



Jean Todd Gessner

July 4, 2015

Jean Todd Gessner, age 96 of Kankakee died Saturday, July 4, 2015 at her home in Kankakee, Illinois. She was born in Detroit Michigan to Ralph D. and Fern Nelson Todd. She married William Gessner on May 24, 1941, he died in 2005. Survivors include one son and daughter-in-law Todd Gessner (Sally) of Mt. Vernon, Illinois; one daughter and son-in-law Gretchen LaBeau (Robert Bevan) of Kankakee, Illinois; her loving caregiver, Katherine Makiyi; her half sister, Diana Irish of LaHarpe, Illinois. Also surviving are her grandchildren Katherine and Luke LaBeau; Brant Gessner (Jamie) and Heather Owens (Jason); her great grandchildren, Ella, Anna, Jackson, and Samuel Gessner; Hannah and Evan Owens. Also surviving is her niece Barb Casey of Kankakee, Illinois and her nephew Bob Gessner (Sherree) of Kankakee, Illinois. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband. Jean was a retired teacher from District III where she taught at Longfellow and Taft Schools. She was a graduate of Knox College. She loved gardening, working with her animals, playing bridge, bird watching, and was an avid reader. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Kankakee Garden Club, Pi Beta Phi Sorority, and Kankakee County Humane Foundation.

There will be a memorial funeral service on July 19 at 6 PM at St. John United Church of Christ in Kankakee, Illinois where Rev. Bruce Salter will officiate. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Kankakee County Humane Foundation, P.O. Box 2115, Kankakee, Illinois 60901

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Kankakee County Humane Foundation - www.k3humanefoundation

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL 19. 6:00 PM (CT)

St. John United Church Of Christ
1045 W. River
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-3336
<http://www.stjohnucc-kan-il.org/>

Tribute Wall

CE

“ About 199? I found a kitten next to its mom cat which had been hit SW of K3. My mother played bridge with Mrs Gessner and suggested that I ask her if she could take it in. She did adopt it (and from second hand reports it became a favorite little fireball).

Craig Emigh - July 13, 2015 at 03:15 PM

AJ

“ Sorry to see your Mom has passed away. I use to check her out at Jewel and always enjoyed seeing her.
We send are Deepest Sympathy, Andy and Jane Westerhoff.

Andy and Jane - July 08, 2015 at 03:52 PM

RS

“ My condolences to Todd, and Gigi.

Robert Schneider - July 08, 2015 at 03:29 PM

AC

“ My sympathies go out to GG and Todd and their families, such fond memories of all the wonderful times that my mother, Hilary Rogers, spent with your mom, while they taught together at Longfellow all those years and the many trips ours moms took together, going to Chicago for "buying" trips, their club and organizations that they worked so hard on those Saturdays at either our house or yours while we teenagers were busy with our own fun. Our dads (the two Bills) and moms spent so many wonderful dinners together and I remember them at my husband, Larry's and my wedding in 68. Jean was such a wonderful, fun loving, intelligent, and giving professional teacher. She loved her students and she and my mom would go out and buy extra clothes for those students who came to school with soiled things. My mother would have been 100 this year had she lived past 86 and so glad your mom, Jean, had such a long, fulfilling life so that all her grandchildren and great grandchildren could see how wonderful she was. She was a role model for all little girls, myself included, and I will always remember her with smiles and appreciation for how she impacted my life and my mother's life as well. Our parents are now all enjoying the rewards of their good deeds and wonderful gifts and am sure they are looking down on all of us who loved them so dearly. Alice Rogers Cote and family

Alice Cote - July 07, 2015 at 03:25 PM

SA

There are always "mother-in-law" jokes but Jean was truly the best mother-in-law one could have! Always patient, supportive, involved in our family and her church...such a great role model and Grammy. So proud to call her "Mother". So many wonderful memories!! Love, Sally

Sally - July 08, 2015 at 04:51 PM



My heart goes out to the Gessner family. It is so hard to say good by to Mom. I was in Todd's class in High school.

Donna Putney - July 08, 2015 at 04:58 PM



Mrs. Gessner was my kindergarten teacher many years ago. She was a wonderful teacher and made it a very special experience. I will never forget her.

Darlene MacDonald Wieliczko

Darlene Wieliczko - July 08, 2015 at 10:43 PM



I will always remember all the memories and all the laughs I had with your mom. She was fun loving and always had a smile on her face. She was a very special lady and now she will be with uncle Bill. Love to you both. Barb

Barb Gessner Casey - July 09, 2015 at 07:23 PM