



## Jean Ann Hughes

October 11, 1962 - April 15, 2019

The world has lost a bright spark but the night sky has gained a star.

Jean Ann Hughes was born October 11, 1962 and passed away on April 15, 2019.

Jean had spunk and an unforgettable twinkle in her eyes. She was many things to many people. A loving partner, beautiful daughter, best big sister ever, perfect fun Auntie, and doting doggie mom.

She was also a teacher to all who knew her. Certainly to her band students at Mio AuSable High School, but also to her friends, family and those who knew her from support groups and social media, where Jean leant her strength while sharing - in such a positive way - her recent struggles.

Jean dispensed her endless humor and grace in the face of challenges. Far from seeking sympathy, Jean freely shared her awe of the world and her appreciation of life's beauty. Jean was funny, brilliant, strong, inspiring, intrepid, compassionate and genuinely kind and loving - with a wonderful hint of sarcasm when called for.

Her curiosity and sense of adventure led her to creating treasured memories while working at Yellowstone National Park, as the Band Director at Mio AuSable High School, and as a percussionist at Central Michigan University. More recently she shared her administrative talents and sharp problem solving skills with co-workers and clients at Thompson Pharmacy and Munson Medical Center.

Jean's greatest loves were her partner of 15 years, Kathy, and two pups, Lulu and Maggie Mae. She enjoyed kayaking, hiking and photography - with a particular passion for the Northern Lights and night's sky.

Jean is survived by her mother, Virginia Hughes, sister Jill (Rodney) Wert, nephews Raymond Wert and Phillip Wert, niece Ellen (Joshua) Hawkins, and her partner, Kathy

Partin. She was loved fiercely by Kathy's parents, sisters and brothers-in-law and nieces and nephews. She was pre-deceased by her father Danny Hughes, and her sister Amy Hughes.

Jean was one of the best among us, we are all better for having known her.

In Jean's honor, take a moment to gaze at the night sky, find a star, make a wish and express gratefulness and awe of this wonderful world, as Jean often did.

A celebration of Jean's remarkable being will be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 4pm with a visitation beginning one hour prior at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy or the Great Lakes Humane Society. Kindly share thoughts and memories with Jeans family at [www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com](http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com). The family is being cared for by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home.

# Events

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**APR**   **Celebration of Life**   04:00PM

**24**

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home

305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

# Comments

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“ Kathy and family, I'm so sorry for your loss. Jean was a such a great co-worker. I enjoyed working with her and listening to her stories. She always had a way of making us laugh.

Take care, sincerely, Jeanie Schneidt



**Jeanie Schneidt** - April 24, 2019 at 02:40 PM

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“ Ginny, so sorry to hear about Jean! My thoughts and prayers are with you!  
Love, Nancy VanOchten



**nancy vanochten** - April 23, 2019 at 10:07 PM

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“ Ginny you are in my thoughts and prayers. Lynn K

**Lynn K** - April 21, 2019 at 02:31 PM

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“ Jean Hughes was a wonderful human being and teacher. I was school superintendent when she came to Mio AuSable Schools and during her tenure there. She truly loved her new position and the students she taught. Our daughter was in the band and liked Jean very much, as did our daughter's classmates. She challenged students to be their best and they wouldn't disappoint her. Under her directing, Mio AuSable's band won their first ever #1Rating at the State level competition held by MSBOA (Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association). We liked her sense of humor and her zest for life, learning and adventure. Golly, she was young. She will be remembered fondly. Our hearts go out to her family and friends. Jean Hughes truly had a positive and lasting impact on those who knew her. We're glad she was a part of our lives.

- Bruce & Sue Rank in Kalamazoo, MI

**Bruce & Sue Rank** - April 20, 2019 at 01:55 PM

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“ My deepest sorrows and regrets to all. As a teacher at Mio AuSable, I got to know and love Jean for her humor, love of music, and having a good time. I will miss her telling me it is time to look for the northern lights. They are her from now on when I see them. I followed her illness, but have been away from FB for a while, so I missed her getting more ill. I feel bad for that. I will always have Jean in my soul, for she lifted those up even when she needed the lifting. My prayer of love and comfort to all, and to meet on the other side.

