



Jo-Ann McDonald Henle

February 25, 1950 - December 29, 2018

Jo-Ann McDonald Henle, of Traverse City, died on December 29, 2018 at her home of mucosal melanoma, trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ and His promise of Resurrection to eternal life.

Born February 25, 1950 in Hamilton, ON, Canada, Jo-Ann attended Hill Park High School and then Park Business College. She studied clarinet, music theory, and ballet at the Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts, participated in church and school choirs, concert band, drama society, and the Girl Guides of Canada. Her favorite part of early school, though, was summer vacation, when the family travelled north to the farms, villages, rocks and sand of the Manitoulin Island in Georgian Bay.

She met Kurt J. Henle, the love of her life, in Hamilton, ON and immigrated to the USA in 1973. The couple married in Downingtown, PA on June 27, 1973, and their life together was greatly blessed with two dear sons, Nikolas and Alexander. Jo-Ann attended the University of Pennsylvania, majoring in English. Studies were interrupted by a family career move to the University of Utah and then to University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, challenges she met with quiet courage and a sense of adventure. Even so, she never lost sight of her goal of finishing her degree. After beloved sons, Nikolas and Alexander, went off to college themselves, Jo-Ann attended the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, picking up where she left off and graduating Summa Cum Laude with a BA in English/History.

A life-long writer, Jo-Ann was also a latter-day family historian; full-time homemaker/mother extraordinaire; volunteer in Church, school and community; co-founder of two writing groups; co-founder of St. Thomas Reformed Episcopal Church in Little Rock, AR; Assistant to the Rector of Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Webster Groves, MO; co-founder of All Saints Anglican Church in Traverse City; Church Lay Reader; leader in Community Bible Study

in Little Rock and St. Louis; member of the Order of the Daughters of the King and the American Association of University Women.

Jo-Ann was dearly loved and will be sorely missed by her beloved family and friends. She is survived by her husband, Kurt; sons Nikolas and Alexander (Brandy), grandsons Gavin and Walter; her brother Michael W. (Robyn) McDonald; and her sister, Peggy Anne (Mel) Scott; as well as her niece and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents Walter E. W. and Audrey L. McDonald; and her sister Jane S. (John) Kaufmann.

The family would like to express their sincere thanks to Hospice of Michigan, especially nurse Angel Kelly, for their excellent support and care.

A memorial service will take place at 2 p.m. Monday, March 18, 2019 at The Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home with Bishop David Thomas Hustwick, officiating. Burial was made in Monroe Center Cemetery, Blair Township, Grawn. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to All Saints Anglican Church c/o Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home, 305 Sixth St., Traverse City, 49684.

Cemetery

Monroe Center Cemetery

5316 County Road 633

Grawn, MI, 49637

Events

MAR **Service** 02:00PM

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home

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

Comments



“Back up at the cottage, feeling magnanimous, I helped my brother win at checkers. A nice gesture, I thought. Of course, I told him I let him win. He should know the value of an older sister.”

“I roll down my window to gather in the air. Why am I crying? Hand over mouth, I weep past the trees, snuffling up the sand scent of longing for that big water not yet visible, but always alive in my memory, and now suddenly felt once more in my soul. Just over there – North through the cold wind and the gull’s cry – The Great Lakes, my old home, my new home, my last home.”

And thus, I remember my sister, JoAnn. As in the last years of her life on earth, we shared our stories and poetry – writings, pen scratching’s that we used to portray and share our lives, our memories. Perhaps we discovered more about each other in that time than ever before. This brought great happiness to me. I shall always be grateful to her.

To the Value of an Older Sister...
Michael McDonald

Michael McDonald - March 17, 2019 at 12:23 PM



“Although we had lost touch after the move to Traverse City, I fondly remember JoAnn. We met through Community Bible Study and became friends. We enjoyed visiting museums in St. Louis, having lunch, discussing Anglican/Episcopal issues. She was indeed, one of the loveliest ladies I've known. I am now a Daughter of the King as I see she was; wish I had know that. I extend my deepest sympathy to her family. Elaine (Gorman) Marshall

Elaine Marshall - March 01, 2019 at 02:40 PM



“ Jo-Ann was a very beautiful person inside and out.

I met her through a writing group. She claimed the label 'writer' with quiet determination and modest satisfaction. I loved her Christian chutzpah.

Her vignettes and stories were crisp and thought-provoking. Her language was beautiful. Hearing her read her words was inspiring in itself.

We became friends slowly across differences. What a delight to get to know her. We found common grounds important to both of us, such as feminism's view of women as full human beings. We respected each other's spiritual beliefs. I was heartened to talk share values deeply her. Justice. Compassion. Tolerance. Respect for differences. Open-mindedness on controversial issues. Finding humor even when hard.

I learned much from her. I valued our friendship greatly. I will miss Jo-Ann very much.

Bonnie Spanier - January 07, 2019 at 08:51 PM