



Jane Ann Meyer

June 3, 1934 - December 12, 2020

Jane Ann Meyer, age 86, of Kankakee passed away peacefully Saturday, December 12, 2020 at Riverside Senior Life Communities surrounded by her family.

Jane was born on June 3, 1934 in Paxton, IL, the daughter of William & Annamae (nee Chambers) Thompson.

She graduated from Paxton High School in 1952. She attended Illinois State University from 1952-1956. It was there that she met the love of her life, Alan Meyer. On June 10, 1956, a day after graduating, they were married. They moved to Baltimore, MD where Alan was stationed in the United States Army. They returned to Illinois to begin their teaching careers in Peotone.

In the early 60's, Alan began working for his father-in-law, William Thompson, who had begun opening several restaurants called the Redwood Inn. In 1964, Alan & Jane became the operators of the Kankakee locations. As Jane once said, "This is a family run establishment and the people working with us and the people we serve are part of our family." Jane & Alan both believed that this core philosophy allowed them to run a flourishing business for 34 years.

Jane was an active volunteer in the Kankakee community. She held many offices in her 30 years as a member of the Riverside Auxiliary. She served on the Riverside Medical Board of Directors and on the Oakside Board of Directors. Jane also served for years on the Helen Wheeler Center for Community Mental Health Board. She was honored as Riverside Samaritan of the Year in 1995 as an individual and in 2014 as a member of the Riverside Auxiliary.

Perhaps most fitting was her service on the Riverside Senior Living Center Board helping to plan the facility where she and her husband would eventually reside. In 2013, Jane was honored as a Riverside Emeritus Board Member for all the years of involvement marked with excellence and generosity of time and talent.

Gardening brought Jane much joy. As a member of the Kankakee Kultivators, her beautiful garden was featured several times. She and Alan volunteered for years to ensure that the Kankakee YMCA grounds were beautifully landscaped.

Jane was a loving mother to Lynn and Tamra; Memaw to her grandsons whom she loved dearly, Justin, Adam, Ryan, Tyler, and Aaron; and her great-grandchildren, Jace, Callie,

Miles, and Kaia.

She is survived by her husband, Alan Meyer; two daughters, Lynn (Greg) Cornwell and Tamra (Jeff) Compton; grandsons; great-grandchildren; three sisters, Susan (Dan) Lamb, Dianne (Roger) Wissmiller, and JoHannah (Brad) Reardon; and many nieces, nephews and their families. Jane was preceded in death by her parents; her brother and sister-in-law, Alan & Donna Thompson; and her beautiful great-granddaughter, Kaia Cornwell.

A private celebration of life will be attended by her husband, children, and grandchildren.

Comments



“ Dear Al: I just heard about Jane this morning. I am sorry to hear this news. The Redwood was my first job, and I started when I was 15. Of the many people I have met in my lifetime, you and Janel have been two of my favorites. I learned valuable lessons about life, love and decency by your examples. I pray for peace for Jane and comfort for you and your family.
May God bless,
Gayle Sparenberg Wilder

Gayle Wilder - December 21, 2020 at 04:34 PM



“ Doris O'Connor purchased the Wildflower Seeds - Build A Memory Garden for the family of Jane Ann Meyer.



Doris OConnor - December 20, 2020 at 09:21 PM



“ I was so sorry to hear about the passing of Jane. I did Janes hair for about 20 years. I remember the first time I met her and thought what a sweet sweet lady! I began to see the funny side of Jane, we laughed at every appt. , sometimes to the point I would have to stop because we were almost to tears!! I'll miss that laugh!! She also gave me a lot of good advice as my girls grew up. This being said, I've met Tamara once and I do Lynn's hair, they are so so lucky to have the parents they have!!! Lynn is one of the nicest people , other than her parents ,that I have met! Jane and Alan did such a good job raising them and juggling everything at the Redwood! She was always my idol!!! It was very hard watching her mind go, but I will always be grateful she came into my life!!! I love all of you like family!!! Hugs and prayers for each one of you
Kathy palmateer

kathy palmateer - December 19, 2020 at 09:01 AM



“ I was so fortunate to meet Jane and Al volunteering at Riverside. They quickly both touched my heart. So many memories of laughter. I remember the last time I saw and talked with Jane in central waiting at Riverside. She was waiting while Al was having a test and told me she was being forgetful. I told her we all forget things! I am so glad I spent extra time waiting with her for Al. She is a wonderful lady. My deepest condolences and prayers to Al and your family.
Cindy Siawrys

