



## Jo Anne Hagen

May 9, 1943 - August 26, 2018

Jo Anne Hagen, 75, passed away unexpectedly on August 26, 2018, from a severe reaction to a prescribed antibiotic. Jo Anne was a resident of Fort Collins, CO.

Jo Anne was born on May 9, 1943 in Marshalltown, IA to William and Elizabeth Petrone. She graduated from Gilbert High School, Gilbert, IA in 1961, and married Ronald Hagen the same year. They were blessed with two sons, Michael and Eric. Jo Anne and Ron settled in Gilbert where Jo Anne served as town clerk for several years. She and Ron were very active in their children's school and sports activities. While continuing to work full-time at Hach Co. (where she started as a shipping clerk in 1980), and prompted by Ron's worsening heart condition, Jo Anne started college classes at Simpson College. She graduated summa cum laude in 1991 with a B.A. degree in English, with a focus on horror literature. From there she continued on to law school at Drake University. In December 1994, Jo Anne earned a J.D. degree with Honors from Drake. Hach Company promoted her to Chief Counsel in 1995.

Tragedy struck Jo Anne in 1987 when her youngest son Eric died. This was followed by the death of her husband Ron from a heart attack in 1996.

In late 1999, Jo Anne started a new and exciting phase of her life in Windsor, CO, where she began what was to be a very successful private law practice, taking on David Melusky as partner in 2003. She had many professional accomplishments, and was most proud of a Distinguished Award from the Colorado Supreme Court for her pro bono work. Jo Anne retired at the end of 2015, though she continued to use her talents and expertise to advise friends and family.

In 2000, Jo Anne married the second love of her life, Dr. Kenneth Ogan, a former Hach colleague. Together, they explored the world, from Mayan ruins in the Yucatan to prehistoric cave paintings in France, from the giant telescopes in Chile to the Orkney Islands of Scotland (a personal favorite of Jo Anne's). No matter where they journeyed, they reveled in new experiences, uncovering history, savoring local delicacies, all with a

good glass of wine.

In addition to her many professional achievements, Jo Anne was a lover of culture both high and low. In her youth she won the Mid-West Regional Metropolitan Opera contest. She loved classical music but was equally at home rocking to Tom Petty. She was a film buff who could expound on high art or grade B horror flicks with equal aplomb. She knew and appreciated science but could also entertain the idea of ghosts and past lives. Having raised hunting dogs she loved all breeds, and had canine companions most of her adult life. No shrinking violet, she won the state of Iowa women's contest for trap shooting.

She left an indelible impression on all who knew and loved her. We are sad that she has passed but our lives are richer for having shared them with her. Jo Anne was an exemplar of a life well-lived.

In addition to her husband Ken, Jo Anne is survived by her son Michael Hagen (Julie Waters) and grandchildren Jaret Hagen and Jennifer Hagen, and brother Kenneth Petrone (Sharon). She is also survived by her step-son Erik Ogan (Chiara).

Celebration of Life services are being planned for later this year, in Fort Collins, CO and in Ames, IA. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Weld County Legal Services, Greeley, CO: [www.weldcountylegalservices.wordpress.com](http://www.weldcountylegalservices.wordpress.com), or to your local animal shelter.

# Comments

---



“ So sorry to hear. I had the pleasure of working with JoAnne at the Hach Company in both Ames, Iowa and Loveland, Colorado. I watched her, impressively go from the shipping clerk to the corporate counsel - an amazing American Dream success story and an inspiration to many! She will be missed.

**Dave Ruane** - October 16, 2018 at 01:18 PM

---



“ Jo Anne was one of the strongest women I know. She was intelligent, resourceful and compassionate. I considered her my friend, mentor and advisor. Jo Anne had a quick wit, infectious smile and a lovely laugh. The world will miss this bright soul.



**Shelley Coldiron** - October 12, 2018 at 09:36 PM

---



“ We will always remember Jo Anne for her witty sense of humor, kindness, and intelligence.  
It was a pleasure to spend time with her and an honor to be her friend.

**Lena and Yuri Sikorski** - October 02, 2018 at 01:21 PM

---



“ JoAnn enjoyed good food, good wine, and a good time with friends. We enjoyed all the times we were with her and Ken. We will miss her. Lola and Ed Kenyon

**Lola and Ed Kenyon** - September 09, 2018 at 09:45 AM

---



“ I have often thought about her when I drive down Dayton Road where she lived years ago when she went to school at Milford. Jo Anne was a grade ahead of me and her brother a year or two behind me. She had a beautiful smile. So sorry for her families loss.

**Karen Petersen Willson** - September 05, 2018 at 11:00 PM

---



“ oh wow=where to begin==bridge games with her, her mother and a neighbor; the trip to Glacier National Park; family get togethers; visit in 1999 when Bill was still alive. Met Ken and liked him instantly. Oh, must not forget the Can Cun trip I was invited on. And the drive to see the pyramid ruins. I do not remember how to spell it, but I was awestruck. I could list more, but those are the biggies. I will miss her e-mails and "talking" on the computer. One of my awesome sister-in-laws>>>>



**Barbara Petrone** - September 05, 2018 at 09:18 PM

---



“ I just want to say "thank you" to whoever wrote Jo Anne's obituary. There was so much I I didn't know about her.

Personally, I just don't know where to start. Except...I took every opportunity I could to gab with her and Ken at parties or on their porch because I always came away feeling like I'd just had the time of my life. Even if all we talked about was pulp horror or some useless politician.

Also, Jo Anne secretly played the part of our neighborhood Easter Bunny for several years after leaving Windsor. Something I'll want to tell my kids about later...

**Erik Knowles** - September 04, 2018 at 06:08 PM