



Janice Strasma

June 30, 1936 - October 24, 2018

Janice Plager Strasma 1936-2018

Janice Plager Strasma, 82, of Kankakee, passed away peacefully on October 24, 2018. She was born June 30, 1936, the daughter of Carroll Robert and Martha Jannette (Janet) Plager in Austin, Minnesota.

Janice attended Iowa State University and received her BA in Home Economics. She was a member of the Delta Delta Delta Sorority and part of the Iowa State Homecoming Court, nicknamed the "Bomb Beauties". After graduation, she worked for the National Livestock and Meat Board (1958-62) in Chicago traveling throughout the U.S. giving cooking school demonstrations. She then joined the Hotpoint Division of General Electric in Cicero, Illinois, as a Home Economist until 1965.

She met Norman Edward Strasma in Chicago during this time and they married May 25, 1963, in Austin, Minnesota. After the birth of their daughter Karen (Strasma) Koenig, they moved to Kankakee in 1965.

Always a reader, she opened her own book store, Books Plus, in 1971, before selling it in 1980 so she could travel the world with Norm...literally. They visited over 100 countries. She also loved to play tennis locally, and traveled with tennis friends to Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. She was active in

several community organizations including Junior League, School Board Member, Round Table Club, Quadrille, and others including Book Clubs and Bridge Groups. She was a member of Asbury United Methodist Church. She could also be found many times behind the scenes “catering” an event or two for a good cause, most recently at Frank Lloyd Wright’s Bradley House in Kankakee.

She was a good friend to many and always said everyone should just live by the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

Surviving are her husband of 55 years, Norman Strasma, of Kankakee; daughter and son-in-law Karen and Mark Koenig, of New Albany, Ohio; three granddaughters Alison, Natalie and Madison Koenig; three sisters and brother-in-laws Jane and John Jones of White Bear Lake, Minnesota; Sue and Doug Nelson of Falcon Heights, Minnesota; Sally Ponce and Jarek Obsadny of Quepos, Costa Rica; brother-in-law and sister-in-law Jan and Jane Strasma of Maple Park, Illinois; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Visitation is scheduled for Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Kankakee, on Friday, November 2, 4:00-7:00 pm. Funeral services are at Asbury United Methodist Church in Kankakee, Saturday, November 3, at 11:00 am, Pastor Scott Henley officiating. Lunch will be served in Parish Hall after the service.

Memorials may be made to the Community Foundation, 701 S. Harrison, Kankakee, for benefit of either Friends of the Kankakee Library Fund or Wright In Kankakee Fund.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

NOV 2. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Kankakee - Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home
1480 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Memorial Service

NOV 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

Asbury United Methodist Church
196 S. Harrison
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-4408
<https://www.kasbury.org/>

Tribute Wall

CS

“ *Janice was a rare and beautiful person of great character. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and sister, as well as a loyal and generous friend. She embraced you with her warm smile and positive personality. All of us who knew her....loved her. She was intelligent, genuine, self-effacing, kind, caring, hospitable, and loads of fun. What a special lady.. She will be remembered as long as memory lasts.*

To Norm, Karen, the granddaughters and sisters, and to all the extended family, I send my heartfelt sympathy and love..

Prayers for each of you in the difficult days ahead, Charlene

Charlene Sexton - November 01, 2018 at 09:04 PM

CS

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Charlene Sexton - November 01, 2018 at 07:25 PM

CS

Hilton Head 1995

Charlene Sexton - November 01, 2018 at 09:07 PM



“ 98 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - October 31, 2018 at 01:59 PM

DT

“ So sorry to hear this news Norm! I'm grateful to have known her through *CommunityWorks* and will be praying for you in the months ahead as you grieve.

Dan Templin - October 31, 2018 at 01:27 PM

BL

“ Norm, Janice was a very precious, special woman & I am sending heartfelt prayers to you & the entire *Strasma* family. The *Strasma's* have always been best friends of *The Ferrias* & *The Close* families. Lots of memories I continue to hold dear in my heart. We were very close neighbors. God Bless!

Barbie Ferrias LeClaire - October 31, 2018 at 12:43 PM

SL

“ Thinking of you, Norm.
Sheila

Sheila Leahy - October 31, 2018 at 11:21 AM

JB

“ Norm, I was so sorry to learn of Janice's passing. She was a lovely woman--inside and out. Prayers and hugs for you and your family from across the miles.
Jill Arnold Blickhan

Jill Arnold Blickhan - October 31, 2018 at 10:52 AM

JW

“ Janice has such a beautiful smile. My heartfelt prayers are with you...*Jeanette Wilson, Community Foundation of Central Illinois*

Jeanette Wilson - October 31, 2018 at 10:09 AM



“ Norm, I have fond memories of you and your wife from our early community foundation years! I am deeply sorry for your loss. *Joedy Hightower*

Joedy Hightower - October 31, 2018 at 09:51 AM

JV

“ Janice's name and memory will always be synonymous with joy, warmth and love. She will be sorely missed in so many circles of friends.
Jane and John Veers

jane veers - October 31, 2018 at 09:17 AM

CM

“ We are so sorry for your loss Norm.
Cindy and Rich McBarnes

Cindy McBarnes - October 30, 2018 at 10:33 PM



“ So very sorry for your loss, Norm. Prayers to your entire family at this time of sorrow.

-- Bill Guertin

Bill Guertin - October 29, 2018 at 11:09 AM

PH

“ My deepest sympathies. Paul Hendrickson, Havertown, Pennsylvania

Paul Hendrickson - October 28, 2018 at 04:55 PM

JG

“ I’m so sorry to hear about Jan’s passing! I have many fun memories of being around Jan, mainly because she was always laughing or smiling. Back when we were racquet club members, we sometimes had gatherings there with food. One time there was a bowl of delicious grapefruit sections, all cut out! When I commented about how pleased and surprised I was, Jan came over smiling (and probably laughing) and explained how to extract grapefruit sections, since she was the one who had brought the dish. Later I learned how to do it and still do. Those years we saw each other often, usually at the racquet club or at a dinner attended by some of the members. After the club closed, many years sometimes passed before we saw each other, but each time we met, it was like “old home week.” Jan would have a big smile on her face and we’d hug. Norm, I know you know you were a lucky guy to have her (and I’m sure that goes both ways), so hang on to those memories and try to re-run the fun times! Our condolences to you and your extended family.

Janet & Richard Glidden

Janet Glidden - October 27, 2018 at 08:47 PM

MA

“ So happy to know her and her family in Austin MN. As I told her - "
I'm one of the Garbisch girls - " .

marlou - October 27, 2018 at 02:43 PM