Cindy Siawrys - December 18, 2020 at 06:21 PM



“ It is with a heavy heart that I send my most sincere condolences to Al, Lynn and Tamara and their families. A loss like this is even heavier when it happens during the holidays. Jane was an amazing woman who did so much to make life better for the people of this community. I first met her in the late 60's as a teenager working @ Redwood Inn. I was impressed with how readily she gave respect, kindness and that great smile of hers to all she met. She and Al were clearly talented individuals but what they accomplished together in terms of creating a wonderful family, a successful business, and contributions to this community will continue to be inspiring. You will be in my prayers. Doris O'Connor

Doris O'Connor - December 17, 2020 at 01:43 PM



“ It was such a joy to see Jane every morning at yoga class. Jane was such a great lady and friend, always with a smile! Al (coach) we wish you and your family all the best!

Tom & Sandra Robbins
Class of "62"

THOMAS ROBBINS - December 17, 2020 at 10:49 AM



“ Hey, Coach, I'm sorry for your loss. The great memories of seeing you and Jane at our class reunions and catching up with our lives. The memories of you coaching and teaching inspired me to become a teacher.

Ron Clausing - December 17, 2020 at 09:19 AM



“ Iam going 2 miss u and iam so very glad i had met u and your family . Luv u from your friend from 5th Ave mcdonald Sherry.



Sherry - December 17, 2020 at 08:27 AM



“ And my heart is very and i will always keep your family in my always. Again from your friend Sherry S. Nutall-Walker .(5th Ave mcdonald and bellring. Luv u

Sherry - December 17, 2020 at 09:21 AM



“ I too was one of the many of that started their first jobs at The Redwood Inn under the direction of Jane & Al Meyer, who were awesome employers to guide & lead us with care & compassion of each employee. She wore many hats in this community as documented in her obituary but none was more important than being a wife to Al and mother to Lynn & Tamra and then a grandmother & great-grandmother. What a wonderful woman who will be truly missed in this community & well remembered! My sympathy to her family and all who loved her!

Marilyn Roy - December 16, 2020 at 11:47 PM



“ Marilyn Roy lit a candle in memory of Jane Ann Meyer



Marilyn Roy - December 16, 2020 at 11:37 PM



“ Jane was one of my very dearest friends. She rode and showed my horses for 17 years. We were so fortunate to have her at our place, as she was such a wonderful role model for my students. We were friends for 50 years, and it is so hard losing her. Sending my love and prayers to Allen, Lynn, and Tamra. . Linda Wallen

Linda Wallen - December 16, 2020 at 10:15 PM



“ Deepest sympathy to Alan and the family. Jane was always a delight to be around at family gatherings, Redwood, and run ins in town. She was a very gracious lady with humble style. We have good memories.

Dick and Sharon (Spry) Arbuckle

Sharon Arbuckle - December 16, 2020 at 08:24 PM



“ I remember when Alan and Jane moved upstairs in the Henry Daum house (Now Jane and Mike Jones' house). I must have been in 4th grade my brother Kurt had such a crush on his 2nd grade teacher!! They were such a nice couple....Kathy Jacobsen Baker

Kathy Jacobsen Baker - December 16, 2020 at 06:08 PM



“ We were neighbors of Jane and Alan for over 30 years! There are still many many plants in our yard I received from Jane. She was a fantastic gardener and friend!! We miss you both so much around here. God bless you Alan and family!! I think of you both every time I look out my front window!!

Mary A Martin - December 16, 2020 at 05:59 PM



“ I am so terribly sorry to hear the passing of Jane. She was a great neighbor of ours on Deerfield Ave. She has always been very pleasant to be around. We will miss her. Al and family will be in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Sara Horchem (Stell) - December 16, 2020 at 05:26 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Meyer and family. I worked on several community projects at the YMCA with both Al and Jane. Jane was always so friendly and very hard working. Always a delight to be around. Al and Jane were a great team to work with. -

Stacey St.Louis - December 16, 2020 at 04:52 PM



“ I was so sorry to learn of Jane's passing. She was a great person. My mother worked for her & Al at Redwood baking bread & pies. They were wonderful to her & to all our family. My sincere sympathy Al to you, your daughters and the family.
Evelyn Hilgendorf

Evelyn Hilgendorf - December 16, 2020 at 04:27 PM



“ Sorry to hear of Jane's passing . My daughters took dancing lessons with yours and my son, Jeremy worked at Redwood Inn.

