



Dr. Doris Juanita Davenport

January 29, 1949 - December 2, 2024

Doris Juanita Davenport is the first born daughter of Ethel Mae Gibson (daughter of John and Elvira Smalls Gibson) and Claude Judson Davenport, Jr. (grandson of Arthur and Maggie Wright) - and Big Sister to Dolores, Sandra, Maggie, Tanya, Audrey and Anthony. From an early age, she was a lover of reading, learning and imparting knowledge. She became our beloved educator/nurturer, poet, writer and performance artist.

The following autobiographical sketch was taken from her last book, “testimony: poems, proclamations, potions.” (Available on Amazon.)
“Pronouns: person / per - a visionary working class / philosophical anarchist, 75-year-old sapiosexual Lesbian-Feminist / LGBTQ+ Nation & Alternate ROOTS member (20+ years); writer, performance poet, educator & independent scholar; born and raised in traditional Cherokee Homelands (euro-colonized Northeast Georgia). I have published 13 books of poetry (several available on Amazon & Kindle). I constantly, continually, adamantly work to end all forms of oppression, towards truth & honesty - based egalitarian, inclusive and *magical* realities. Education: BA, Paine College, Augusta, GA; MA SUNY/Buffalo, NY; PhD, Univ. of Southern California.

I have taught literature and composition at numerous colleges & universities; published reviews, articles, essays, and books of poetry; have been an Avon lady, a bartender, editor, a “Kelly Girl”, and a librarian; have done more than

120 poetry performances, collaborations and workshops. (And a dancer and a photographer.)

Doris was born in Gainesville, GA (January 29, 1949) and delivered by Dr. E.E. Butler. The family lived on Collins Street and spent lots of time with paternal, great grandparents 'Granny and Grandpa' - in Newtown. She attended Fair Street Elementary school for first and second grades after which, the family moved to Cornelia to the house of maternal grandparents, 'Mevie and Daddy John' at 103 Soque Street, at the foot of the Hill.

The Hill was the neighborhood that formed the roots from which her love of people and community, artistic expression and pure love of life sprang. She attended Cornelia Regional [Colored] School where she skipped a grade in elementary as well as grade 12. She started Paine College at 16, graduated with an English BA and honors, then an MA in English from the State University of New York (SUNY) Buffalo, and a PhD in English literature from the University of Southern California (USC).

She returned to her beloved Northeast Georgia to retire. After a relatively short, but aggressive struggle with a diseased liver, Doris joined the Ancestors on December 2, 2024.

Dr. Doris Davenport shared freely of her vast expertise, artistry, knowledge and skills. In addition to her family, she leaves a vast network of 'spirit dawtahs,' sister-friends and colleagues who will always cherish her time on this earth.

Services/Memorial

As per her wishes, her remains will be scattered "in the traditional Cherokee Homelands, euro-colonized Northeast Georgia" on Tower (Chenocetah)

Mountain and Mt. Yonah. A celebration in her honor will be held at a later date, details will be shared on Facebook.

Instead of flowers and gifts we ask that contributions in honor of Dr. Doris Davenport be made to the Audrey Davenport Endowed Scholarship at Piedmont University.

Mail contributions: Piedmont University, Audrey Davenport (Student) Scholarship
University Advancement Department, P.O. Box 10, Demorest, GA 30535

For online contributions: Contact University Advancement Department at asutton@piedmont.edu for details.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your comments, the memories that you shared and any contributions to continuing her work and legacy.

With deepest gratitude,
The Davenport Family

Please forward all memorial gifts to Piedmont University as listed above. Kindly disregard the following statement from the Sympathy Store.

Tribute Wall



“ We just finished Roots Week in Arden, NC and Dr. D was so present and we called her name often.

I was sitting on the porch thinking of her and this poem bubbled up....

Although the rocking chair is still and empty

You are with us

I see you strolling down the hill

Big hair

Big smile

And the side eye.

Your energy stretching

From the dining hall

To the faith center

Scanning for injustice

And calling out oppression

In

Real time

Sheparding your ‘daughters’

A momma to many

A scholar to all.

Not the gentle parent who was permissive

A strong loving guide

Who called folks to task

saying

“Don’t” to playing small

Poet, priestess, Appalachian agitator

I almost wrote angel and then saw your mischievous smile and

heard your "NO!"

*One time you said,
"I don't know why, but I'm starting to like you."*

The invite to your balcony was sacred.

To even catch a glimpse of how you saw the world felt holy.

*Dr. Doris Davenport
I remember you*

-Christine G. August 8, 2025



Christine Gautreaux - August 15, 2025 at 10:40 AM

RA

“ *I don't have words enough yet. I admired doctora davenport's powerful magic in ROOTS gatherings for years before we connected as poets. I am grateful to have had the last few years of connection with per through poetry and performance that calls forth liberation. I was honored to be invited to read with per and Chrystos and many others. We need elders when we are older just as much as when we are young, and I remain grateful for dr. davenport's bright, strong energy, per fierce and sharp wit, and the warm light of per loving appreciation.*

-Rasha



Rasha - January 10, 2025 at 03:12 PM

JT

“Doris was a very special friend of ours in the Nacoochee valley at Starlight. Our memory books share many things with her. Needless to say since she had just shared in my 90th birthday celebration earlier this year, it was a real shock to learn of her passing. We will miss her very much. To us, she was just Doris, friend and family, popping in at any time. I am thankful that I was privileged to have known her. Jimmie Tinius

Jimmie Tinius - December 21, 2024 at 06:12 PM

MA

Thanks for those kind words, Jimmie, she felt the same about you.

