



## Janice Swanson Carda

May 2, 1960 - May 31, 2020

On May 31, 2020, Janice Swanson Carda, with her loving family beside her, passed away from a massive stroke.

Jan leaves behind her husband, Michael Carda; her beloved daughter Caitlin Tracey; the son -in-law she would have picked, Kyle Tracey and the best gift she ever got, her grandson, Liam. She also leaves behind her favorite and only sibling, Denice Swanson and brother-in-law James Ryan. She was preceded in death by her parents, Chet and Betty Swanson and her maternal grandmother, Margaret Hughes.

Jan attended Hillsdale College for her Undergraduate degree and earned an MSW from Kalamazoo University. She was a therapist and social worker in Traverse City for decades, working with children and families in need and with patients from Munson Home Care.

Genuinely interested in people and their life stories, Jan may enter a room of total strangers but left the with dozens of new friends. Her kindness and giving spirit were always available , even in the most unexpected places. When her regular UPS man was on vacation (OK, she wasn't perfect, she had an Amazon dependency...who doesn't?) his replacement arrived with multiple packages on a very hot day. She offered him a bottle of iced tea to cool off...and he exclaimed " You're the iced tea lady!"...even at UPS, she was legendary.

Animals. She loved them. Raccoons and opossums in her back yard, a trio of cats who didn't have a family until she took them in and dogs she adored throughout her life. She could coax a wounded animal into accepting help or a feral cat into becoming a family pet. Her connection to all creatures was amazing.

Jan was Santa's best elf, devoted to spreading good cheer and spirit to everyone. Family food service shut down as she devoted days and her kitchen to baskets of cookies and goodies shared with neighbors and acquaintances..some( you know who you are) shameless begged for extra Peanut Butter Balls . Her family was surrounded by the holiday traditions she excelled at keeping and the love with which she shared them.

Traveling was her joy and her curiosity about places and people was limitless. Her first love was Ireland; tracking down obscure castles and legends, sheep and scones with jam and clotted cream at the end of a long day of adventure. Turkey, Russia (where she was tailed by the KGB...really), Africa, Croatia, and all of Europe; Jan collected experiences, stories and friends from all over the world. Through her travels she discovered her passion and talent for photography. Those pictures told a beautiful story of the places she had been.

Her ready smile, her quick wit and witticisms, her endless compassion for people and animals and her deep and abiding love for her family and friends will leave a hole in the lives of all who knew and loved her. She left us too soon.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Cherryland Humane Society, 1750 Ahlberg Road, Traverse City, MI 49696 or online at [www.cherrylandhumane.org](http://www.cherrylandhumane.org).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 5. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home

305 Sixth St

Traverse City, MI 49684

[info@reynolds-jonkhoff.com](mailto:info@reynolds-jonkhoff.com)

<http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com/>

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ It has taken me months to be able to write on this page without sobbing. Janice & I have been best friends since Model United Nations Class in HS. We've been there for each other, in each other's weddings, the birth of her wonderful daughter, Caitlin , divorce & deaths of beloved parents.

*I stayed with her & her beloved husband, Mike, when I came back to TC for visits.*

*Since, as we all know, Janice was always going a mile a minute, & went to bed early, & I'm a West Coast night owl, our conversations were often voicemails...back & forth.*

*Always loyal, truthful, and simply GOOD...while still so much FUN!*

*The best person, the best friend that I will ever have. Miss you soooo much.*

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**Jill Smart** - January 01, 2021 at 09:40 PM

DE

“ I was thinking of Jan last week, not knowing she had passed. I loved working with Jan and getting to know her. She was such special person. I am so sorry to hear of her passing. My condolences to her husband Mike, and her other family members. She certainly left a wonderful mark on this world and it is a lesser place with her no longer in it.

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**Dave Eggli** - July 15, 2020 at 02:24 PM

CH

“ I was very fortunate to work with Jan at Child and Family Services. It was a bonus to live next door to her. She was always interested in what was happening with my family. Jan was a very caring person. I enjoyed her enthusiasm when she talked about her family and her exciting trips. It meant a lot to us when she took such good care of our pet dog, Kiley. I will miss Jan a lot but I will carry a lot of her goodness with me.

