



Joan R. Gandel

February 17, 2022

Joan R. Gandel, 76, of San Jose, CA passed away in Fort Collins, CO, on February 17, 2022. Joan was born to Thurman and Laurene (Petersen) Tolleson on March 10, 1945 in Selma, CA, and raised in Reedley, CA. She graduated from Reedley H.S. (1963) and received her Bachelor of Music from the University of Redlands (1967). A talented musician and gifted teacher, Joan went on to receive an M.A. in Music Education from Stanford University. Joan taught piano from her private studio for 60 years. She raised three daughters and was a dedicated friend. She loved laughter, chocolate, late nights, and traveling the world with family.

Joan is survived by her daughter Denise (Damon) Kendrix of Elk Grove, CA, and their daughters Allison, Melissa, and Lauren, daughter Heidi (Rick) Jacobi of Fort Collins, CO, and their daughters Kimberly, Kaylee, and Kara, and daughter Jennifer (Jeremy) Ridgeway of Fort Collins, CO, and their daughters Greta and Clare. Joan is also survived by her sister, Janet (Bob) Zoller of Fresno, CA, and numerous nieces and nephews. Joan is preceded in death by her parents, Thurman and Laurene Tolleson, and her brother, Curt Tolleson.

A private service will be held for Joan. A memorial in the Bay Area will be announced in the Spring.

Tribute Wall



“ *Joan R. Gandel*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Joan was our first and favorite piano teacher (and only piano teacher until she had to retire to fight her illness, and then move). She instilled the wonder of music in my kids, and reinforced excellence while playing. Oh how they excelled leaps and bounds as her students. They LOVED her. We miss her so much. She was a woman of strong faith, of courage, and of generous heart. Helping and tending to those who were sick and needed tangible support, or sometimes just company. Praying, praying. Singing. Playing. She touched so many, as she touched the keys with her magical grace and talent. Now she'll play for the angels, and accompany them as they sing joyful hymns of praise. Be well, Mrs. Gandel. See you on the other side.*



Elizabeth Tate - March 16, 2022 at 08:03 PM

JT

“ I will miss you Joan! I wanted to write a tribute to you on your birthday, today. It's hard to believe that we have known you for 15 years. You were an incredible piano teacher to Bethany. Every time she plays the piano, I will think of you. You have become a precious memory in our lives and a special friend that I will greatly miss. We may have a large age difference but we could talk on and on about everything. When you came in for your eye exams, we would spend the whole exam time talking about everything. You would always run me late on my appointments. I admire your faithfulness to God, especially during these past years. But I know that you are now playing beautiful music up in heaven. :)

Judy Tom - March 10, 2022 at 09:44 PM