



Jane Woodworth Read

September 29, 1943 - January 13, 2024

Jane was born on September 29, 1943, in Lakewood, Ohio. She was the daughter of Warner Woodworth and Virginia Hopkins Woodworth. Jane moved to Hollywood, Florida in 1953, and then to Sarasota, Florida in 1998.

Jane graduated from South Broward High School and attended Rollins College where she lettered in five varsity sports (golf, swimming, softball, basketball, and volleyball). In 1961, she won the Florida State Girls' State Amateur and traveled to Seattle, Washington to represent the state of Florida in the National Junior Golf Championship.

In 1964, Jane won the Women's International Four-Ball tournament. She then became a member of the LPGA teaching division in 1965 and earned her way onto the LPGA Tour from 1967-1969. In 1968, she was narrowly edged out of the LPGA's rookie-of-the-year honors finishing runner-up, and she was awarded Honorary Mayor status and received the Key-to-the-City of Hollywood. In 1969, Jane left the LPGA Tour and became the Chairman of the LPGA Teaching Division, which eventually became the role of National President of the LPGA Professionals.

Jane was a "teachers' teacher" and developed an "area representative" model, which became the predecessor of the geographic section system still in use today. In 1980, Jane was elected to LPGA Master Professional status,

and she was awarded National Teacher of the Year honors in 1981.

Jane was inducted into the LPGA Professionals Hall of Fame in 2010. Currently, she is the last professional inducted in the LPGA Professionals Hall of Fame who also competed on the LPGA Tour. Additionally, she was honored to serve on the LPGA Hall of Fame committee and participate in the selection of new members. Some other notable career accomplishments include being the Director of Golf, as well as the Director of Instruction and the Tournament Director at Orangebrook Golf Club in Hollywood, Florida (the same site as her Four-Ball victory back in 1964). There, she also developed a pilot program that grew into the USGA's First Tee program for junior golfers and pioneered the annual summer junior golf program in Hollywood. After moving to Sarasota, she continued to grow the game as a teaching professional at the River Club until retiring in 2022 when she joined Legacy Golf Club and looked forward to playing more herself, with her family.

Jane was a lifelong Episcopalian. She was a member of St. James Episcopal church in Hollywood, Florida, and was a proud member at the Church of the Nativity since 1998 when she moved to Sarasota. The church was always incredibly important to her, and she gave back her time and talents to the church having served previously as a senior warden and chair of multiple pastoral search committees over the years. She remained incredibly involved in her church and faith community, first in Hollywood and later in Sarasota at the Church of the Nativity, where she delighted in raising her voice and lifting up the Holy Spirit.

As impressive as her many accomplishments were, Jane was most proud and passionate about her family and network of friends. She would talk at length about them to anyone who would listen. Her love for others was undeniable and beyond measure, and every life she touched was better for it. Jane became an instant friend to everyone she met, and above all, her family

meant everything to her. Her heart was always full, despite the love she spread so far and wide, and her door was always open.

Jane is survived by her loving and devoted husband, Todd W. Read, her loving son, Daniel Richard Read and his wife Lori, their two loving sons, Daniel and Michael, and her loving daughter, Julie Ann Read, and her two loving sons, Matthew and Mark.

The memorial service will be held at The Church of the Nativity (5900 Lockwood Ridge Road, Sarasota, FL 34243) on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at 11:00 a.m., with a light reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions or donations to The Church of the Nativity.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

Church of Nativity Episcopal
5900 Lockwood Ridge Rd
Sarasota, FL 34243
(941) 355-3262

Tribute Wall



“ *I am so ashamed that I have only just seen that Jane has passed. Please accept our sincere condolences. Peter and I so looked forward to meeting with Jane and Todd when we came out on holiday. Such a wonderfully talented woman, a kind teacher and so funny! Rest easy Jane, every shot will be a hole in one now! With love and gratitude for the special times we had, just wish there had been more of them. With lots of love to you all. Peter and Lynn Maslen (Berkshire UK)*

Lynn Maslen - September 28, 2024 at 06:57 AM

DB

“ *My favorite memory is when Janie shared her story of how she and Todd met including their courtship. A group of guests sat around our dining room table and politely listened to every detail. Todd was sitting by her side and gently interjected a comment here or there, both demonstrating their love and respect for each other. That was only two months before Janie passed. All of us present that evening, now recall this loving story as a memory of what Janie treasured.*

Janie has such detail and animation when telling a story about anything and everything. Her enthusiasm was magnetic. I loved how she greeted me and others with a joyful spirit. No doubt she is enthusiastically greeting all of God's angels and teaching them how to golf with lots of praise and passion for the game she loved.

