



Janet B. Penney

August 20, 1930 - April 21, 2016

Janet "Jan" Penney (nee Banninga), of West Bloomfield, Michigan, passed away on April 21, 2016 at the age of 85. She was born in Toledo, Ohio and grew up in Youngstown, Ohio. Jan is survived by her companion, Tom Fritchek; daughter, Linda Redman (nee Penney); son, Steven Penney; brother, Scott Banninga; sister-in-law, Lin Banninga; grandchildren, David and James Redman; and great-grandchildren, Leila and Kathleen Redman. She was preceded in death by her former husband, Richard Penney. Jan attended the University of Michigan for two years. She loved Mozart, folk music and folk dance.

An informal memorial service will be held in southeast Michigan later this year. Charitable donations may be made to the Michigan Humane Society, Focus: HOPE or American Cancer Society. Arrangements by Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, Royal Oak, www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

Tribute Wall

KS

“*Jan brought a joyful and enthusiastic presence to folk dancing, and because she knew of my interest in birds and birding, she often greeted me with a story of a recent bird sighting that she had enjoyed. In a wheelchair, nearing the end of her life, she was still able to gift her visitors with smiles and laughter. Folk dancing has lost someone very dear,*
Kathy Smith”

kathy smith - May 16, 2016 at 07:47 AM

JR

“*My Grandma Jan was a wonderful person; Who I loved to visit with, and she enjoyed spending time with her great grandchildren. I remember visiting her and Tom, Leila and Katie loved seeing the chipmunks at her house. She will be missed greatly.*”

James R - May 09, 2016 at 02:43 PM

AJ

“*Janet and I were friends all through Boardman school and she was a trusted loyal friend. That was a million years ago, but one never forgets a true friend. My sincere sympathy to the family.*”

Audrey (Bieber) John - May 02, 2016 at 08:03 AM

SP

Thank you Audrey.

Steven Penney - May 07, 2016 at 05:08 AM

CV

“ Jan was a great person that loved dogs and folk dancing among other things but those 2 things made us bond as friends. She was always thoughtful and asked about the health of one of my daughters that has a serious health issue. When her health took a bad turn and she couldn't dance anymore we all missed her. She loved life and I would see her at festivals occasionally. We will never forget her because she was part of our lives.

Cecelia VanAntwerp - May 01, 2016 at 08:17 PM

SP

Thank you Cecilia and thank you for visiting her at the nursing home.

Steven Penney - May 07, 2016 at 05:10 AM

MT

“ My condolences to the family. Recall the pleasant memories you shared with your loved one. May it comfort you to know that God is near to those broken at heart.-Psalms 34:18

Ms. Tuffy - April 26, 2016 at 05:55 PM

SP

I'm Steve Penney, Jan's son. I'll be holding a celebration of my Mom's life in southeast Michigan in either August or September. I'll post here and will be sending invites via the U.S. mail when I have the details. I followed her wishes and had her eyes donated to the Michigan Eye Bank and had her body donated to the University of Michigan Medical School. She had dementia since the spring of 2013 and died finally of pneumonia. How I miss her being the best audience of my humor and how she opened up the world of international folkdance and Israeli folkdance to me and the scores of great people I've met as a result of her. God how I miss her...

Steve Penney - May 04, 2016 at 07:20 PM

SP

Thank you Ms. Tuffy.

Steven Penney - May 07, 2016 at 05:12 AM

SP

If you have not signed up to get a mailing from me regarding Jan's memorial service via International folk dancing or Israeli folk dancing or if I have not yet told you by phone or in-person ,and wish to attend the 8/28, 12:30PM memorial service please contact me, her son Steve Penney, by emailing me at s_r_penney@yahoo.com. It will be in the Oak Park, MI area.

Steven Penney - July 03, 2016 at 11:05 PM

SP

Thank you to the 44 people that attended the memorial service for Jan, my Mom. It was held on Sunday afternoon on 8/28/16 at the Sahara restaurant in Oak Park, MI. I did the eulogy and religious readings. Next, singer/song writer/activist and friend of Mom's, Josh White Jr., performed three songs. Fellow folk-dancers danced three Israeli folkdances, and a long lunch followed. A photo display showed pictures of Mom, friends, her late companion of 37 years Tom, and her family - an 85 year perspective.

Steve Penney - September 03, 2016 at 05:45 PM