Maggie - December 28, 2024 at 11:22 AM

KH

“Sending sincere condolences to Dr Doris' family and loved ones near and far. Doris always welcomed me at ROOTS meetings with the warm hug and a huge smile that crossed bridges and undermined division. Always a poet, always a sharp eye and a clear tongue. I'll miss you and never forget you. Keith Hennessy, San Francisco

Keith Hennessy - December 18, 2024 at 10:49 PM

PC

“My sincere condolences to you all! So sorry to hear about the passing of your beloved sister!

Paula Trimiari Chiplin - December 10, 2024 at 11:11 PM

VW

“ Sending my condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Doris Davenport. Sorry to hear of her passing. I remembered seeing Doris a couple of years ago at the Gainesville, Junetenth event and was surprised to see her there...a good surprise, with her larger than life smile. 😊 Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal. R.I.P. Doris. 🙏🙏💕💕

Valerie Williams - December 10, 2024 at 04:37 PM

JL

“ It was such a pleasure to witness her joy and also love for College Language Association and our members. We celebrate her beautiful life and tremendous legacy!

Janaka Lewis

Janaka Lewis - December 10, 2024 at 04:02 PM

JL

“ To the family of Dr. Doris Davenport & her dear sisters and brother, Doris was truly a Legend and a woman of God's own heart. I will always hold true memories of our days at Cornelia Regional High. Through all of her modesty, she was a friend, a sister, and a joy to know. She freely gave & shared her love to all who knew her. I will cherish her legacy, memories, & gifts forever. Life without her will never be the same.

Juanita Lockwood

Juanita Lockwood - December 10, 2024 at 01:58 PM

SP

“ My memories of Doris (Dr. Davenport) always refresh a vision of her inviting smile. You are missed. Samuel Pettijohn



Samuel Pettijohn - December 10, 2024 at 11:08 AM

JM

“ Joyce Mitchell sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Doris Juanita Davenport



Joyce Mitchell - December 10, 2024 at 07:27 AM

SD

“ My memories of Doris, my eldest sister, are truly precious. I am seriously grieving. These kind words are making my heart feel lighter. I sincerely thank each of you.
This a beauty-FULL photo. She was famous for that!!!
Doris departed; my life is different ... LiveWell, Everyone,
LiveWELL!!!

Sandra Teresa Davenport - December 09, 2024 at 09:11 PM

MM

“ Mary Moore lit a candle in memory of Dr. Doris Juanita Davenport



Mary Moore - December 09, 2024 at 08:54 PM

DC

“ *Deborah Collins lit a candle in memory of Dr. Doris Juanita Davenport*



Deborah Collins - December 09, 2024 at 06:46 PM

DC

Rest In Peace 🕯️🌸

Deborah Collins - December 09, 2024 at 06:46 PM

PN

“ *To the family of Dr. Doris Davenport - I am saddened to just receive this information. Doris! A Legend! A woman of true beliefs and my friend. How awesome it was to know we attended the same college - Dear ole Paine College in Augusta GA You were always a delight to see in person, and talk with. You will be truly missed. Take your rest. All accolades are due unto you....*



Portia M Noble - December 09, 2024 at 04:53 PM



Thanks for those kind words, Portia.

Maggie Davenport - December 09, 2024 at 06:42 PM

BD

“ *My condolences to the Family 🙏. You always did something constructive, Doris(only you and I understand this comment).*

Brenda H Davis - December 07, 2024 at 02:04 PM



“ Toni Johnson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Doris Juanita Davenport



Toni Johnson - December 06, 2024 at 10:34 AM



“ To have known her You would have loved her! Rest In Peace 🙏 love Sally & Tim Brown



Sally Brown - December 05, 2024 at 02:32 PM



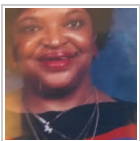
Thanks so much Sally. ('Agatha')

Maggie Davenport - December 09, 2024 at 06:40 PM



Thank you Sally ❤️👍

Audrey Davenport - January 04, 2025 at 09:45 PM



“ Regina Harris lit a candle in memory of Dr. Doris Juanita Davenport



Regina Harris - December 05, 2024 at 02:24 PM

DC

“ *Deborah Collins sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Doris Juanita Davenport*



Deborah Collins - December 05, 2024 at 01:40 PM

DC

May You Rest In Peace 🕯️ 🌹 🌹

Deborah Collins - December 05, 2024 at 01:41 PM

MM

“ *Mary Moore lit a candle in memory of Dr. Doris Juanita Davenport*



Mary Moore - December 05, 2024 at 01:01 PM