

*A Celebration of the Life
of*

Gwendolynne P. Blakeley

Sunrise
August 28, 1956

Sunset
February 24, 2011

Saturday, March 5, 2011 - 10:00 a.m.

ELIZABETH AVENUE-WEEQUAHIC PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
761 Elizabeth Ave. • Newark, New Jersey

Pastor Doris Peterson, Presiding

Obituary

Gwendolynne P. Blakeley, the 3rd child of the late Rev. Ulysses B. Blakeley, Sr. and Gwendolynne A. Blakeley, was born in Philadelphia, PA on August 28, 1956. After living in Chicago for several years, the family moved to Orange, NJ in 1964. An outstanding student who was voted "Most Likely to Succeed" and "Best Shape," Lynne graduated from Orange High School in 1974. After high school she attended the University of Dayton and Seton Hall University. She worked throughout her life as a bookkeeper for a number of firms, most recently at CMC Adaptive Seating and Homecare.

Sociable, bubbly, and vivacious from infancy, at the age of three Lynne christened herself "Lynn timer" to match the names of her siblings, Becky and Bucky. This was possibly the last time Lynn timer felt the need to blend into a crowd. Known variously as Lynne, Lynn timer, or Gwen, or Gwen Jr., she was an independent and insightful thinker. She could be counted on to see into the heart of a matter, whether personal, political, or in business. Lynne was quick-witted and loved to laugh. She charmed all whom she met, had countless friends and admirers, and was "best friends" with many.

Lynne had many talents and a tremendous zest for life. Teased by family members for many years for studying recipes and shopping for weeks to plan a simple Sunday dinner, she'd then take off from work on a Friday to begin cooking for Sunday. Once the cooking was under way she'd bar all from even looking into the kitchen until the big day. Her culinary self-education paid off, however, because eventually she became something of a gourmet cook, delighting all who sat at her table. Lynne loved all kinds of good food, and under the tutelage of her mother during her mother's extended illness, Lynne also mastered many cherished family recipes.

Lynne was an avid reader and loved political discussions. A true eclectic, she loved dancing, sports (go Giants!), all kinds of music (especially oldies), and the world of fashion. She was beautiful as a young woman and that beauty did not fade with time. Whether model-sized or plus-sized, Lynne could make an entrance and command a room. She was compassionate to a fault, and no matter her personal situation, she could not pass a panhandler without making a donation. She never felt too financially strapped to donate to a worthy cause.

A lover of humanity in general, Lynne especially loved children. She adored her nephews and niece, and collected countless additional "nieces" and "nephews," all of whom were beloved by "Auntie Gwen."

Lynne leaves to mourn, her siblings, Rebecca Springfield, Ulysses Blakeley, Jr. (Tammy), uncles, Charles Alston, James Blakeley (Lucille), an aunt, Alberta Hill, nephews, Sekou and Omar Springfield, a niece, Margarita Williams, as well as a host of cousins, other family members, and innumerable friends.

Special mention must be made of Gwen's surrogate siblings, Yazmin and Kiko Chaz and their children, Cassandra, Frederic, Alberto, and Madison, all of whom were more than special to her.

Lynne passed away suddenly on February 24, 2011. She will surely be missed by all who've been blessed to know and love her.

Service of Celebration

Pastor Doris Peterson

(of Elizabeth Ave Church will preside over the ceremony)

Processional "Blessed Assurance"
Page 341

Invocation

Scripture Readings

Old Testament - Psalm 46: 1 – 7

New Testament - Romans 8: 28 –39

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn "Just a Closer Walk With Thee"
(see insert)

Remembrances (Mourners may briefly share memories of Gwen)

Hymn "Amazing Grace"
Page 280

Obituary (Read silently)

Solo "Deep River" – Bro. Bob Richardson

Eulogy

Committal

Benediction

Recessional "Precious Lord " - Page 404

Cremation
Private Cremation

Family and friends are invited to the repast immediately following the service in the church Fellowship Hall.

Psalm 23

The Lord is My Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Pall Bearers

*Sekou Springfield Omar Springfield
Gregory Jones Kenneth Blakely*

Honorary Pall Bearers

*James Blakeley Charles Alston
Rhett Alston Keith Pringle*

Acknowledgement

The Blakeley family extends its heartfelt thanks to all who have consoled and supported us in this time of sorrow.

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE
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Orange, NJ
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street
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