Carole Trill - December 16, 2020 at 12:43 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to Alan and family. Jane was a kind and giving person who appreciated all things in life. I had the honor of working with her on some gardening projects and will always remember her kind spirit.

Allan Smessaert - December 16, 2020 at 11:02 AM



“ My first job was at the Redwood Inn at the age of 16. Jane was a wonderful boss. I would go to her when I had a difficult customer. She was always sweet but firm. She would talk to all the kids that worked for them with respect. She would listen to us like we were part of the Redwood Inn family. When I went away to Al and Jane's college, Illinois State, they were very excited for me especially when I decided to get my teaching degree. They would always let me come back to work whenever I came home from college. Jane showed me how to be a leader among men. She showed me how you can be calm and sweet in handling any pressure people throw at you. She will be missed but her life lessons will go on.
With deepest sympathy,
Angela Joubert-Vitellaro

Angela Vitellaro - December 16, 2020 at 06:56 AM



“ Jane was such a sweet and loving lady! I loved her and getting to know her in Westwood dining room. Alan, I will be keeping you and your family in my prayers. You took such good care of her!

Jean Rousey - December 15, 2020 at 10:10 PM



“ So sorry to hear of her passing. She always had a smile on her face. Loved seeing her at the fair and of course the Red Wood Inn. Prayers for her family.

Suzanne McCabe - December 15, 2020 at 09:33 PM



“ Thoughts and prayers to the entire Meyer family as she will be missed by so many.

Michael Muenstermann - December 15, 2020 at 06:55 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Jane's passing. My mom worked at Redwood Inn for 17 years in the bakery, and I and two of my sisters worked there as waitresses. We were treated with respect and kindness, and it was like a family. Jane and Al were both wonderful to work for. May Jane rest in eternal peace.

Julie (Menard) Backas - December 15, 2020 at 04:51 PM



“ To one of the finest people that I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. Jane, you will be missed. My sincere sympathy to Alan and the family. May God hold her in his arms.
“Rosie”

Rosalind Marcotte - December 15, 2020 at 04:28 PM



“ Mike VadeBoncoeur lit a candle in memory of Jane Ann Meyer



Mike VadeBoncoeur - December 15, 2020 at 03:43 PM



“ Steve West lit a candle in memory of Jane Ann Meyer



Steve West - December 14, 2020 at 11:09 PM



“ r i p jane u will be missed by all steve alice and noah west

Steve - December 14, 2020 at 11:09 PM



“ Jane was one of the sweetest women I had ever met. She was a coffee buddy, loved talking to her and Al, every morning at Mc Donald's. Will miss her, her gentle smile and kindness. My condolences to Al and family. All my love!!
Marcia Hellmuth

Marcia Balgeman Hellmuth - December 14, 2020 at 09:33 PM



“ Jane was one of the nicest people I have ever met. Al couldn't have found a better wife, mother to their children, or business partner. Jane will be missed by many.

Gary Mitchell - December 14, 2020 at 08:50 PM



“ Reading about Jane's passing hurts my heart. What a wonderful lady she was! May God's peace and comfort and your fond memories help dry the tears as you celebrate her life. My hugs and prayers are with all of you at this sad time.



Mary Thomson - December 14, 2020 at 08:09 PM



“ I am so sorry to read of Jane's passing. I was one of the many the worked at Redwood Inn and can say they were truly the best people to work for. I have a lot of great memories of that time in life. My sympathies to Al and family.
Christie B.

Christie B. - December 14, 2020 at 04:15 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your beautiful mother. Lynn and Tamra, I remember you both from the dancing school.

Theresa Parker - December 22, 2020 at 04:59 PM



“ Al and Jane gave me and my wife Felicia our first jobs at Redwood Inn and welcomed us into your extended family. We'll never forget what a wonderful experience you provided and model that you showed to so many young people in the Kankakee area. You have always been shining examples of class, poise, and a great work ethic. Redwood Inn was an incredible incubator not only for a great restaurant but for growing young people into successful adults. We'll never forget you and you family.

-- Jeff and Felicia (Baron) Miller

Jeff Miller - January 06 at 10:53 AM