



Janice L. Beightel

January 14, 1948 - February 26, 2022

Beightel, Janice L., of St. Louis, Missouri, was born January 14, 1948 in Abilene, Kansas, to Irene (nee; Starburg) Schilling and died surrounded by her family on Saturday, February 26, 2022 at the age of 74 after a fall in her home.

She is preceded in death by her mother; her father, Deene Peterson; her step-father, Alfred Schilling; and her brother, Don Schilling.

She is survived by her husband, Dave Beightel; her children Kara (Karl) Krekeler, Tyler Beightel, Olivia Beightel, Lily (Tyler) Kusterer, and Reece Beightel; her grandchildren, Logan and Molly Krekeler, and Emma Kusterer; her siblings Delores Merrill, Barb Rathbun, Betty Pickerel, Neil Schilling, Brad Peterson, Renita Beatty, and Carla Walker; along with numerous extended family members, friends, and former students.

Jan grew up on a farm in northeastern Kansas and attended Onaga High School. After graduation, she attended Emporia State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in teaching, as well as founding lifelong friendships with the College Gang and finding her passion for educating young children, particularly through art. Jan taught for 35 years before retiring, and spent her summers traveling to 49 states, going camping and hiking, and painting her traditional "lakes, rocks, trees, and mountains." During her years

teaching in Kansas and Montana, Jan touched the lives of thousands of students and their families, becoming close friends with many of her students in the years after they left her classroom. Jan never met a stranger she didn't talk to and become friends with, and she was always up for something silly and fun, often involving costumes, bad poetry, and mild embarrassment on the part of her family. They wouldn't have had her any other way.

Over the past few years, Jan struggled with liver failure, and in December received a life-saving liver transplant, which went well, and gave her and her family hope for the future. She was making a promising recovery when she fell at home, causing her death. While her family reckons with this cruel twist of fate, they are thankful for the liver transplant, which allowed her last weeks to be spent in better health than she had experienced in years. She will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

In memory of Jan, please make a donation to a local arts education organization; do something good for a kid in your life; and register to be an organ donor. Memorial donations can also be made to Donate Life America, www.donatelife.net. Celebration of life events are being planned in St. Louis and Kansas, both of which will take place in the spring. Family and friends can review and share stories, photos and condolences online at www.stlfuneral.com and follow details of the celebrations of life at www.facebook.com/stlchapelhill.

Tribute Wall



“ *Janice L. Beightel*

January 06, 2023 at 10:46 PM



“ *Alfred Liu Wang lit a candle in memory of Janice L. Beightel*



Alfred Liu Wang - March 10, 2022 at 07:34 AM



“ *1 file added to the album*



Alfred Liu Wang - March 10, 2022 at 04:57 AM

AW

“ *Jan is a great lady I have ever seen in my life. She always laughs and smiles with fun in her life. And she is so creative not only in arts but also in daily life. She is so easy-going and generous to me and my family. Her laughters are still around me in the air whenever I see her photos.*

So sad my family didn't have a chance to see her again after ten years my son was born when we stayed with Jan's family in Eureka, St.Louis.

Best wishes to Jan. Peace and love with fun and laughters will be always with you in your paradise.

Liu Wang with family

Alfred Liu Wang - March 10, 2022 at 04:44 AM

NB

“ *So sorry for your loss Dave, my sincere condolences to you and your family.*
Nancy Berg

Nancy Berg - March 04, 2022 at 01:42 PM

WD

“ *Wendy Dutton lit a candle in memory of Janice L. Beightel*



Wendy Dutton - March 03, 2022 at 09:03 PM

SC

“ I taught with Jan many years ago in Eudora, KS. What a delightful person! Both of my children were fortunate enough to have her as their Kindergarten teacher. My oldest will be 40 this year, and I still have both of their flower refrigerator magnets she had them make with their Kindergarten pictures in the middle on my fridge. We had many great talks and good times teaching together. She will be greatly missed.

Susan Carden - March 03, 2022 at 11:57 AM

TB

“ Dave, Kara, Tyler, Liv, Lily, & Reece
Thinking of you!!! May you all find comfort in the many years of memories - a life time of laughs, smiles & stories. I love Janice more than words could ever express. I so miss my sister, I will miss our talks & adventures but most of all I will miss our friendship.
Sending love & hugs, Tom & Renita

Tom & Renita Beatty - March 02, 2022 at 11:43 AM

LW

“ Janice was one of my favorite people in high school!! She was one day younger than me and so much fun to be around. Her passing makes me sad but I know the world is a better place for her being in it. My sympathies to her family and friends.

Loretta Brunkow Wege - March 01, 2022 at 08:53 PM

JC

“ *Jan was always a pleasure to be with; she had such a positive attitude. We appreciated her artistic eye and talent, and she was always ready to help Joe when he needed help with a painting. We truly wish that we could have known Jan longer. She will be missed. Our sympathy and prayers to her family.*
Suson Hills neighbors,
Pam and Joe Coughlin

Joe and Pam Coughlin - March 01, 2022 at 04:18 PM

LM

“ *Lacey Meuchel lit a candle in memory of Janice L. Beightel*



Lacey Meuchel - March 01, 2022 at 01:53 PM

PB

“ *Jan, you never failed to smile or bring a smile! My memories as a new teacher are vague, but the atmosphere you and John created down in the kindergarten wing was one of fun, excitement, joy, and acceptance! You touched lives immeasurably!*



Paul Boone - March 01, 2022 at 01:16 PM



“ *Kerry Morris-Hanson lit a candle in memory of Janice L. Beightel*



Kerry Morris-Hanson - February 28, 2022 at 10:26 PM