

Caught on the Fly or the Snare

If I should take back all of the good times, of laughter and cheer.
The bad times, hot temper forget and regret every little tear.
Thoughts and emotions which through the years we both shared.

What then would we have? What could we fill the empty years with?
Where would our laughter be, then we would not have cried at all!

In my very own heart, I know that you search for a special kind of peace.
It cannot be found in a safe deposit box, or in the balance of your bank
statement or accounts or giving one's life to a business pursuit.
You yourself must indeed be a special people.

There has never been an easy answer for this age-old problem – Peace. Time.
Yet time is the only thing we do not have control over. The measure of our existence is
what we leave behind, to say, “Hello, I’ve been here.” There are so many ways of
contributing to life. But to live life is the best. The cycle of life proves that we can profit
from the mistakes of others.

The laws of life thrust us asunder time and time again, but we survive.
So my dear, please get off the line. Stop the struggle. The push and pull, unwind.
Get off the hook and live a little.

Don't wait until you are really hooked. You seldom come out a winner.
Search yourself and try to find out what you want out of life. If you have what you really
want stick with it.

If you find you don't have what you really desire, reach out and get it.
Be able to pay the price for what you desire. Be happy, be gay, but most important of all
be honest with yourself and to yourself.

I have lived. I would not exchange one day of my life for another's.

Come down out of that ivory tower and live. Stop taking the easy way out.
You may find a bumpy road leads to a better life.

You are always remembered in my prayers.

(an original poem by Carrie)

Acknowledgements

Reverend R.A. Davidson (Zion FBH Church) - “On behalf of the Davidson family, we offer
our deepest condolences. Carrie is remembered and honored for her character, strength,
loyalty, and respect for others. She was principled and stood on her convictions. That is rare.
We will miss her.”

Hugs and kisses to Ritchie Smith, Linda Freeman and Nikki Powers for your love, support,
and care-- especially in the latter days; special thanks to Carrie's caregivers, Astrid Louis,
and The Key team – Love Rayma & Farley

Sheila Grant – for bridging us to her Grant AME Church family.

A Celebration of Life

Carrie F. Osborne-Jefferson

November 5, 1931– April 19, 2025



LUCY STONE CHAPEL

171 WALK HILL STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

May 31, 2025

11:00 AM

Pastor Pedro Castro Jr., Officiating

Obituary

Carrie F. Osborne-Jefferson was born in Fairfax, Alabama to Ruby W. Gaines (Farley) and Eddie Lee Gaines. She was the only sister of her beloved brothers Eddie C. Gaines and Ponce de Leon Gaines (both deceased). After the premature death of her father and as a young child in the 1930s, she journeyed on a bus from the south to Boston with her mother Ruby, her paternal grandmother Eula “Grandma” Gaines, and Eula’s young children, her aunts and uncles who were more like brothers and sisters. Carrie was the last living member of the original Gaines crew.

Carrie graduated from Roxbury Memorial High School, and after, had a brief marriage to Willie White. She went on to become a union representative at a Boston meatpacking plant where she worked, while bowling on the weekends with friends. She had a short marriage to Emanuel Grosse, Sr., and gave birth in 1949 to a sweet, fat cheeked baby boy Emanuel (Manny) Grosse (deceased) who enlisted in the Marines at age 16 to fight in the Vietnam War.

In the 1950s, Carrie married Raymond Osborne (deceased), the father of her children Farley and Rayma. She spent the entirety of her life cheering on and supporting her children and grandchildren in their life pursuits. They were her pride and joy.

Most notably, while Farley and Rayma were still in grade school, she volunteered at the Highland Park Free School, and then the Hawthorne Youth and Community Center, where she developed and taught a “Fun with Words” class to get the youth excited about the power of words and reading. She worked closely alongside Sam, the center’s former director, participating in activities with the kids herself, and ensuring a bright future for the next generation.

She served the Hawthorne Youth and Community Center for more than 30 years as Board Member and Treasurer, seeing to it that neighborhood children had and continue to have access to education, cultural programs, sports, and community services.

By profession, Carrie was a bookkeeper. She was an avid reader who loved history, poetry, and travel. She also loved music, movies, golf and was a consummate jewelry collector. Carrie took every opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ. She was full of wisdom, deeply spiritual and proud to say: “I am a Believer.”

Carrie’s late husband Adolphus G. Jefferson (Jeff) passed in 1996, and her long-time companion Matsey Traylor in 2022. Memories will be cherished by her son Farley Osborne, her daughter-in-law Leslie, and her grandchildren Basia and Brandin; and her daughter Rayma (Osborne) Alexander, her son-in-law Melvin, and grandchildren Noni and Nadir. She also leaves a daughter-in-law Jean Muslem and her daughter Khalena, her sister-in-law Barbara Gaines, goddaughter Keesha Gaines, adoring cousins, nephews and nieces, and a host of family and friends.

Thank you for joining us today in this Celebration of Life -- A life well-lived. We love you, Carrie.

Order of Service

OPENING WELCOME		Pastor Pedro Castro Jr.
OPENING HYMN	“Great is Thy Faithfulness”	Dara (Gaines) Bernard
OPENING PRAYER		Rev. Virginia Akins Porter
SCRIPTURE READING		
OLD TESTAMENT	<i>Ecclesiastes 3:1-8</i>	Téon J. Gaines
NEW TESTAMENT	<i>Romans 8:22-28</i>	Noni R. Alexander
MUSICAL SELECTION	“Going Up Yonder” <i>participatory singing</i>	Paul White
REFLECTIONS		Mattie Finch /Katonya Gaines Melvin Alexander Farley Osborne Rayma Alexander
REMARKS	<i>Family & Friends</i> <i>2 minutes please</i>	
OBITUARY / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS		Basia B. Osborne
CHURCH RESOLUTION / CONDOLENCE LETTER		Sheila Grant
SONG	“Take Me to The King ”	Paul White
EULOGY		Pastor Pedro Castro Jr.
CLOSING PRAYER		Pastor Pedro Castro Jr.
POSTLUDE		Paul White

Repat

1:00PM-3:00PM

Celebration of Life Champaign Reception immediately following.
Hawthorne Youth and Community Center
9 Fulda Street, Roxbury, MA 02119
(617) 427-0613