Love, Diane and Tom Burhenne

Diane Burhenne - February 03, 2024 at 09:41 AM

TB

“ I worked with Jane at Pro Golf Discount for years. We made it fun, did a lot of story telling, solved all the world's problems and sold the dream of a “better game” to the golfing public. I will miss her quick wit and ever present smile. Tom burhenne

tom burhenne - February 03, 2024 at 09:27 AM

JD

“ The Dambrogio's and their physical therapy clinic planted a tree in memory of Jane. We will miss her smiling face and friendship and will enjoy knowing her spirit will live on in a growing tree memorial.

Jane Dambrogio - February 01, 2024 at 05:33 PM

DK

“ Dambrogio K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jane Woodworth Read.

Dambrogio K. - February 01, 2024 at 05:30 PM

TF

“ The Scalzitti Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Jane Woodworth Read.



The Scalzitti Family - January 26, 2024 at 06:01 PM

TF

“ The Scalzitti Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jane Woodworth Read.

The Scalzitti Family - January 26, 2024 at 06:01 PM

MS

“ Jane was a wonderful teacher. June and I enjoyed numerous golf lessons, which I attribute to why we’re still playing the game. She just had a way to make instructions stick. She had a great personality and always had a smile.

Maria Ferraro & June Steck - January 26, 2024 at 01:44 PM

RV

“ Russ and Brett Valin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jane Woodworth Read.

Russ and Brett Valin - January 24, 2024 at 05:38 PM



“ Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Jane Woodworth Read.



January 24, 2024 at 05:38 PM

PZ

“ Jane, when we played a practice round many years ago, we didn't know each other. We were just competitors on tour. Yet, we left the 18th green as long lost friends. I will miss you so much. You had the blessings of God, and you always followed through doing the right thing. I was blessed with your friendship, and was honored to walk the fairways of life with you. You were loved by so many Thanks Jane.

Penny Zavichas

Penny Zavichas - January 24, 2024 at 10:33 AM

DW

“ This is my Aunt Janey. I am grieving her loss and still shocks me how she can be gone. I know she loved the Lord and loved her church and her family. She is sorely missed. I come from a long line of teachers in my family and she was a very talented golf teacher. If they have golf in heaven, I bet she'd organize it and play in it as she walked with the Lord and praised him.

I imagine my dad walking with a straight back, with strong arms and legs in his heavenly body with his dear sister Janey as they laugh at the joy of sharing stories of what each missed since he passed in 2007. I also imagine the reunion of Jane with her mom and dad Virginia and Warren Woodworth. And I think of their family all standing together as they sing beautiful songs to Jesus with the heavenly host.

One thing I would like to add to this beautiful obituary is that she was a fighter. She had to overcome health diagnoses that she had to fight for her life through her treatments and doctors visits and she won! Also probably not known to many people is that she had trauma in her life as a young woman and had to learn to cope with some PTSD. Her faith and her priest gave her some coaching tips that she passed to me. I leaned on her when I dealt with trauma of my own in my thirties. She helped me not to feel alone and how to give forgiveness. She is so kind and forgiving to all people around her! Learning to forgive is such a God honoring task. We live in a world full of hurt and I know she had compassion for people walking through tough times.

May God give you peace Aunt Janey as you have come into his Glory. I pray for our family as we remember her life.

Dana Wooten - January 24, 2024 at 02:11 AM

CL

“ Our relationship with Jane, and Todd goes back a long way! My favorite story is: Todd said: Jane is feeling good, even while she hasn't hit a golf ball in what was about five years ... so let's play nine holes and Alicia and I along with Jane and Todd go out to Outback for dinner. Ok! After five years of not playing she had 3-4 birdies! Go figure 🏌️❤️

Cliff - January 23, 2024 at 05:30 PM

TP

“ The International Tax Practice planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jane Woodworth Read.

The International Tax Practice - January 23, 2024 at 10:38 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jane Woodworth Read.



January 23, 2024 at 10:38 AM

PK

“ Jane was the best thing that ever happened to The River Club. I am blessed to have known her. God bless you Jane.

Peggy Kunkle - January 22, 2024 at 09:01 PM

CL

“ Oh Jane, You were such a presence on our street, like a permanent fixture. You were always out there, chatting up the neighbors, in your ever so upbeat, positive manner. Just being a friendly, kind neighbor and friend. It's hard to believe you're gone. You will be missed so very much! Cher & Bob

Cher Leigh - January 22, 2024 at 06:44 PM

JR

“ You are in my heart forever, Mama, and I will miss you every day! I know you are now God's best angel! I love you! XOXO

Julie Read - January 22, 2024 at 11:48 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory - January 22, 2024 at 11:07 AM