**Ron Thomey** - April 19, 2019 at 08:09 PM

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“ I met Jean in the mid-1980's when she came to Mio as the new band teacher, and I was a young Forester at the Mio Ranger District. I was a musician too, so we had a connection. After I moved to West Yellowstone, Montana in 1988 she came out for a summer, maybe two, in the early 1990's, to volunteer at the Gallatin National Forest-Hebgen Lake Ranger District. She was all about taking in as much adventure as possible. We had a couple of crazy backpacking trips on the Gallatin NF, and day trips in Yellowstone National Park. She was funny, silly, and serious all at once. When we came out of the Hilgard Basin after 3 days in the backcountry, i commented that I felt like things around town and along the road should have changed but everything was still the same. I wondered why I felt that way. And she said, "Because you've changed." When you experience the wilderness, it does something to a person. Her experience on Gallatin changed her and gave her a new perspective on life. The friends she made those summers remained a part of her life all these years. I wish we could have had more adventures together in recent years. I am sure I would have laughed just as hard as i did all those years ago. Patricia Hesch-Fairbanks.

Patricia C. Hesch - April 17, 2019 at 10:55 PM

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“ We met Jean and Kathy through a shared interest in dog agility, and went on to become friends. We were so thrilled to have them as neighbors during the last year! Jean was one of a kind, and the world is poorer for her leaving it. Sending our thought and prayers to Kathy and Jean's and Kathy's families.



Anne Keith - April 17, 2019 at 10:24 PM

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“ I didn't know Jean outside of social media. We found each other thru Kathy. Jean was an endless supply of knowledge about my health problems. I loved her sense of humor. I'll be forever sorry I wasn't able to meet her face to face. I'll watch for you in the stars Jean. God bless you my friend.

Billie Jo Miller - April 17, 2019 at 08:11 PM

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“ "Jean was one of the best among us, we are all better for having known her." So true. I know I am a richer person for having known her! She was always SO patient and understanding when I presented her with a "mystery". (Now what did I do?) I had a lot to learn about the computer system at work.

I always looked forward to her visits, stories, sense of humor and of course her photos!

Love and comfort to those closest to her.

Sheri B.

**Sheri Bradford** - April 17, 2019 at 07:58 PM

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“ I knew Jean briefly a few years ago, when my office was moved and she became my new “work neighbor.” She was so nice ! Witty and chatty and as an added plus- she had a pot of coffee right in her office We talked about dogs and work and the health issues we faced. I sure was hoping things had turned a corner for her and am so very sorry to hear of her death. However, I know heaven’s gained a lovely, gentle soul with Jean there now!  
My condolences to Kathy and the rest of her family !!!  
God bless, Kelly Stuhmueller  
Traverse City, MI

**kelly Stuhmueller** - April 17, 2019 at 03:50 PM



“ I will treasure my memories of Jean and Kathy with their two precious little doggies at teacup agility at Pine Meadows Dog Training Center some years ago. I feel blessed that within this past year or so, Jean and I were fairly often connected on face book. I would often write that "she was such a teaching machine to others with health problems".

Sally Cole  
Traverse City

**Sally Cole** - April 17, 2019 at 06:05 PM



“ I have so many great memories of Jean going through the Bangor school system and graduating together from John Glenn. We reconnected on FB a few years ago and loved her posts on her sweet pooches and her love of the great outdoors. She will forever be in my memory as the classmate with the drumsticks twirling whenever she could. She is now free of pain but the world is a sadder place without her in it.

Sheila Mutton Hutchings  
Houston, TX

**Sheila Hutchings** - April 17, 2019 at 10:47 PM



“ Jean will always be that special girl I had a crush on. Despite the mistakes I made with Her. Thanks to Jean I became a better person and sensitive caring now in my relationships with women and men. Jean if our paths should meet in the next life I hope we can be better friends. You were important in my life without you I would not have grown up. Wishing your Partner Kathy and your family and loved ones peace and comfort at the time of your loss.  
Love Jim Wilinski Bay City, Mi.

**James Wilinski** - April 18, 2019 at 10:40 AM



“ I knew Jean online, and wish I had been able to meet her in person. She impressed me with her great sense of humor and her stubborn determination to be as independent as possible, regardless of the obstacles in her way. I admired her gumption and her ability to laugh in nearly every circumstance.

I will miss her presence. Rest in Peace, Jean.

**Mary H.** - April 19, 2019 at 12:39 AM