



Sandra Avis

August 24, 1962 - April 20, 2022

Sandra Lynne Avis

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Sandy left us the same way she entered this world – too soon. Born several weeks early in Cleveland, Ohio, she grew up on the city’s West Side. Sandy was quick to defend her hometown (and its abysmal sports teams) her whole life!

Sandy met Todd at summer camp when they were 10, and the bond they formed was unbreakable. They married in 1987 with a lifetime of dreams to pursue ahead of them. With three children under the age of five, Todd's travel-intensive job could have proven to be a challenge to the family. Instead, they made sure they used their free time to explore the outdoors, laugh a lot, and spend time with their boys. There was always a golden retriever in the mix to provide unconditional love. It wasn't always easy, but they made it work.

Sandy fiercely loved her three sons and “daughter-in-love.” Elliot O’Brien (Meredith), MacKenzie Frederic, and Gabriel Milton brought her unequivocal joy and the occasional sleepless night. While Sandy’s college career was dramatically cut short, those who knew her well admired her curiosity, critical thinking, and active and informed citizenry. These values came alive in how she raised her boys to always lead in service to others, engage in a liberal education, and exercise balance with athletic competitions and outdoor adventures. Sandy was very proud of the young men they have become. She was equally as proud of Meredith, an ICU nurse, who has displayed courage and grace in providing care to her patients, particularly in this time of COVID.

Passions, causes and her work drove Sandy to experience great joy and betterment for the common good. She was instrumental in starting a Habitat for Humanity Chapter in Hillsdale County, spent countless hours and resources supporting Planned Parenthood, volunteered for many Democratic Presidential candidates, and was a financial supporter

of her local NPR station wherever she lived. Instilling the importance of giving back in her children, Sandy often dragged them to rallies, fundraisers, and the voting booth. Her work as an interior designer was a catalyst for her creative side. Sandy was featured in many national publications but drew most satisfaction from seeing a project come to fruition. A client's vision, in conjunction with hers, led to gratifying results, not to mention the lifelong friendships she made.

When at 41 Sandy was diagnosed with breast cancer, she chose the most aggressive treatment with the aim of enjoying retirement with Todd and being a Nana to her grandchildren. When her metastatic diagnosis came 11 years later, things took a dark turn, but on that day she and Todd vowed to cherish every day. They made more memories with their family and friends in the last few years than a lot of people do in a lifetime.

An endowed scholarship has been created in Sandy's name at Kenyon College for first-generation students majoring in Studio Art. To honor the memory of Sandy, please visit gift.kenyon.edu. Under Designation, please select the Sandra L. Avis Endowed Fund. Her family would be thrilled if you would honor her memory.

Please join us as we gather to remember the life of Sandra L. Avis on June 25, 2022 at Manitou Meadows (Thoreson and Sunset Roads), Glen Arbor, MI at 10:30 am. Luncheon to follow.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN **25**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Manitou Meadows
Thoreson and Sunset Roads
Glen Arbor, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Send BEAUTIFUL Flowers Locally to the family of Sandra Avis. Express your condolences, giving comfort and support. Click here to view selections on our website*

Send Flowers - April 20 at 06:11 PM

NO

“ *Sandy and I were friends when we attended Pleasant Valley Junior High School in Parma, Ohio. She always had a sparkle and was always so kind to me. We had lost touch over the ensuing years and I was saddened to read of her passing in the Ridgewood United Methodist Church newsletter.*

My condolences to the family.

*Nancy O'Dell
Parma, OH*

Nancy O'Dell - May 25 at 01:50 PM

JK

“ *We got to know each other through her trips to my store, Burritt's. We talked of the ebbs and flow of cancer, treatment, hopes and setbacks. I lost my mom to cancer so we had a lot to talk about. Through it all she stayed positive and will miss her smile and our chats. Cheers, my friend. Prayers for your family.*



Jake Kaberle - May 01 at 09:28 PM

DD

“ *Dear Family*
I was so fortunate to have Sandy and Todd visit me in their Airstream. We had a wonderful time, and I remember her contagious smile and our shared interests. She was such a courageous fighter...a trait for which I have the greatest admiration.

I hope you smile every time you think of her; she would be so happy.
With deep sympathy,
Dennis Denenberg

Dennis Denenberg - April 28 at 09:41 PM



“ *She was a wonderful neighbor and was one of my sister's best friends growing up in Dogwood. She was a very lovely and positive person and full of hope. May she rest in Peace.*

Lisa Park Boush - April 28 at 07:30 PM

CE

“ *Elliot and Todd: I am wrapping you in God's healing power. I have sat were you are right now and I believe in God's plan for our lives. May you find comfort with all of the wonderful stories about your mom and your wife, Todd. I am sure you'll laugh and be consoled by the experience. Blessings. Be encouraged.*

Cheryl Edwards - April 24 at 06:57 PM

KB

“ *Dear AvisFamily-*

I am very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Kathy Baarstad - April 21 at 11:58 AM