



Janine Evon Lee

April 1, 1960 - February 28, 2024

Janine Evon Lee (neé Moore) was born on April 1, 1960, to Betty J. Lindsey and Arthur D.

Moore in Emporia, Kansas. The fifth of six children, Janine attended William Allen White

Elementary School from kindergarten through sixth grade before moving with her family to

Ottawa, Kansas, in 1971. She then attended Ottawa Junior High before advancing to Ottawa

High School, where her activities included basketball, track, cheerleading and singing as a

member of the school's show choir, The Cytones. She graduated in 1978 with High Honors and,

in 2014, was inducted into the high school's Wall of Honor.

Janine went on to attend Emporia State University, earning a bachelor's degree in rehabilitation

services education and a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling. She also holds an MBA

from Rockhurst University.

Janine's professional life was shaped by her desire to give back to the community. "We were

fortunate to be a family who benefited from the love and generosity of compassionate friends,

neighbors and organizations in the community,” she once wrote, recalling her childhood. “As I grew into adulthood, I made a conscious decision to dedicate my life to the nonprofit sector and give back to the community.”

Janine went on to work at several prominent philanthropic organizations, including the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City and, in Atlanta, the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation and Philanthropy Southeast, where she was hired as president and CEO in 2011.

Her tenure there was defined by a groundbreaking commitment to racial equity, the adoption of new values and guiding principles, and a dedication to courageous leadership. She also served on the boards of national philanthropic organizations, including the United Philanthropy Forum, Independent Sector, Third Sector, and the National Council of Family Philanthropy.

Janine was a lover of life and laughter. She was always ready to lend an ear to her many friends and family, including her mother, Betty Lindsey, with whom she enjoyed a close relationship.

While her professional accomplishments were many, she remained a woman of humility and integrity throughout her life. She was deeply proud of and committed to her family, especially her sons, Aarin and Devin, as well as her granddaughter, Eden, who she loved dearly.

Janine is preceded in death by her grandmother, Seymia Williams; her mother, Betty Lindsey;

her father, Arthur D. Moore; her brother, Eric Lindsey, and her sister, Sheri Tucker.

In addition to her two sons and granddaughter, Janine is survived by a brother, Tim (Cindy) Moore of Wellsville, Kansas; and two sisters, Denise Smith of Lenexa, Kansas, and Gayla Kelly of Atlanta, as well as a host of nieces and nephews.

Celebration of Life Service will be held on Saturday, March 9 , 2024, 3:00 PM at our South Dekalb Chapel 4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy., Decatur, GA 30034. Visitation will be held on Friday, March 8, 2024 from 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Please express your condolences here on our website. Services entrusted to Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home, 4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy., Decatur, GA 30034.

Tribute Wall



“ Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Janine Evon Lee



Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc. - March 05, 2024 at 07:02 AM



“ Janine, I shall miss you my dear friend. You are and were such a wonderful person. May you rest in peace dear.

Wanda Ingram - January 06, 2025 at 09:10 PM



“ Sending prayers and condolences to the family of Janine Lee. It was a privilege to know you. Your wisdom was so impactful. May your soul rest in peace.
Agnes P. Green, M.D.

Agnes P. Green, M.D. - March 10, 2024 at 10:43 PM

DR

“ I want to express my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Janine. I had the privilege and pleasure of working as a community colleague with Janine in Kansas City from 1995 to about 2005, during her tenure as an executive with the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. As so many have expressed, she was a leader and a friend who approached her work (and life) with purpose, honor, care, and joy, and through that work she made a huge difference in the lives of so many, in Kansas City and beyond; she always did her best to live up to the time-honored saying, “be the change you wish to see in the world.” I have missed our days working together and, unfortunately, it now is time to celebrate all that she did and all she stood for. Her memory is indeed a blessing.

Dave Renz - March 09, 2024 at 07:02 PM

EE

“ I was so touched and inspired by the beautiful service today. It was clearly a room overflowing with love for a remarkable, warm wise and generous woman. I feel fortunate that our paths crossed 20 years ago. Janine made a tremendous difference in her work, and in the way that she lived.

Elise Eplan - March 09, 2024 at 06:23 PM

JR

“ To the Family of Janine Lee:

I write this letter with a heavy heart and deep compassion, and send prayers to your family as you mourn the loss of a mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, and friend.

I met Janine while serving on the Kauffman Foundation Youth Advisory Board. As a high school student, I admired Janine for her generous and caring spirit. She would later become a personal friend and professional mentor. Today, I continue to marvel at her professional accomplishments in philanthropy.

I would go on to make history as the youngest person ever elected to the Kansas City – City Council. Not to my surprise, Janine was the first to congratulate me and offer encouragement for my journey. To her last breath, she remained one of my most cherished and reliable advisors.

