

Celebrating the Life of



Sandra Elaine (Allen) Johnson

April 5, 1947 - March 11, 2014

Friday, March 21, 2014 - 10:00 a.m.

ST. JAMES A.M.E. CHURCH

588 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Newark, New Jersey

Rev. Ronald L. Slaughter, Sr., Pastor

Obituary

Sandra, or as others knew her, Sandy/Sondra, was the daughter of the late Agnes (Louise) Judson and Walter Robert Allen. She was raised by her mother, Agnes and John E. Judson whom she knew as Dad. She was born in Jersey City on April 5th 1947 and was the oldest of three children which includes, Yvonne Hopkins and the late Denise Lassiter.

Sandy grew up in Jersey City and Newark, New Jersey. She became saved when accepting our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at an early age. She was a member of the St. James A.M.E. Church Newark and of Class 50 (Carl Mickens, Class Leader). She was a product of the Newark Public School System. Upon graduation from Weequahic High School Newark Class of 1964, Sandy attended Fairleigh Dickinson University in Rutherford, NJ. While here she received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. Simultaneously, she received from the State of NJ Department of Education her Teacher of Business Education Certificate. She briefly pursued her Master's Degree at Kean University in Union, NJ, however due to her illness, she was unable to continue her post-graduate work.

During her days at Fairleigh Dickinson, she met her future husband of forty-five years, Marvin Enolls Johnson on a campus staircase in 1966. Their relationship was heaven sent and on June 1, 1968, Marvin and Sandy/Sondra were united in Holy Matrimony at St. James A.M.E. Church.

During her early career days, she was employed for the NJ Department of Civil Service Clerical Training Center, the Empire Technical School and the Foster Wheeler Energy Corporation as an instructor and supervisor.

After seventeen years of marriage, she and Marvin welcomed their daughter Monica Eryn into the world on October 8, 1985.

She devoted herself as a mom first while placing her initial career on the back burner. Instead, Sandy reinvented herself by organizing various projects and starting new business ventures.

In 1986, she formed her own business venture, Let Sandra, which provided Staff Development Training and Clerical Support Services to business communities.

She served as a member on the Board of Trustees for the South Orange/Maplewood Adult School and also conceived, wrote and taught the Adult School's first Typing for Children Course in 1984.

During the 1990's, she was an Artist In The Schools Coordinator ("Black Culture on Tour in America Comes to the Newark Public Schools") for the Carter G. Woodson Foundation, and a Business Communications Instructor for the Urban League of Essex County. From 1995-1998, she proudly opened up at New Jersey Transit Mountain Station's quaint coffee shop, **Coffee on the Run**, in South Orange servicing Hoboken/NYC commuters with morning Joe and pastries before their early commute.

In 1991, she took her passion for Black History Month on the road to various school systems in Northern, NJ where she cultivated the program, ***The Real McCoy...and Other Adventures with African-American Inventors**. It was one of the most highly demanded programs in the area during Black History Month. The unique experiential hands-on program taught kids about the rich history of African-American Inventors.

From 1998-2001, she was an Alternative Education Teacher at Essex County Educational Services Commission in Cedar Grove, NJ. 2001 to 2002, Sandra served as a Mentor with the Newark Board of Education. 2002 to 2010, she was an ESL and High School Teacher with the Newark Board of Education in Newark, NJ where she retired because of her health. She served on the South Orange Civic Organization for many years and greatly contributed to the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Program. She became a recipient of their Beloved Community Award in 2008. She was heavily active in the South Orange/Maplewood Parent Teacher's Association where she was known around the school grounds as Mrs. Johnson.

While Sandy was a teacher by occupation, she was Marvin's bride, a supermom, a mentor, an advisor, and inspiration to so many others who knew her. Over the years, she received other awards that are too numerous to name.

In her spare time, Sandy enjoyed culture, Broadway shows, cooking (including her famous award winning Sweet Potato Pie), gardening, coordinating family picnics, assisting with Marvin's Archives/family genealogy, and creating long lasting memories.

Sandy was known to many members of the community as valiant, inventive, positive, and an early angel. Her duties will only continue in heaven. Heaven opened its doors and sent an angel to escort Sandra Elaine Johnson from her home (with her loving/devoted husband and daughter by her side) to her heavenly reward at 7am on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at the age of 66.

She leaves behind her loving and devoted husband, Marvin and daughter, Monica, sister, Yvonne A. Hopkins, mother-in-law, Elizabeth E. Johnson, sister-in-law, Marlene E. Holmes and a host of other aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, neighbors, community members and the St. Barnabas Health Hospice and Palliative Care Center (Blue Team).

Lovingly Submitted,
The Family

Order of Service

Rev. Ronald L. Slaughter, Sr., Officiating

Musical PreludeBro. Jeff Motley

Processional Clergy and Family

Opening Hymn“Blessed Assurance” - Sandy’s Favorite

Prayer of Comfort..... Rev. Jacqueline Reeves

Scripture Reading:Rev. Ronald L. Slaughter
Old Testament - Proverbs 3:1-6
New Testament - John 10:1-4

Violin SelectionSis. Charisa Rouse, Violinist

Resolution and Acknowledgements..... Sis. Josephine Horton

Remarks & Family Tribute..... Rev. Shon Adkins
Rev. Dr. Glenn B. Wilson, Sr.
Monica E. Johnson

Obituary(Read Silently)

SoloMin. Steve Hill

EulogyRev. Dr. Mary (White) Williams

Recessional.....Clergy and Family



Final Disposition
Cedar Lawn Crematory
Paterson, New Jersey



*Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size
But when I start to tell them,
They think I'm telling lies.
I say, It's in the reach of my arms,
The span of my hips, The stride of my step,
The curl of my lips. I'm a woman
Phenomenally. Phenomenal woman,
That's me.*



*I walk into a room Just as cool as you please,
And to a man, The fellows stand or
Fall down on their knees. Then they swarm around me,
A hive of honey bees. I say, It's the fire in my eyes,
And the flash of my teeth, The swing in my waist,
And the joy in my feet. I'm a woman
Phenomenally. Phenomenal woman,
That's me.*

*Men themselves have wondered What they see in me.
They try so much But they can't touch My inner mystery.
When I try to show them, They say they still can't see.
I say, It's in the arch of my back, The sun of my smile,
The ride of my breasts, The grace of my style.
I'm a woman Phenomenally. Phenomenal woman,
That's me.*

Phenomenal Woman

*Now you understand Just why my head's not bowed.
I don't shout or jump about Or have to talk real loud.
When you see me passing, It ought to make you proud.
I say, It's in the click of my heels, The bend of my hair,
the palm of my hand, The need for my care.
'Cause I'm a woman
Phenomenally. Phenomenal woman,
That's me.*

~Maya Angelou

Acknowledgements

*The family of the late **Sandra Elaine (Allen) Johnson** wishes to express their sincere appreciation for the acts of kindness and love shown to them during their time of sorrow.*

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