



Jan Wall

January 26, 1940 - March 12, 2010

Jan Wall, age 70 of Fort Collins procrastinated about it (to the very end), but died of complications of ovarian cancer at her home on March 12, 2010. Her family, also possessors of the procrastination gene, will hold a memorial celebration of her life on Monday, May 17, 2010 at 4pm at Unity Church of Fort Collins, 1401 West Vine St. Janet Mabel Bursch was born January 26, 1940 in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Arnold and Mabel Bursch. She grew up in Hopkins, MN; graduated from Colorado State College in Greeley; and has lived in Ft. Collins since the early 1970's. She was a crafter and an artist, with a passion for birds and other wildlife. She was an avid Bridge player and currently served as a paraprofessional at Riffenburgh Elementary School. Jan is survived by her daughter, Jenny (and Red) Knighton, and grandson Henry Knighton of Thornton, CO; daughter Kim Wall of Durango, CO; and brother, Russ (and Lee Mauk) Bursch of Minneapolis, MN. A close circle of friends and caregivers provided extraordinary love and support to their friend, colleague, and patient, and, to them, Jan's family sends their gratitude. Memorial contributions may be made to Riffenburgh Elementary School, 1320 E Stuart St, Ft. Collins, CO 8052.

Tribute Wall



“ *Jan Wall*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Possessing numerous talents, Jan was one of the most humble people I have known. I will always treasure the beautiful craft items she made and generously gave to me. Jan rarely spoke of herself, but she was so proud of and adored her grandson, Henry. She would light up whenever she mentioned him! I remember once when she marveled that a much younger Henry could do tasks that some kindergartners hadn't mastered yet. She so loved being a grandma!*

Claudia Benner - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Jenny & Kim*

I am so sorry to hear about your mom. She was a great lady with a beautiful smile. When I think of her I remember Tavelli school days and Campfire girls--a lot of fun and good memories.

Cindy McCreery - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Dear Jenny & Kim,

Jan was so amazing through this terrible illness. I am so sorry you have lost her, but I am glad her struggle is over.

Sincerely,

Joan Glabach

Joan Glabach - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ We were so sorry to hear about Jan. She was a very special person. We always enjoyed the contribution that she made to the annual Artisans' Collection Show. She will be missed. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Members of the Artisans' Collection.

Artisans' Collection - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ Jan and I shared a special bond that neither one of us liked to talk about. I, too, had cancer, different than her's, but equally unnerving, upsetting, and time-consuming. I too lost my hair during treatments and I think she felt she could talk to me about it. I knew. My heart breaks that I didn't call her, write her, or something. I hope you, her family, and God can forgive me for not being the friend I should have been. I do remember that when she was going to be a "Grandma" she was vocal about that and OH SO happy! Jenny and Kim you are in my thoughts, and I am so sorry for your loss.

Diane Rice - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Please accept my sympathies for your loss. Julia

Julia Thornton Cherry - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ Jan will always be remembered for her strength, kindness, and loyalty.

Kealy DeHaan - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ I grew up in Hopkins and Janet was a good friend in grade school. We weren't in many classes when we were older but she still remained a friend. She always had such fun birthday parties. My mother lives at Chapel View Apartments now and I drive by the Bursch house when I visit. My condolences to the family.

shirley Kron hammersten - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ I was very sad to learn of Jan's death from Sue Armstead on the 12th. She was such a dear friend and we didn't see one another except when I returned to Ft. Collins. She mentioned many times about coming to visit me in Florida and I wish she'd been able to make that visit.

Ginny and Kim, your Mother was a wonderful supporter of you and I know you'll miss her greatly. She was so excited to have her grandson, Henry.

*Our love to you both,
Marilyn and Mike*

Marilyn Hackett and Michael Hackett - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ You are in my thoughts and prayers. I was one of the new (4 years) players in Jan's Tuesday night bridge club. She was a fine lady with a fine sense of humor and I enjoyed playing with her. She was a much better player than I; however, she was quite patient with my poor quality bridge.

I do regret that I did not come to her farewell birthday party, but I did not know about it. I felt a bit left out when I heard about it, but later realized it was a communication problem in our club.

Knowing Jan's desire for privacy (and her procrastination), I was hesitant to contact her. I did not comprehend that she was that ill; now I wish I had stopped by with some flowers.

We read your email to her friends last bridge night. Thank you for that. I think she was very fortunate to have two lovely and caring daughters. She loved you very much.

Betty Roehr

Betty Roehr - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ My dear friend Jan. I am so sorry she is gone and I know her daughters will miss her alot. Don't know if they know, Jan and I grew up in the same town and my Grandfather owned the hardware store nextdoor to Jan's fathers restaurant. So it was with disbelief that we found ourselves in Fort Collins together. Our years in Campfire were so enjoyable and we shared an interest in those young kids that bonded us for life. Jan was always an enthusiastic planner and doer and she made our projects together such fun. We have great sorrow for your loss and for ourselves as well.

Tony LaVelle - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *What an honor it was to know Jan and have her for a friend. She was amazingly talented and always willing to share her crafting knowledge and supplies. Such a gentle, honest, hardworking soul who never complained.*

When I think of her I see a huge grin, and I will miss her greatly. May God bless you Jenny, Kim and Russ, and hold you close in His loving care.

