



Call me by my old familiar name. Speak to me in the easy way which you always did.

Put no difference in your tone and wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together.

Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.

Let my name be ever the household word that it always was.

Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?

I am waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near.

just around the corner and all is well.

-Michael Ashby

(excerpt from Death Is Nothing At All)



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Janet Matthews

November 25, 1947 - June 13, 2023

Caribe Funeral Home
1922 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11234

Obituary

On Tuesday, June 13, 2023, Janet Matthews (née Smith) passed away after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. She was born to Kenneth Hyland and Lucille Smith on November 25, 1947 in Belmont, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. Janet received her formal education in Trinidad, but always showed an affinity for sewing and designing from, which would become her passion and livelihood.

In 1965, she married her first love, Colin Matthews and together, they had three sons: Gary Colin, Roger Kenwin, and Asher John. After getting married, Janet worked as a much sought-after seamstress, designing elaborate wedding dresses and intricate Carnival costumes for those "playing mas" (dancing in the masquerade) at Trinidad's annual Carnival. Janet also gave her time to community efforts, often working with local children. For these efforts, she was given an award by the Prime Minister of Trinidad.

Janet and her sons immigrated to the United States in 1989. She continued her work as a seamstress while taking on additional jobs to support her family. In doing so, she afforded her sons opportunities to succeed and imparted a solid work ethic in each of them. She also carved out time to honor her traditions and culture by faithfully traveling to her home in Trinidad every year for Carnival for as long as she was able. Doing so bought her great joy and kept her connected to her roots.

Janet was preceded in death by her parents, her husband and her sister, Marla. She leaves behind to cherish her memory: her three sons, Gary, Roger and Asher, her daughter-in-law, Nicole, her grandson, Delano Ali Matthews, her brothers Kelvin, Keith and Kenny, her sisters Erma, Marilyn, Carol and Lynette, and her significant other and caretaker, Clyde Raymond and a host of extended family and friends.

Janet will be remembered for her smile, her kindness, her sage advice, and her generosity. There was never a time when anyone who visited left her home emptyhanded. She loved to laugh and celebrate life. It is those memories that the family hopes sustain everyone she touched as they reminisce on her life and carry her memory forward.

The family would like to thank friends, colleagues and neighbors who showed support to our beloved matriarch throughout her life and especially during her illness. The kindness you have shown through your words, thoughts, prayers, and deeds is truly appreciated. May God bless and keep you.

Order of Service

Processional
Clergy and Family

Musical Selection

How Great Thou Art: David McCrae

Invocation

Bishop Michael Clarke

Scripture and Poetry Reading

Nicole Matthews

Musical Selection

Blessed Assurance: David McCrae

Obituary

Delano Ali Matthews

Eulogy

Bishop Michael Clarke

Musical Selection

Goodness of God: David McCrae

Recessional

It Is Well With My Soul: David McCrae