



Stephanie Alice Thomas

December 17, 1970 - August 19, 2020

Stephanie Alice Thomas was born on December 17, 1970, in Little Rock, Arkansas. Her older sister Elizabeth was ecstatic with a new sister and the two quickly became forever friends. Growing up in Conway, Arkansas, Stephanie was a tricycle, bicycle, moped-riding kid who loved her small neighborhood that was a haven for small children, dogs, and cats.

She graduated from high school in 1986 as an honor roll student and star tennis player. Stephanie and her doubles partner, Claudia Fulton, earned a second-place finish in the Arkansas State High School Tennis Championships their senior year. She enjoyed subbing in her mother's tennis group. She preferred being called "Steph" as she grew older.

Steph attended the University of Colorado in Boulder with a major in Women's Studies. She loved the mountains and the atmosphere of a free-spirited college community. She was a passionate activist for gender equity, LGBTQ rights, social justice, the environment, and the sacredness of all living creatures. She believed dogs and cats were sweeter and kinder than most people she knew. Her parents inherited one of her furry friends, an 85-pound Airedale dog named Pilate who became Steph's mother's # 1 friend when they moved from Conway to Nashville. Willa Cather, Georgia O'Keeffe, Eleanor Roosevelt, Jimmy Carter, and Rachael Maddow were among the people she admired most.

An avid reader, art aficionado, and free-lance writer, Steph lived in Portland, Oregon, most of her adult life. She was a “Roads Scholar” and loved to hit the road to visit friends from Sante Fe to Portland to Boston. Her friends will remember most her big brain, kind, loving and fierce spirit, gentleness, wicked sense of humor, and passion for a better world. She lived her values.

Steph was rarely early, but it was way too early for death, leaving heart-broken family and friends. Continuing to mourn her loss and honor her life are parents Rubye Lynn and Bethel (Bo) Thomas, Jr., sister Elizabeth Thomas, brother-in-law Chris Carlson, nephew, Bo Carlson, and long-time partner, Becca More'. She is preceded in death by grandparents Rubye and Hamp Dobbins and Mary and Bethel Thomas, Sr. as well as her great aunt, Alice Gregory, for whom she is named.