Marilynn

Marilynn Michie - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AA

“ *We've lost a very dear classmate. You were always so friendly and understanding.*

I'm sure that you have made many new friends in heaven by now.

Our love and condolences to your family.

Gene Lazaretti

Anne (Reeves) Austin - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

My mother, Fran Thompson, and Jan carved birds together.

Kacy Thompson - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ This is a tribute that I find very hard to write because it just shouldn't be. Jan, you and I were friends from kindergarten, through all the years of Sunday School, confirmation, grade school, junior high and senior high. I think we talked on the phone every night of our growing up years. If you weren't at my house, I was at your house. I felt like part of your family and maybe a pest to Russ. We kind of lost track of our closeness when you moved to Colorado, but it was always exciting to know you were coming home for the Class Reunions. I'm so glad to have been with you at our last one and to have spent the early part of the day with you, Russ and Lee. That was a very special time. I shall treasure forever the Santa Claus you brought me. Say hello to everyone up there.
Dolly

Rollie Sidla - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ Dear Jan,
I remember so well our times together in Camp Fire Girls, all those formative years. I also recall times at your folks' house, with your big tall brother, Russ, around while we were there. You were pretty, sweet, and mellow, with a ready smile at all of our Hopkins High School class reunions. I, too, lived in Ft. Collins for many years, though I'm not sure we ever knew we were living in the same town. I already miss your smile at our next reunion! It sounds like family and friends made your passage sweet as they could and lovely as you deserved, my lady. Love, Debbie Johnson Gessaman

Deborah (Johnson) Gessaman - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ God bless this family. I pray for peace and healing to all. Remember to take care of yourselves!

March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Jenny,

I am so sorry for you're loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and you're family.

*Love,
Mindy and family.*

Mindy Baumann - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ *As one of the crazier friends of Jen (so I'm told), Jan was always very accepting, kind hearted, and motherly, even while rolling her eyes at me! I don't remember a time when she wasn't smiling that really big smile (except for that fake scowl she would give me from time to time!) She has gone to a better place to rest her soul in peace!!*

Rick

Rick & Lynne Lovejoy - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *I was sorry to hear about Janet. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

Shirley Ophoven Schmit - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *I was saddened to hear of Jan's passing. She was a dear friend and sister. Her happy smile will never be forgotten.*

Carole Mink McCain - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Jan was a constant friend over the years. She was a fantastic wood carver, and I feel fortunate to have a Loon with 2 babies riding on her back. Lyle and I have always loved it and have received many compliments on the workmanship. I have happy memories of her visiting Russ and we would take all our kids down to Lake Calhoun for the day. Our special love and prayers to Russ and Lee
Joanne

Joanne (Jindra) Wandrei - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ Jan was a talented woman with a smile that would light up the world. My condolences to her family and all her friends. We will all miss her.

Renee Dotson Dilts - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Jan was the kindest soul. She was a lot of fun and a dear friend. I am really going to miss her!!

Sandi Chamberlin - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Jan was a wonderful, creative woman. To know Jan was to know quality friendship. She was forever loyal to her friends and family. She was a very creative and wonderful artist.
I had the pleasure of seeing her this summer for our sorority's 50th reunion of knowing each other. She again portrayed the qualities of a classy, sincere, and loyal friend.
What a pleasure and honor it has been to be counted as one of her friends. What a blessing she gave to all of us who knew her.
Best wishes to her dear family as they go through this difficult time.
She will be dearly missed.

Carolyn Wallisch - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ *Lovely woman; dedicated to her family.*

Marilyn Anderson - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *We will miss our Jan. The best neighbor anyone could ask for. Over the years, we became more than that. She was our dear friend and we loved her. We loved our irises!! We will miss seeing her out there mowing her lawn and thinking, "dang, wish she would mow ours." If we would have asked, she would have! Oh, and her generosity with the peaches and plums. Our little boy, Mason, loved going over there with a basket.*

Barry was always ready with a screwdriver or hammer, and reluctantly, Jan would accept.

I (Brenda) will never look at irises again without thinking of Jan.

Brenda Barry and Mason - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ *Dear Kim and Jenny-We were so sad to hear of your mother's illness and death. We remember fondly our years living next door to you all. We had a wonderful life on Miramont Dr. and you all were a huge part of that.*

You and your families are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. My parents were so impressed by your love, kindness and patience towards your mother in her last days. She was a lucky woman to have such wonderful daughters.

love- Dianne, Kim and Amy Madden

Dianne Madden Fulwider - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ The current discussion for the Jan Wall memorial donations to Riffenburgh include a tree and bird bath in the front of the school and a reading chair or corner in the library.
The final decision will be made in the Fall jointly with Jan’s family and school.

We appreciate your support and will keep you posted.

Sincerely,
Jenny Knighton
Kim Wall

Jenny Knighton - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ What can I say? I miss my friend. I want to tell her "don't forget to bid three no trump when you have three passes to you".
God bless Jan and her family.

Carolyn Stienmier - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ Our mothers were bird carvers together. My thoughts are with you in your loss.

Kacy Thompson - March 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM