



Janice Hockensmith Laun

May 23, 1947 - October 8, 2023

Janice Hockensmith Laun, 76, of Bourbonnais, passed away on Sunday, October 8, 2023, at home, on hospice care, and surrounded by family and friends. She passed from this life to eternal life after a 3-month battle with pancreatic cancer.

She was born on May 23, 1947, to Duane and Mavis (Miller) Hockensmith of Terre Haute, Indiana. She grew up in Union City and lived there until she attended Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais. She continued to live in Bourbonnais until her death. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Greg Hockensmith. Her sister Jane (Jeff) Hockensmith-Reich survives. Jan's beloved dog, Katie, survives. Jan married George Laun in 2014 and he survives. She is also survived by his children Paula (Brent) Johnson, Wendy (Jeremy) Goodrum, and David (April) Laun; 6 step-grandchildren, and 2 step-great grandchildren.

Jan graduated from Olivet Nazarene University in 1974 and began her career as a social worker at the Kankakee County Training Center for the Disabled in Kankakee, where she worked from 1974 -1977. She received a Master of Social Work degree at the University of Illinois in 1982. An additional degree of Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling was earned in 1996 from The University of Illinois. She worked as the Director of Medical Social Work at St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee for 16 years and then was employed as Associate Professor of Social Work at Olivet Nazarene University until her retirement in 2013. In her tenure as a professor, Jan was instrumental in the

securing of accreditation for the Social Work program at the university from the Council on Social Work Education.

Jan received many awards during her life, and a few are listed here: NASW Calumet District Social Worker of the year 2000; Harbor House Amethyst Award in Recognition of Ending Domestic Violence 2005; Social Work Professor of the year 2009 (awarded by social work students); and the NASW Illinois East Central District, Lifetime Achievement Award 2010.

One of Jan's major interests was in missions. From 1996 – 2013, she had taken over 230 university students to Sighisoara, Romania, in connection with Romanian Studies, a course she developed at Olivet Nazarene University. She remained committed to missions and continued to travel yearly to Romania after retirement. As an active member of the Missions Council at College Church of the Nazarene, she participated in multiple Work and Witness mission trips to Mexico, Greece, and England as well as volunteering for multiple areas of need in the Kankakee community and in her church. She was a member of College Church of the Nazarene for 41 years.

Jan was a loyal friend to many people. In fact, many people would say that she was the friend that they could always count on. Jan loved to cook and entertain people in her home and on her back deck. One of her favorite activities was shopping, even if she didn't buy anything. She had excellent taste in decorating her home and in choosing clothes to wear. People often called her "a classy lady." She will be greatly missed by many, many people. There will be a visitation at College Church of the Nazarene, 200 University Avenue, in Bourbonnais from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM on Friday, October 13, 2023. The funeral service will begin at 6:00 PM. Burial will be on Saturday, October 14, 2023, in Union City, Indiana. Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home of Bourbonnais is in charge of services.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to College Church of the Nazarene University Avenue for delivery to Veritas of Romania.

Cemetery Details

Union City Cemetery

Union City , IN

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **13**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

College Church of the Nazarene
200 University Ave.
Bourbonnais, IL
(815) 933-7749
<http://www.collegechurch.org/>

Funeral Service

OCT **13**. 6:00 PM (CT)

College Church of the Nazarene
200 University Ave.
Bourbonnais, IL
(815) 933-7749
<http://www.collegechurch.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Jan,
You were instrumental in so many parts of my 16 years of social work. I feel like I channel my inner Jan so many times as a professor. She's definitely a big reason why I'm pursuing my PhD to teach. She was so inspirational and kind as a professor. She poured herself out for her students and had a life well-lived and well-loved. Thank you, Jan.*

Amanda

Amanda McKinley - November 08, 2023 at 11:29 PM



“ *Dear Jan, It was a privilege to have known you, even just a little. May you find joy in the presence of Our Lord Jesus forever!
A fellow social worker,
Teresa Mahoney*

Teresa Mahoney - October 14, 2023 at 12:11 PM



“ *Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." was purchased for the family of Janice Hockensmith Laun.*



October 14, 2023 at 08:51 AM



“ *I am so thankful you were a huge part of my life Jan. I will forever be grateful to have had you as a mentor, teacher and friend.*

Stacia Sellers - October 13, 2023 at 01:59 PM

PH

“ *Condolences and prayers to everyone.*

We met Jan though the Tri Cities social work exchanges which joins the cities of Chicago, Hamburg and Birmingham. Jan was a great participant - so much knowledge and wisdom of her own mixed with an openness to explore the amazing things in social work we find by coming together.

Jan was always friendly, kind and thoughtful, generous with her connections with people. Jan showed the best of what it means to be human and the best in the social work.

*Much missed.
Love*

Peter Hay and Carmel Corrigan

Peter Hay - October 13, 2023 at 07:10 AM

JM

“ *Jan, you will be greatly missed. This is such a shock.*

First a professor to me, then a friend. You were a great help to me in college. A great lady and an inspiration.

I will miss our random bumping into each other at Target and various stores. Glad for that lunch together, with another friend several years ago.

Rest easy my professor, and friend, in Jesus' arms Until we meet again.



Jane McLin - October 12, 2023 at 10:50 PM

CC

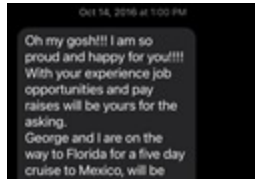
“ Cheryl Chamberlain lit a candle in memory of Janice Hockensmith Laun



Cheryl Chamberlain - October 12, 2023 at 01:48 PM

KA

“ 💔 Oh my heart 💔 I literally went to text you Monday as I drove past your {old?} house and told myself I'd do it later so we had time to chat and could plan that breakfast we kept meaning to plan. I had no idea you were sick or had passed. Thank You for being my mentor, my encouragement, my friend and for molding me into the social worker I am today. I'm sorry I won't make it to your services but know, I'll be there in spirit. Love you & forever miss you!



Kayla - October 12, 2023 at 09:48 AM

HH

“ Jan was my favorite professor. She always went out of her way to build individual relationships with her students. She loved us like we were her own children. I will always think of her when I think about my semester in Romania, and I know I couldn't have gotten there without her. She will be dearly missed!

Heather Hobbs - October 12, 2023 at 07:36 AM

CC

“ *Jan was a sincere and compassionate lady. She will be missed. May you Rest In Peace.*

Cindy Clemans - October 11, 2023 at 10:34 PM

AB

“ *Jan was a wonderful professor and a wonderful friend. When Jan, I and other Social Worker friends would get together we could talk for hours. In this crazy and sometimes scary world Jan is the one who would help us make sense of things. She would always remind us that God was taking care of things. She gave of herself to so many others here and abroad. Jan was a dear friend, and I will miss her tremendously. We always looked forward to our times together. George, Jan always said she didn't know what she'd do without you. You made her last nine years the best years of her life. She loved you dearly! Darrel and I always loved the times we shared with you and Jan. Our thoughts, prayers and love are with you and your whole family!*

Ann Bachman - October 11, 2023 at 07:49 PM

BW

“ *Bobby Jean Williams-Blanchard lit a candle in memory of Janice Hockensmith Laun*



Bobby Jean Williams-Blanchard - October 11, 2023 at 05:39 PM

BW

Today my heart aches for an angel that has been called home to be with the Lord. And as I grieve for myself and her family, I keep hearing the bible vs., "Well done good and faithful servant, well done; now enter into the joy of the Lord". So, I say, "Thank you Lord for sending me to ONU, choosing my major (Social Work), and assigning me to professors who did not just teach Social Work, but did Social Work". I am thankful that I got to spend time with her and two other Alumni earlier this year. My prayers and condolences go out to Jan's family during this difficult time. Bobby Jean Williams Blanchard.

Bobby Jean Williams-Blanchard - October 11, 2023 at 05:42 PM

JR

*“ I had the honor and privilege of serving with Jan for many years on the Board of Directors of Alliance Health and Human Services, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to serving folks who need care; the elderly and kids in foster care. Jan's passion for her life's mission of doing the Lord's work to help others often kept us focused on our goals of taking care of the less fortunate. Over the years I was often blessed to have a seat next to Jan at our business meetings or at dinner afterwards where I came to know Jan. Our recent Board retreat was incomplete without Jan's presence; the Board and I shall miss her guidance and her friendship.
J. Bruce Riley*

j bruce riley - October 11, 2023 at 01:34 PM

ME

“ My life was changed in many ways when I had the joy of traveling to Romania as an ONU student with Jan. She taught others grace, empathy and compassion through the way she treated others and lived her life. Heaven gained a beautiful angel who will be missed by many here on earth.

Melinda - October 11, 2023 at 11:37 AM

KA

“ *Kathy lit a candle in memory of Janice Hockensmith Laun*



kathy - October 11, 2023 at 09:12 AM

KS

“ *My condolences to Jan's family and friends. Good lady. She will be missed. Prayers.*
Kathy Sullivan

Kathy Sullivan - October 11, 2023 at 08:35 AM

MR

“ *Monica Rocha lit a candle in memory of Janice Hockensmith Laun*



Monica Rocha - October 11, 2023 at 07:54 AM

MB

“ Jan was an angel on Earth... she was a blessing to many! She shared her knowledge & wisdom as my Professor at ONU with a deep passion for Social Work! Jan remained my friend, who along with other SW alums, continued to be there; listen & laugh & was the perfect hostess! My deepest sympathy to you George, -she loved you and your family very much! & to all those who knew her! Jan was a real treasure and well-loved! I'll miss our times together ❤️ Mary Kay Ballard



Mary Kay Ballard - October 11, 2023 at 01:57 AM

SW

“ Jan was a dear colleague and friend from ONU. We were in the same class. I remember her passion for social work and efforts to develop the program at ONU, especially her work in Romania. She was a beautiful person.

I know she's rejoicing in heaven with Rebecca Belcher Rankin, another dear friend who passed some time ago. Heaven is richer. Praying for comfort and peace for the family,
Sue Williams

Sue Williams - October 10, 2023 at 08:34 PM

KW

“ Jan was a beautiful person inside and out. She will be missed.



Kaye Wallace - October 10, 2023 at 03:21 PM