As you mourn this grave loss, please know that my prayers are with you and the entire family. Janine was one of a kind. She will now live the words written in 2nd Timothy 4:7-8, “I have fought a good fight, finished the course, I have kept the faith.”

On behalf of my family we offer our sincere condolences to Janine’s family members and devoted friends. We want to acknowledge and honor her gifts to the Greater Kansas City community and beyond.

Jermaine Reed

*- Former Kauffman Foundation Youth Advisory Board Member:
1998-2002*

*- Former Third District City Councilmember: 2011-2019, City of
Kansas City Missouri*

*- Metropolitan Community College Board of Trustee Member: 2020-
Present*

Jermaine Reed - March 09, 2024 at 04:30 PM

VB

“ *My sincere condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Janine Lee. Janine’s leadership radiates and continues to teach me the importance of courage, compassion, and commitment to community. Velvet Bryant*

Velvet Bryant - March 09, 2024 at 03:31 PM

RM

“ *From the Ward Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Richmond, Missouri and From the Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church of Mayview, MO*

We the Pastors and members of these 2 Churches extend our deepest condolences to the Family and Friends of Sister Jannine Moore -Lee. To Ahron, Devin Derek and the entire Family. John 14: 1-3. 14 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. God said that he'll wipe every tear from your eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. Revelations 21:4 . At your time of bereavement we the Pastors and Members extend our love and support to the entire Family. God Bless and we are here for YOU.

*Pastor Stacie L. Roberson Mason
Asst to the Pastor Rev. Gregory A. Mason
Ward Chapel AME and Mayview AME*

Rev. Gregory A Mason - March 09, 2024 at 01:59 PM

EC

“ Ellen Collins sent a virtual gift in memory of Janine Evon Lee



Ellen Collins - March 08, 2024 at 03:50 PM

KA

“ Janine and I met at Emporia State University and pledged Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority together. What a special and memorable time we had throughout our college years. Janine was also my maid of honor at my wedding❤️. As mentioned by so many already, she was the epitome of grace, courage and compassion. Janine “J-9”...I will miss you. May your sons and family be comforted by God’s grace and love.

Kimberly Allen - March 08, 2024 at 03:36 PM

KA

“ Kimberly A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janine Evon Lee.

Kimberly A. - March 08, 2024 at 03:23 PM

CW

“ Janine was a treasured board member for our nonprofit, Third Sector, and lit up every zoom call with her smile, joy and wisdom. She will be deeply missed, and her call to us to practice courageous leadership lives on at our organization and with so many others. Rest in peace and power Janine, your memory is forever a blessing. --Caroline Whistler, on behalf of Third Sector board and team

caroline whistler - March 08, 2024 at 03:18 PM

CW

“ Caroline W. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janine Evon Lee.

Caroline W. - March 08, 2024 at 03:15 PM

SF

“ Southern Education Foundation purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Janine Evon Lee.



Southern Education Foundation - March 08, 2024 at 12:43 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Janine Evon Lee.



March 08, 2024 at 12:13 PM

FB

“ Frank & Loran Brown planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janine Evon Lee.

Frank & Loran Brown - March 08, 2024 at 12:13 PM

KF

“ Condolences to the Lee Family and the Philanthropy Southeast Staff and Baord from The Annie E. Casey Foundation, including the Atlanta Civic Site team. On a personal level, very few people had the kind of impact on me during my time in philnathropy as Janine did. Working with Janine on the Passing Gear Philanthropy Report and the Philanthropy Southeast Equity Framework was an amazing developmental experience for me. She not only met the moment as a leader, but she set a new standard for leading with courage and grace that will benefit communités thoroughout the southeast for years to come. I am forever grateful to Janine. Rest in Peace Queen Janine!

Kweku Forstall - March 08, 2024 at 10:02 AM

LM

“ Sending my condolences and prayers to the family. Janine was an amazing woman who displayed grace and love in all that she did. She was a mentor to me and taught me so much, I will be forever grateful for having her in my life. May you rest in peace Janine. ❤️
🙏
Lisa Medellin

Lisa Medellin - March 08, 2024 at 09:22 AM

CM

“ Carmen Rojas and MCF purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Janine Evon Lee.



Carmen Rojas and MCF - March 07, 2024 at 06:08 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Janine Evon Lee.*



March 07, 2024 at 04:55 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Janine Evon Lee.*



March 07, 2024 at 01:19 PM



“ *From Tene Traylor purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Janine Evon Lee.*



From Tene Traylor - March 07, 2024 at 12:53 PM



“ *From Tene Traylor planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janine Evon Lee.*

From Tene Traylor - March 07, 2024 at 12:53 PM

FU

“ From All of Us purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Janine Evon Lee.



