



## Janice E. (Rawlings) Yancy

December 6, 1940 - August 18, 2019

Janice Elizabeth Yancy, age 78 of Shirley, Massachusetts passed away peacefully on August 18, 2019 at Newton Wellesley Hospital surrounded by her family. Janice was born in Providence, Rhode Island on December 6, 1940 to the late James and Edna Rawlings.

Janice grew up in Providence, Rhode Island and attended Hope High School and Bryant College. Janice moved to Rumford Rhode Island for a short time with her family where she met and married her husband, Gayton Yancy. Later in her career, she graduated from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts with a Masters in Divinity.

At the age of 13, Janice was the youngest musician to play the organ at the Cathedral of St John in Providence, Rhode Island, where she was baptized and confirmed. She enjoyed a remarkable musical career, performing internationally as a gifted soprano vocalist and classical pianist. Janice was also wonderful craftswoman and fabric artist. Her colorful quilted handbags, change purses, crayon holders and other "Bright Light Accessories" items are available in several artisan cooperatives including the Sign of the Dove and Clever Hand galleries. She was also a member of Jack and Jill of America and the PEO International Sisterhood.

After going to seminary, she served in children and youth ministries in Episcopal churches in Winchester, Chelmsford, Westford, and Concord, MA

as well as in York, Maine. For the last decade she lived in Shirley, MA and served as the organist and choir director at Trinity Chapel. She also worked for many years as an afterschool program teacher of the Acton Boxborough school district and a reading tutor in Shirley Public Schools.

Janice is survived by her loving family including her husband Gayton, her sister Leslie Rawlings Costa Fortes of East Providence, Rhode Island and James Rawlings of New Haven, CT. Janice is survived by her four loving children: Elizabeth Yancy Bostic, Carolyn Halfkenny, John Yancy and Rasheib Yancy, and nine grandchildren.

Janice, also known as Bright Light, was an elder in the Seaconke Wampanoag Tribe.

Her funeral celebration will be on Saturday, September 14th at 11am at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 75 Cold Spring Road, Westford, MA 01886, followed by a reception. All are welcome to join us at her burial which will take place at 2pm at the Vine Lake Cemetery in Medfield, MA.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like donations made in Janice's honor to Michelle's House, an organization fighting Sickle Cell Disease, at: [www.michelleshousect.org](http://www.michelleshousect.org).

The Anderson Funeral Home, 25 Fitchburg Rd., Ayer is assisting the family with arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Service

SEP **14.** 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
75 Cold Spring Rd.  
Westford, MA 01886  
(978) 692-7849

## Burial

SEP **14.** 2:00 PM (ET)

Vine Lake Cemetery  
625 Main St  
Medfield, MA 02052  
(508) 359-8505

# Tribute Wall

SL

“ Blessings



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**sally laRhette** - August 05, 2023 at 12:31 PM

DM

“ *I knew Janice when she was Youth Director at St. Marks in Westford. My daughter Melanie was in the Youth Group and she and Janice Had a Special bond. I introduced Janice to PEO. I am sorry that I lost touch with her when we retired to Rhode Island in 2014. My heartfelt condolences. She was a wonderful person and will be greatly missed. I am sorry I only learned of her death today when I received a copy of a PEO newsletter.*  
*Diane Moore*

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**Diane Moore** - October 02, 2019 at 02:28 PM

KP

“ *My son had the opportunity to have Janice as one of his work and play teachers at Douglas. She was a wonderful, kind person and thoughtful teacher. I am so sorry for your loss. She will be very missed at Douglas each day.*

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**Karen Price** - September 20, 2019 at 09:19 PM

DN

“ I had the privilege of working at Gates Extended Day with Janice. She was a joy to work with and the kids and staff loved her. She had a great sense of humor, was always willing to step in to help wherever she was needed, and had a talent for doing projects with the kids. She will be greatly missed.

*Deana Nelson*

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**Deana Nelson** - September 17, 2019 at 09:30 AM

WH

“ So sorry to hear this. Janice was so nice, and wonderful with our kids at Douglas Elementary in Acton. She will truly be missed.

*- Bill and Dorota Hekking*

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**William Hekking** - September 11, 2019 at 10:14 AM

AK

“ My name is Amber Klauer. I worked with Janice at Gates extended Day. The children LOVED her and so did the staff. We had many laughs together. My husband and I heard her sing at a Christmas concert. She had a voice like an angel! She told me about her family. You could tell she loved them dearly.

*Our love to the Yancy family and we are sure Janice is singing with the angels.*

*Bill and Amber Klauer*

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**Amber Klauer** - September 03, 2019 at 12:33 PM

SB

“ I had the pleasure and honor of working with Janice, as well as sharing music together in the Threshold Singers of Indian Hill. Janice was part of our staff at Gates Extended Day for many years. She eagerly shared her passion for felt crafts and sewing projects with the children, and they loved them, and loved her. I will remember her every time I come across one of her examples she made of the crafts we have created.

Janice was gracious and kind. She shared her voice and presence with our choir and for those at the end of life. Janice was a role model for our children, and for our staff and singers. Facing adversity one day at a time with grace and dignity. May these memories of Janice bring comfort and strength at this very difficult time. We will miss her.

Suzanne Buell

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**Suzanne Buell** - August 25, 2019 at 09:32 AM

KA

“ May her memory be a blessing and comfort you and James, Beth  
Kate

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**Kate Ahern** - August 24, 2019 at 05:34 PM

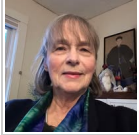
MR

“ My prayers and love are with you Beth. The joy of the Lord shall always be your strength.

Minister Ro\*

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**Minister Ro** - August 23, 2019 at 03:57 PM



“ I knew Janice through working with her at the Clever Hand Gallery where she was a member. From the moment you met her you knew she was a gentle soul. She impressed me with her insights and the love she had for her family. I will miss her indomitable spirit and her sweet nature.

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**Liz Hyde** - August 23, 2019 at 03:44 PM

RG

I know Janice from the Clever Hand Gallery in Wellesley. She was a wonderful member, and she made beautiful things with lovely fabrics. Janice was a very talented, kind, and strong woman. We will miss her and her work at our gallery.

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**Reme Gold** - August 23, 2019 at 05:22 PM

SA

Janice worked with us at Douglas School at our before and after school child care program for years. She always said she loved her "little gremlins"! She was a genius with crafts and impressed us all with how much she was able to do despite her major medical issues. She exemplified the qualities of perseverance and grace. She will be sorely missed!

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**Sasha** - August 24, 2019 at 04:15 PM