



Janet Elizabeth Dekker

April 15, 1957 - May 21, 2021

Janet passed away peacefully on May 21, 2021 at home with family.

Janet was born in San Francisco on April 15, 1957 but lived the bulk of her life in Fremont, CA.

She attended Brier Elementary school and graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in 1975.

Janet was always all about the kids. Early on she was drawn to her younger siblings, the nurturing older sister always there with an open hand and soft shoulder.

She found her calling early on. In high school she took ROP classes in Early Childhood Studies and received her AA degree in Early Childhood Development at Ohlone in 1977. She first started working as a teacher at Kinder Care, then The Learning Tree, and finally at the Fremont Parent Co-op. During the 35 years as a teacher in pre-school she touched many young hearts and minds. Teacher Janet had a strong conviction that all children should be free to express themselves and be who they are. She encouraged children to color outside the lines and accepted them as-is and with a hug.

Janet's greatest joy came with the birth of her son. She devoted all of her energy to motherhood providing the most loving environment, enjoying the

challenges and rewards at every turn.

All the while, Janet was sewing costumes, bringing over handmade gifts and cards, making paper, dying Easter eggs with natural colors, baking desserts for special occasions, building kites. And...adding a little specialness to every occasion.

Janet was hit with a diagnosis of dementia at age 54. For the next 10 years she endured her disease as she always lived her life, with a loving acceptance of everyone and everything around her...still appreciating the laugh of a child, the chirp of a bird and the joy of family (and a good spoonful of Loard's ice cream).

She loved camping and nature. She loved family barbeques and shagging softballs. She loved dancing and singing around the piano. And anything to do with being a mother. She loved Dan Fogelberg and Depeche Mode. She loved Fudge Anas and banana splits. She loved a bite of licorice with a bite of popcorn.

Janet is survived by her son Clayton Filson, her grand-daughter Elizabeth Filson, her mother Margaret, and eleven siblings: Robert (Lorna), Kathryn, Daniel, David (Pam), John, Claire Sabin (Pete), Jennifer Van Camp (John), Colleen Kinnear (Dominic), Thomas (Meagan), Mercedes (Paul), Karl (Yvette), numerous nieces and nephews and Clayton's father Patrick Filson.

She is predeceased by her father William Dekker.

We will miss you Jan-Jan but the hole that is left in our hearts will be partly filled with the joy and memories you gave us.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 from 6pm-7pm with a Vigil

service beginning at 7pm at Fremont Chapel of the Roses, 1940 Peralta Blvd., Fremont, CA 94536. A Chapel service will be held at Fremont Chapel of the Roses on Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 9:30am. Burial to follow at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward.

The family suggests donations can be made to The Alzheimer's Association, Habitat for Humanity or a charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

26320 Mission Boulevard
Hayward, CA 94544

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **26.** 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Fremont Chapel of the Roses
1940 Peralta Blvd
Fremont, CA 94536
(510) 797-1900

Vigil Service

MAY **26.** 7:00 PM (PT)

Fremont Chapel of the Roses
1940 Peralta Blvd
Fremont, CA 94536
(510) 797-1900

Chapel Service

MAY **27**. 9:30 AM (PT)

Fremont Chapel of the Roses
1940 Peralta Blvd
Fremont, CA 94536
(510) 797-1900

Tribute Wall

DA

“ I just saw Janet's obituary today. Condolences to the Dekker family in the loss of Janet. I went to school with Janet from Jr. High to High school, we shared many good times during those years. I am sadden to hear of her passing. Our prayers are with you all.
Blessings
Debbie Herrington- Anderson

Debbie Anderson - May 28, 2021 at 08:41 PM

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“My Dear friend Janet, I am sorry to hear the news of your passing. To the Decker family I am truly sorry for your loss. Just the thought of Janet brings up memories from our childhood. Our 2 families were interconnected. I can hear my Dad telling us get ready we're going to the Deckers. We were always excited to head to the Deckers. The visits to your house and your visits to our house were always full of kids, laughter, our mothers trying to hold a conversation with each other along with all of us children popping in and out. Our fathers sitting back making jokes/teasing remarks with each other. They were like brothers. Danny and Janet were the 2 kids closest to my age. I remember comparing our big teeth coming in, I lost my 4 front teeth all at once and was very proud to show Janet & Danny. I remember Danny cut his tongue pretty badly. It had healed, but for awhile there we would be running around outside in the SF house and I would ask him to show me the scar on his tongue. Scars were something to be proud of. You had been through something awful and had the proof to show it. I remember when the Deckers first bought their house in Fremont and we went to visit. It was so-o-o modern and BIG to us then.. You had Both a family room and a kitchen. Wow that was new to us. The master bath had a sunken bath tub.. There were multiple bathrooms. (We had one bathroom for the seven of us but that was the norm at that time). We had many fun gatherings at your house.

The clearest memories are the plays we put together. In retrospect this would keep us kids occupied and out of our Mom's hair for awhile. But I remember Janet & Danny and I (and other kids too) collaborating over what funny skit we would put together. We would find props around the house/ in the garage. And Janet would find the younger kids and get them organized. We broke up into little groups and practiced in our parts of the house. And then it was time to set up chairs and deliver our skits to the parents. They were a kind enthusiastic audience. (Note: You could never have done that in our tiny home in Pacifica. We normally all played outside there).. and in the living room of the Fremont house was Mrs. Casey's organ that had pedals that whoosh the air in and out... and pull knobs for

sounds. Very cool!! Janet would try to show me the songs she could play..

She was always looking out for the younger children. i recall her breaking up disagreements negotiating between younger siblings. Checking up on them to see that they were ok..

Maggie would make a pile of spaghetti for our big crowd, along with salad and garlic bread. i can hear Maggie and Mom laughing over my mother's skill for burning the garlic bread..She was a good cook but lost track of the bread in the broiler.

As you know we have also known loss in our family. Grief is like the waves in the ocean. In the early stages the waves seem to suddenly come out of the blue and wash over you one after another. And then as time passes the waves have more space in between them. Until a later time when it feels more calm and you can remember all that was good. I am one among many who will hold good happy memories of our time together in this life. Wishing you peace, knowing there are many sending love your way Janet..

*With Love to you all,
Carol Toscano (Fall)*

Carol Toscano (Fall) - May 25, 2021 at 05:49 PM

MM

“*Janet was such an amazing women. She was both my children's teacher at FPNS and a great friend. She was always such a life source and was sad to see get sick so early in life. She will be greatly missed and always loved. Condolences to you for your loss.*

Michelle Mahar - May 25, 2021 at 01:06 PM