



CELEBRATION THE LIFE OF

JANET THOMAS

SUNRISE: FEBRUARY 27, 1946 | SUNSET: OCTOBER 15, 2024

ST JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
STREAMING LIVE ON FACEBOOK

ORDER OF SERVICE

NOVEMBER 1, 2024 • 10:30 AM
ST. JOHN'S MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
1050 Bay Road • East Palo Alto, CA 94303
Dr. Fredrick Fairley, officiating

Processional.....Family
Old and New Testament Scripture.....Reverend Cleveland Prince
Prayer.....Dr. Fredrick Fairley
Solo.....Sister Theresa Adams
Acknowledgement of Cards and Resolutions.....Sister Yvonne Jones
Remarks (2 minutes).....Pam Mills, Julie Wasolek, Andy Frisch,
Vicki Smothers, Karen Francone, and Marquis Thomas
Ushers Ritualistic Service and Grand March.....Ushers
Slide Presentation.....In Honor of Janet Thomas
Obituary.....Read Silently
Solo.....Sister Merdana Champion
Eulogy.....Dr. Fredrick Fairley
Recessional.....Family

*I*NTERMENT
SKYLAWN MEMORIAL PARK
Hwy 92 at Skyline Blvd
San Mateo, CA 94402

*R*EPAST
ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
1050 Bay Road
East Palo Alto, CA 94205

Streaming live on St. John Facebook and also on zoom

Zoom information
227 467 4225
Passcode 1050

OBITUARY

Janet Louise Thomas was born on Wednesday, February 27, 1946 in San Antonio, Texas to Andrew Jackson Thomas Sr. and Juanita Henderson-Thomas. She was the third of four children: Andrew Jackson Thomas, Jr (deceased); Malcolm Thomas (deceased), and Timothy Thomas. The family moved to Menlo Park, CA in 1949 where she attended Ravenswood High School. Janet then relocated to Los Angeles, CA. During her time in LA she attended barber college and opened a restaurant where her Aunt was the chef and she hired men to make desserts. She returned to Menlo Park, CA in the mid 1980's.

Janet was very involved in service to others and had a full and rewarding life that included many volunteer and church activities. In 1989, she began working for Kainos, an organization which provides home and training opportunities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She was a job coach from 1995-2020. She continued working for Kainos until her passing.

Janet's work with Kainos led her to a long relationship with Sequoia YMCA, where for many years, she helped her Kainos clients learn hands-on skills to create a clean, warm and welcoming environment at the YMCA. She also became a source of support to YMCA members, giving encouragement to young mothers and their children, and providing seniors a steadying hand, a friendly hug, or a listening ear. Janet was a tireless volunteer fundraiser, supporting YMCA programs in the community, and was even certified to teach cycling and senior fitness classes. She was recognized by the YMCA as a "Distinguished Volunteer of the Year" in 2007 and served on the Board of Managers in her final years helping the YMCA re-open after COVID.

In 1991, Janet started work as the night manager at the Service League's Hope House, a residential substance use disorder treatment program for women, especially pregnant women and women with babies. Always fair, consistent and strong, Janet was a role model for these women as they navigated their new lives, being clean and sober. Many of these women remained in her life and she was always there to support them. When Janet retired from Hope House after two decades, she continued to volunteer there for another ten years. She would take women to church, transport them to events and provide help whenever needed. Janet not only helped shape the Hope House, she forever changed lives. For the last 20 years she has served on the Board of Directors for "Free At Last Community of Recovery" in the East Palo Alto community. She was the secretary of the board and served with integrity, honesty and dignity. She mentored members into a new way of life.

Janet joined St. John Missionary Baptist Church in the 1990s and immediately became a part of the Usher Association. She was committed to a personal relationship with God. She served with the Bay Area Baptist Association and National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc., accepting positions wherever needed. Her final position was 1st Vice President of the Northern District, where she served on committees at both the State and National levels.

"I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness" Psalms 84:10.

Janet's passion for helping others led to her to start her own business with her longtime friend Anita Dabbs called Alpine Homes, a residential facility in Redwood City, CA, dedicated to providing a nurturing and supportive environment for developmentally disabled adults. The dedication of her staff, who worked tirelessly to create a safe and enriching atmosphere, provided a positive impact on the lives of those they served. Unfortunately, Covid made running the home very difficult. The business closed in 2022, but Janet made sure to stay in touch with the former residents.

For the last decade or so, Janet made 80 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches each week for Street Life Ministries for the unhoused in Redwood City, CA. Her loving friends made her sandwich quota this month in her honor.

Janet was a lifelong Dallas Cowboys and San Antonio Spurs fan. She attended the Monterey Jazz Festival, every year, for 37 years, with friends Joann Evans, Dorothy Williams, Rosetta Clay and others.

She will be remembered for her kindred spirit, zest for life, boundless energy and her selfless humanity. She was unique, complex, extraordinary and above all, irreplaceable. She made friends everywhere she went. Her bright smile could lift your spirits and her unwavering compassion and kindness marked her as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Janet is preceded in death by her father, Andrew Jackson Thomas Sr., her brothers, Andrew Jackson Thomas, Jr and Malcolm Thomas (Lillian), and her nephew Ivory Thomas.

Janet is survived by her mother Juanita Thomas; her brother Timothy Thomas (Margaret); her nieces and nephews; Lisa Thomas; Niece in Law Jennifer Thomas, Malcolm Tony Thomas, Paris Scott (Gary), and Shawn Thomas (Sarah); Marquis Thomas (Olga), Marika Thomas, Timothy Dorian Thomas (Victoria) and Sarah Thomas; and an abundant amount of great nieces, great nephews, great-great nieces, great-great nephews and a host of cousins, extended family and friends.

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Shawn Thomas | Marquis Thomas | Timothy Dorian Thomas
Stacey Walker | Tracey Walker | Kelvin Campbell



PLEASE DON'T MOURN FOR ME

Please don't mourn for me - I'm still here, though I don't see.
I'm right by your side each day and night - And within your heart I long to stay.
My body is gone but I'm always near - I'm everything you feel, see or hear.

My spirit is free, but I'll never depart
As long as you keep me alive in your heart.
I'll never wander out of your sight - I'm the brightest star on a warm summer night.

I'll never be beyond your reach - I'm the warm moist sand when you're at the beach.
I'm the beautiful flowers of which you're so fond - The clear cool water in a quiet pond.
I'm the first bright blossom you'll see in the spring
The first warm raindrop that April will bring.

I'm the first ray of light when the sun starts to shine
And you'll see the face in the moon is mine.
When you start thinking there's no one to love you - Talk to me and I will listen.
I'll whisper my answer through the leaves on the trees
And you'll feel my presence in the soft summer breeze.

I'm the hot salty tears that flow when you weep
And the beautiful dreams that come while you sleep.
I'm the smile you see on a stranger's face.
Just look for me...I'm everywhere.

Love, Stephanie and Puddin

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The family would like to thank the many family and friends of Janet Thomas for your words of comfort, cards, prayers, flowers and other expressions of love.

We would like to especially thank Barbara Neumann, Diana James Cairns, Dorothy Johnson, Jackie Harris, Kim Quintana and Linda Williams for their many years of friendship and tireless support of Janet Thomas.