



Joanne S. Parshall Kline

July 24, 1929 - December 25, 2019

Joanne Sluyter Parshall Kline

December 25, 2019

The sun came out on Christmas day shortly after Joanne Kline's spirit left her body. She was born July 24, 1929, to Rev. John and Juanita (Tubbs) Sluyter, and spent her early years in Michigan's U.P. before living in Elberta, the place that always held her heart.

Joanne graduated Salutatorian of her Albion High School class and Phi Beta Kappa from Albion College. Years later she attended Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL.

During the 1980s, Joanne was pastor of Williamsburg United Methodist Church. She also served as Associate Pastor at Central United Methodist in Traverse City. She will long be remembered for her grounded, insightful sermons, always illustrated with real-life stories. Joanne celebrated others by sending over 1000 birthday cards per year, each with a personalized inspirational message written in beautiful penmanship. She encouraged people to celebrate themselves for two weeks.

She thrived on fun and silliness. In the 1970s, her Silver Lake house was famous at Halloween for having a "food truck" complete with menu, sweets, and savories. There she dressed as a witch, played spooky music, and took orders in a raspy voice.

Being invited to her house on a Sunday night was the best, and family friends jockeyed for that opportunity, because during the Walt Disney Hour, she'd put out a giant tin of candy and everyone got sugared up.

Joanne loved dogs and babies. When it became clear that her five children were enough, Joanne took in foster babies, nurturing them until their adoptions became finalized.

Holding a baby was the only thing that could get her out of bed early in the morning.

She adored her husband, Mayjor, and thrived on their love. His death in 1997 was the great tragedy of her life.

Joanne loved daffodils and yellow cars. She loved chocolate and Big Boy coffee and the NMC BBQ. She loved Dixieland Jazz and wanted it played at her memorial service. She loved taking photographs and made her own greeting cards. She loved campfires, beaches, and floating in water. Joanne loved football and never shied from being the loudest voice cheering from the stands.

One summer day in her 70s, Joanne realized she'd never had a convertible. That day she

bought one. Well into her 80s, she was the silver-haired lady seen around Traverse City driving a Miata and later a bright blue Sebring. When the August 2, 2015 storm-of-the-century hit, she was driving to Elk Rapids with the top down, and she kept going, finally arriving for dinner soaked. When she opened her car door, water poured out. She didn't care.

In her 1990 Christmas letter to her children she wrote, "I am grateful for the great gift each of you are to me, for the opportunities I've had to love you, to have some input into molding the very special persons you are today, for the patience you had with my mistakes, for the love you have and that you continue to return to me. I am consumed with gratitude! I wish for each of you the satisfaction that comes from the knowledge that you have "really lived" rather than that you simply spent a certain number of years on this earth or that you accumulated a certain amount of material wealth or education or "success" or attractiveness or personality. As I grow older, I think that God cares very little about these kinds of achievements."

Joanne is survived by her children David Parshall, Nancy Parshall (David Bedford), Douglas Parshall (Paula), Daniel Parshall, and Susan Hooper (Kevin).

She is also survived by her friend and first husband, James Parshall, D.O. and his wife Carole; four grandchildren (Bryan, Corey, Dylan, Emily); ten great-grandchildren; stepson Morris Kline (Sindy); stepdaughter Lana Kline; numerous nieces and nephews; and many, many friends.

Joanne was pre-deceased by her husband, Mayjor Kline, her parents, four siblings, and numerous beloved dogs and cats.

The family is indebted to Orchard Creek Assisted Living and Hospice of Michigan for their loving care in her final months.

Joanne was a beautiful gift. A celebration of life will take place at noon on Saturday, January 4, 2020, at Central United Methodist Church in Traverse City. All are welcome and she wouldn't want you to wear black. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to your favorite humane society or animal rescue.

Events

JAN **Celebration of Life** 12:00PM

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Central United Methodist Church
222 Cass Street, Traverse City, MI, US

Comments



“ Jeff and I just received the postcard and we are heartbroken. Sending our condolences to everyone. Every year we looked forward to her Christmas card....she was so thoughtful and kind to think of us every year and write a sweet note. I know Jeff has many fond memories. She will be missed.

Jeff & Anna Johnson - January 15, 2020 at 03:03 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear about your Mom...her wonderful kind heart and gentle soul will forever be with all who knew her. Her love of her children will forever live in their hearts! What happy times we all had in Plymouth, MI and then again when Jo and Nancy came to visit me in Scottsdale, AZ. It was during Jo's stay here that she talked about adopting a dog. So we set off to find a dog and Reggie became her travel companion! Heaven has a new star to love and cherish! God Bless you, Jo and deepest condolences to her dear family.