From All of Us - March 07, 2024 at 12:48 PM

FU

“ From All of Us planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janine Evon Lee.

From All of Us - March 07, 2024 at 12:48 PM

TG

“ Tim, Denise, and Gayla purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Janine Evon Lee.



Tim, Denise, and Gayla - March 07, 2024 at 12:35 PM

TG

“ Tim, Denise, and Gayla planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janine Evon Lee.

Tim, Denise, and Gayla - March 07, 2024 at 12:35 PM

PE

“ Partnership for Southern Equity purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Janine Evon Lee.



Partnership for Southern Equity - March 07, 2024 at 11:52 AM

PE

“ Partnership for Southern Equity planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janine Evon Lee.

Partnership for Southern Equity - March 07, 2024 at 11:52 AM

WK

“ Janine was a shining star at ESU and beyond. No matter the challenge, she met it head on and succeeded at every level. My condolences to the entire family during this difficult time.

William E. King - March 07, 2024 at 10:57 AM



“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Janine Evon Lee.



March 06, 2024 at 04:12 PM

TF

“ The Rapides Foundation planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janine Evon Lee.

The Rapides Foundation - March 06, 2024 at 04:12 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Janine Evon Lee.



March 06, 2024 at 12:08 PM

MK

“*Janine knew me when I was a Project Choice Kid. When I moved to Atlanta 9 years ago a mentor of mine told me Janine was also in Atlanta and I should connect with her. I got her info and before you know it we were linking up for dinner and wine...and more wine! We connected so fast you would've thought we'd been gal pals forever. She was so fun to be around and a genuine spirit. I loved our talks about dating, careers, and just life. Rest in peace, Janine.*

Manomay Kidd - March 05, 2024 at 10:30 PM

CF

“*Carol Gray and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Janine Evon Lee.*



Carol Gray and family - March 05, 2024 at 03:11 PM

CF

“*Carol Gray and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janine Evon Lee.*

Carol Gray and family - March 05, 2024 at 03:11 PM

CG

“ *Janine and I met while attending Emporia State University. We were line sisters while pledging Sigma Gamma Rho sorority. My memories include her children, Aarin and Devin, while they were living here in Kansas City, Kansas. My children, Camille and Rostell are the same age as hers. As miles separated us, after she moved to Georgia, we still managed to keep in touch. I remember showing up unexpectedly one year and as always she and her sister were so accommodating. Janine will most assuredly be missed. May my condolences bring you comfort Amy my prayers ease the pain of this loss*

*Sister in love,
Carol Dannette Gray*



Carol Gray - March 05, 2024 at 03:02 PM

GA

“ *Georgia Grantmakers Alliance purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Janine Evon Lee.*



Georgia Grantmakers Alliance - March 05, 2024 at 02:19 PM

GA

“ Georgia Grantmakers Alliance planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janine Evon Lee.

Georgia Grantmakers Alliance - March 05, 2024 at 02:19 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Janine Evon Lee.



March 05, 2024 at 02:09 PM

FA

“ Felecia Lucky & BBCF, Selma, AL purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Janine Evon Lee.



Felecia Lucky & BBCF, Selma, AL - March 05, 2024 at 01:13 PM

AL

“*Janine Lee was a beautiful soul. Over the years we developed a relationship of deep respect and admiration for each other. I thank her for her understanding, care, and guidance as we shared many conversations on many topics. Above all, I Thank you for giving me a chance to be a part of your sons and grandchild lives. May you rest in heavenly peace and be assured I will always be there for our family.*



Angelia Lee

Angelia Lee-Slaughter - March 05, 2024 at 11:28 AM

ML

“*Milton L. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janine Evon Lee.*

Milton L. - March 05, 2024 at 10:57 AM



“*Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Janine Evon Lee.*



March 05, 2024 at 09:36 AM

LM

“*Love, Scott and Kim Moore purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Janine Evon Lee.*



Love, Scott and Kim Moore - March 04, 2024 at 09:37 PM

LM

“ Love, Scott and Kim Moore planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janine Evon Lee.

Love, Scott and Kim Moore - March 04, 2024 at 09:37 PM

MM

“ Janine made such an impact on nonprofits in Kansas City. We never forgot her important work. But it is her integrity that remains her legacy. I will be forever grateful for her support professionally and personally. She took such kind interest in me and my husband. She holds a special place in my heart. She will be missed.

Monica Meeks - March 04, 2024 at 07:32 PM

AU

“ I will never forget Aunt Janine's laugh :) It was loud and boisterous - almost as if it shocked me into being awake! She enlivened me with her infection laughter...I absolutely loved listening to her laugh <3

Aubrey - March 04, 2024 at 04:14 PM