09:30 AM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Leola Graham Linnen.*



December 10, 2020 at 04:22 PM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Leola Graham Linnen.*



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December 10, 2020 at 04:21 PM



“ *Dear Family,  
thanks for the memories I hold in my heart,  
Mrs. Linden was the best Sunday School  
Teacher ever ....I can see my Mother (Evelyn  
Jones) Welcoming her Home With JESUS,  
We know to be Absent from the Body is to be Present with the  
Lord...With the love of my family  
Mattie And Monique Jones*



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**Mattie Jones** - December 10, 2020 at 04:11 PM

WW

“*Leola Linnen was an Evangelist and she was persistent! On several occasions, three little girls would see her standing outside of SCBC trying to get us to come into the church for Vacation Bible School. We would always tell her next time, we didn't want to say no. But on one day, we were at the pool for hours and was on our way home because we were hungry! Being in the pool for hours can definitely make you hungry! There was Ms Linnen standing outside waiting for us. She literally grabbed those 3 young girls and told us that she wasn't taking no for an answer today and she sternly let us know that the hungry excuse wasn't going to work because there was food in the church! So we did what we were told and got in that church and rest was history! Before you know it, we were attending Sunday School, Youth Church, singing on the choir, and ushering! She was my Sunday School teacher, Christian Education teacher, and she gave me my 5 lessons. She even provided a beautiful dress for me to wear to the church cotillion. Ms Linen was a multitalented mighty woman of God who touched the lives of many! Job well done, good and faithful servant! SIP Ms. Linen, until we meet again. My condolences to her family 🙏.*

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**Wednesday Williams** - December 10, 2020 at 03:35 PM