Marilynn Niemann - January 04, 2020 at 10:34 AM



“ Thanks Joanne for being (OUR #1 Fan) and faithfully warning the Civic center softball bench for Sue and the rest of our U&I ball team for all those years. You're a treasure who left your mark on many of us and will always be remembered for your faithfulness.
-Karyl Moore

Karyl Moore - January 03, 2020 at 08:49 PM



“ Joanne is a very smart, beautiful and kind lady; She is a respected friend...



Zhihua Ouyang - January 03, 2020 at 12:22 PM



“ The world is a better place and life has been sweeter and richer by having Joanne in it and having her as a friend. She was a treasure. What a marvelous woman!

Sandy O'Niel

sandra O'Niel - January 03, 2020 at 08:07 AM



“ Diane Denoyer lit a candle in memory of Joanne S. Parshall Kline



Diane Denoyer - January 02, 2020 at 02:23 PM



“ My heart fell heavy when I read of her passing. She was such an inspiration to me. She and I would have such great talks and I absolute adored receiving my birthday cards from her. To open the envelope with a special photo, then to receive a hand written note with her lovely penmanship. The words were always so heartfelt and she just made you feel special. My condolences to all of the family, as I know that this star might have become dim on earth, but let me tell you...she is shining brightly in the heavens with her Lord.

Diane Denoyer - January 02, 2020 at 02:36 PM



“ When Jo married my father-in-law Mayjor Kline she was like a breath of fresh air joining our family. They were like teenagers in love. We enjoyed them so much when they would come to Texas in their little camper and use our home as home base. We played cards, cooked, and went sightseeing a lot during those times. I have saved and treasure each and every one of her beautiful cards sent to me. I have the beautiful picture of her baby carriage full of pretty flowers on my wall today and think of her often. I'm so sorry for her families' loss and will miss her dearly. Lana Kline

Lana Kline - December 31, 2019 at 04:47 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lana Kline - December 31, 2019 at 04:46 PM



“ I will always remember how happy Joanne and my Dad (Mayjor) were together! I will miss them both for as long as I live.
I am so glad Sindy and I attended Joanne's 90th birthday celebration this past July.

Morris and Sindy Kline

Morris and Sindy Kline - December 29, 2019 at 11:00 AM



“ Was saddened to hear of Aunt Jo's passing, but also know she was ready to leave this earthly home. She was my favorite aunt, & I feel honored & proud to have my middle name named after her. There are so many wonderful memories of her & our times together over a lot of years. Our hearts our sad for all of you - Dave, Nan, Doug, Dan & Sue. She lived a good life & enjoyed it to the fullest. She was loved by us & will forever be in our hearts & memories.
Love you all, Joe & Debbie

Debbie McRoberts - December 28, 2019 at 11:49 PM



“ It's such a small world, as a small girl, I lived near your Gram & Grampa Sluyter in Albion. Would visit them often. They would serve cookies & milk, introduced me to poetry. I loved them & their sweetness. 40 some years later, I met this extraordinary woman, your Mom. She was minister in Williamsburg. Her laugh infectious, her smile warm. I loved her. When we talked, she beamed with pride & love for you all. When I think of health issues she survived & belief in our Lord. She is now with her love Major, free of pain. Watch for beautiful birds & butterflies. See the beauty in life as Joanne did

Mari Roberts - December 28, 2019 at 09:31 PM



“ Oh Nancy I am deeply saddened to hear that your mum has passed away. I have fond memories of her when she came to Australia with you. Not sure what she must have thought of our strange group at a Saturday lunch in Melbourne, but I can still see her smile and hear her laughter. How wonderful that you were able to have her in your life for so long. The great thing is that she will live on through you and your siblings. My sincere condolences to you, Dave and all of your family. I wish I was not so far away or I would be with you in a heartbeat. I hope you can feel the big hug I am sending. 🦋

Val Smith - December 28, 2019 at 03:05 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. JoAnne was a special person. Caring, accepting with a wry sense of humor to put things...gently, into perspective.
Dick Evans

dick evans - December 28, 2019 at 01:28 PM



“ I still drive her little red Miata and think of her often.

Brian Thomas - December 28, 2019 at 12:45 PM



“ Condolences to the family especially Nancy. Joanne was a very special & caring lady. She encouraged us to attend the Central Methodist Christmas Eve Services when we first moved to TC which we enjoyed for many years. Cherish your memories.
Gloria Wolf

Gloria Wolf - December 28, 2019 at 11:10 AM



“ Joanne was a wonderful friend, always greeted everyone with a smile and how are you doing attitude. She was a card sender for all occasions. Beautiful lady and will be missed.