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**Chuck** - June 13, 2020 at 01:04 PM

CM

“ Met Janice years ago when I worked for her dad. Always a nice lady and person. Very sad to hear about her passing.  
*Chris Miles*

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**Chris Miles** - June 07, 2020 at 10:52 AM

DS

“ *Energy personified. So sorry to hear of our Pi Phi sister's passing.*

Donna Smith - June 05, 2020 at 05:54 PM

LM

“ *Scott and I were at Hillsdale with Janice. Janice was also my sister in Pi Beta Phi. She always was smiling and laughing. We send our deepest condolences to her family and loved ones. May she rest in Peace. God BLESS.*

Lynda & Scott Miller - June 05, 2020 at 05:31 PM

MC

“ *I'm so sad to hear that Jan has passed. She was such a kind, bright and loving person. I wish I could be there for the memorial but I have just learned of her untimely death and I live downstate in my hometown now. All the Swansons have a very special place in my heart. They were my first family when I moved to Traverse City way back in 1977. All gone too soon. To my dear friend, Denice - My heart goes out to you. I love and miss you.*

Mary Sue Christian - June 05, 2020 at 05:30 PM

VR

“ *My deepest condolences to all Jan's family and friends. We were Pi Phi sisters at Hillsdale. She was one of the most bubbly people in the house, you were never sad when Jan was around! A joy to have known her.*

Vicki Ryland - June 05, 2020 at 11:00 AM

BD

“ *My prayers are with Jan and her family. I remember Jan from our days at the Dale and pi phi house. Very fond memories of our time together. Loved her laugh and beautiful smile.*

Buff McCarthy Donovan - June 05, 2020 at 10:31 AM

KA

“ *My deepest condolences to all family and friends on Jan's passing. We were friends and sorority sisters at Hillsdale. She was always one of my favorites!! Her smile and laugh were infectious and she had a unique way of making each person feel special. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Karen Boll Robideau*

karen - June 05, 2020 at 10:20 AM

LS

*Jan was such a vivacious, caring, friendly person 🌸 She is truly an angel now 🌈 We are holding you all safe in our hearts at this most difficult time 💕💕*

**Linda Sluka Stark** - June 05, 2020 at 02:55 PM

MH

*I am in shock at what I am reading. My sincere condolences to the family. I spent a lot of time with Janice in High School we did all kinds of things together. Denise I am so sorry to read this and my heart breaks for you "Herbie" will be truly missed god bless all of you.*

**Michael James Hott** - June 05, 2020 at 10:15 PM

DS

“ *So sad to hear of the passing of Janice Swanson Carda. I knew her when I was a salesman for Chet in the 70's and 80's and watched her career tthrough the years. She was always smart, friendly, and quick-witted So sorry for your loss..Dave and Judy Stetler*

**Dave Stetler** - June 04, 2020 at 10:49 PM

PS

“ *Loyalty; Jan was always so loyal. She saw the good in everyone; in every situation, even the situations that may have seemed dismal to others. Although she had exquisite taste; a creative mind; and an adventurous spirit, she said that her daily mission in life was to get up everyday and make the world a better place. She relayed that she silently hoped and prayed for this in the morning and again at night. She was steadfast in her mission to persevere and it showed. She ran a strong race and she was the female version of one of the 13 Knights of the Round Table. Thank you, Jan, for always being an inspiration....*

**Penny spencer** - June 04, 2020 at 07:19 PM

CB

“ *Mike, so sorry for your loss. Jan was one of a kind, gone too soon.*

**Cheryl Buyze** - June 04, 2020 at 06:15 PM

TP

“ *So sad to hear of the passing of this dear friend. She was so bright, so charming and full of the Irish wit. Our hearts grieve for Mike, Caitlin, Denice and Jim during this difficult time. Until we meet again; rest in peace dear friend 🍀*

**TPMcQ** - June 04, 2020 at 04:14 PM

BD

“ *My sincere condolences to the Carda and Swanson families. Jan was a great listener and cheerleader for me. She was a funny lady and I fondly remember the trip stories, especially the one in Russia. She will be very much missed.*

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**Beth Denoyer** - June 04, 2020 at 09:25 AM

ST

“ *Mike, my sincere condolences and prayers for all of you! I just read this tonight. Jan was a very kind and out going lady!*

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**Shelly Thorington** - June 03, 2020 at 11:59 PM

JB

“ *Jan lived across the street from us. She texted when covid19 was at it's peak; just to see how we were doing & if we needed anything. My last text from her was saying how we all need to take care of each other. She always offered to help us if we were doing work outside. She was just the nicest, most helpful neighbor & we will miss having her nearby. Joli & Jim Bennett*

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**Joli & Jim Bennett** - June 02, 2020 at 07:37 PM