



## Felyce Thomas

October 21, 1932 - December 11, 2022

Felyce Thomas (née Landau) died on Sunday, December 11th, 2022 at 90 years of age.

She was a devoted and loving wife, mother, and grandmother, and passionate educator of children, both during her long career in literacy education and of all the other children in her life.

Felyce was born on the 21st of October 1932 in New York City to Abraham (Al) Landau and Hattie Geen. She was raised in the Bronx alongside her beloved sister Bernice, and earned a BA in Psychology from Hunter College in 1954. In 1955, she married Marvin Thomas, whom she had met when they were counselors together at a sleep-away camp; they were married for 67 years, until their deaths.

Professionally, she was an accomplished teacher of reading at the elementary level. She first taught in East Harlem at Public School 107 from 1955-1958, and then moved across the Hudson to Oakland, New Jersey. There, she was the inaugural second grade teacher at the brand new Oakland Heights Elementary school, where she later became Reading Specialist until 1978. During this time, she earned an MA in Elementary Education from Paterson State College in 1963, and was an ABD PhD candidate at Rutgers University. In 1978, she became Director of Reading and Language Arts for the Oakland

Public Schools District— a role she held until her retirement in 1988. Though she had a long and storied career, she was particularly proud of successfully landing a Governor’s Grant in 1986 for a program for reluctant writers at the middle-school level, which she called “Write On: Wonderful.”

All of this is to say that Felyce deeply valued learning and education, both for herself and in shepherding young minds. This continued even after her well-earned retirement. She and Marvin moved to Melbourne, Florida in 1988 in order to care for her in-laws, be closer to her sister, Bernice and brother-in-law Jerry (z’l), and their daughter, Suzette, son-in-law Jeffrey, and granddaughter Arielle.

But she kept learning and growing; she was constantly reading on a wide range of subjects, and clipping articles (and New Yorker cartoons) for her family and friends to read and discuss. And she continued advocating for the needs and best interests of children, serving with her husband Marvin as a Guardian ad Litem, an advocate for children in the child welfare system

Alongside Marvin and other beloved family and friends, she traveled the globe, having adventures across every single continent. But no matter what, her favorite place to be was with those she loved— whether that was her family, the friends she had made over the course of her life, or the new friends she made wherever she went.

Even as life became more challenging due to aging, injury, and Parkinson’s Disease, the core of her self endured: kind and compassionate towards others, self-effacing and generous of spirit, warm, empathetic, quick witted, and, at whatever age, wanting to support anyone she met in continuing to grow into their best selves.

She follows her husband Marvin Thomas, who died this October. She is

survived by her sister Bernice Haberman, her daughter and son-in-law Suzette Gingold and Jeffrey Gingold, and granddaughter Arielle Gingold and partner Paul Sturtevant.

A memorial service in her honor will be held at South Florida National Cemetery on Wednesday December 21st at 1:30pm. All who knew her are welcome.

Donations in Felyce's memory can be made to The Conscious Kid or The Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

# Previous Events

## Committal Service

DEC 21. 1:30 PM - 2:15 PM (ET)

SOUTH FLORIDA NATIONAL CEMETERY  
6501 SOUTH STATE RD 7  
LAKE WORTH, FL 33449

# Tribute Wall



“ *Felyce Thomas*

January 29, 2023 at 12:14 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



**Pam Minelli** - January 03, 2023 at 09:23 AM



*Wonderful memories with the Thomas and Gingold families. Much love,  
The Minelli's xo*

**Pam Minelli** - January 03, 2023 at 09:24 AM

PS

“ Felyce Thomas left this world on December 11, 2022 at age 90, just months after her husband Marvin passed on at age 92. They had been married for more than two thirds of a century.

Anyone fortunate enough to have spent any time with Felyce understands what a profound loss this represents. I labored on many projects with Felyce in Oakland for over three decades and I can attest to the fact that humanity was her business. The needs of children were always her focus.

After her retirement and subsequent move to Florida, we communicated constantly via mail. The richness of her perspectives, humor and passions continued to enrich my life. To have her in my triumphant parade was very special and rewarding. I shall move forward but will always be diminished by her absence. I will miss you 'Helen'.

- - - Love, John

----- by John A. Piselli, December 16, 2022 -----

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Paul Sturtevant - December 25, 2022 at 11:01 PM