Luana Dueweke - December 28, 2019 at 03:06 AM



“ I have so many memories of Aunt Jo starting from when I was a young girl. All of them have to do with her smile, laugh, giving and positive attitude. I loved visiting her and am sad for your loss but happy for the celebrating that is going on now with her family and friends. Live you Aunt Jo- Carol

Carol Verville - December 27, 2019 at 09:15 PM



“ When Joanne married my father-in-law she was like a breath of fresh air for our family and especially for Mayjor. It was as if they were teenagers so in love with one another and with life. The winter months they would come down to Texas with their little camper and use our home as their home base. We enjoyed them so much playing cards often, cooking, and sightseeing with much laughter when listening to many of Mayjor's famous stories. She loved her flowers and I have an 8x10 picture of one with the baby carriage full of flowers hanging on my wall today. I have saved every card that she ever sent and treasure each and every one because they were written with such love. On one of my visits we drove up to a restaurant in that Sebring and upon entering the hostess said she thought that Thelma and Louise just drove up and we had a big laugh out of that. I loved Jo so very much and will truly miss her and our conversations.

Lana Kline - December 28, 2019 at 11:02 AM



“ 3 files added to the album Joanne



Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services - December 27, 2019 at 03:29 PM



“ Dave, Nancy, Doug, Dan and Sue - we are sorry to hear of Aunt Jo's passing. We have many fond memories of her - a favorite aunt. Always positive and encouraging. We will miss seeing her on our visits to TC. Love Janet and Steve

Janet - December 27, 2019 at 03:21 PM



“ Thinking of Nancy and her family.
Joanne lived a BIG life.
Peace & love,
Susan Odgers & The Writing Group


susan odgers - December 27, 2019 at 02:14 PM



“ Always enjoyed seeing Joanne when visiting Dave & Nancy's. I loved her smile.

Marsha - December 27, 2019 at 10:18 AM



“ Thanks, Marsha. She enjoyed you too.

Nancy - December 27, 2019 at 11:05 PM



“ I have many memories of "Big Jo" from Dan's cartoons of her lifting the couch to vacuum and beating Doug at arm wrestling to marching for the ERA in 1980 or 1981-
-Dan, Joanne, my mom and me. I am so sorry for your loss. Your mom was a force!
Sending love and strength, prayers and peace to you all.

Liz Larson - December 27, 2019 at 09:39 AM



“ Dear Parshall's,
Your Mom was such a fighter, not just at the end, but for the many causes she supported.
She was an inspiration to many of us for her involvement.
My personal memory, aside from marching for the ERA with Dan and Liz, is the personal note she wrote me when I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Her words gave me hope and comfort during a confusing time in my life, and I owe my recovery in part to following her advice. Accept, don't dwell, and keep on living! Thank you, Joanne.
Thank you too for your wonderful kids that I love too!

lynn Larson - December 27, 2019 at 05:00 PM



“ Thanks, Liz. This made me laugh, and I needed that.

Nancy - December 27, 2019 at 10:00 PM



“ Joanne was a dear person and a special friend. Loved receiving her notes & photo cards on our birthdays. She played a major role at CUMC with her leadership. We will remember her smile, her hugs & driving her convertible with the top down! Hope she finds an Big Boy Restaurant in Heaven because she sure loved their coffee! RIP dear friend.

Betsy & Maurie Allen - December 27, 2019 at 09:34 AM



“ Joanne was a long time friend from years ago when we both were actively involved at Central Methodist Church. We both had children going to Central High School together so our paths crossed often. We continued to stay in contact over the years with notes during the holidays. I just received my annual note and update from Joanne a couple weeks ago. Loved her spirit and faith and will miss her presence with us.

Bonnie Kelly - December 27, 2019 at 08:30 AM



“ Joanne was such a fighter, not just at the end, but all her life. She inspired many of us by her commitment to her values and issues.
Aside from marching for the ERA with Luz and Dan, my personal memory is of a letter she wrote me soon after I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I believe I owe my on recovery to adhering to her advice: “accept, don’t dwell on it, keep living life”. Thank you, Joanne.
Thank you for your wonderful kids that I love too! RIP

lynn Larson - December 27, 2019 at 05:11 PM



“ We knew Joanne mainly through our mutual long association at Central UM Church. She was just the best company and friend, down to earth and blest with a real insight to the human condition, kindness attached. It was special to us to be part of her 90th birthday celebration this summer. In my small tribute then I expressed: "I enjoyed you from the pulpit, from the choir loft and from the pews." She was a special lady in many ways, our birthdays will not be the same without her wonderful photographic cards and encouraging words. God be with each of you now and bring comfort in your loss.

Elsie - December 29, 2019 at 04:00 PM



“ We met Joanne and her son at Orchard Creek a few months ago. We were so impressed with the support and love of Joannes family that we knew she must have been an amazing human being. Thanks to all the family for being a good example. With sympathy, Joe and Cheri

Cheri Buchbinder - December 30, 2019 at 02:37 PM



“ Mary Helen Williams adored Joanne's friendship -- her laughter, her photography, and many years of cards and letters.

David & John Williams - December 31, 2019 at 04:25 PM



“ Rest In Peace, Jo. Thank you, God, for her life and our friendship. We will miss you. Kay Wood

Kay Wood - December 31, 2019 at 10:19 PM