



Jane Louise Wackell

MAY 17, 2021



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Jane Louise Wackell

MAY 17, 2021

Jane Louise (Ryan) Wackell, 79, of Punta Gorda, FL passed away Monday May 17, 2021 with her family lovingly by her side. Jane was born in Webster, MA to James and Irene (Jewell) Ryan.

Jane's passing was preceded by her brother Donald Ryan and niece Kathy Ryan. She is survived by her husband Robert Wackell; two sons David (wife Sumiyo Toribe) Wackell, and James (wife Erin Garwood) Wackell; daughter Pamela (partner Scot Donohue) Wackell; siblings Judith (Ryan) Lehman and husband Ralph, Dorothy (Ryan) Martinez and husband Robert, sister-in-law Patricia (Makulski) Ryan and their families; six grandchildren Tacent, Yula, and Koda (David Wackell), Kathryn (James Wackell), Daniel & Quinn (Scot Donohue), as well as countless family members and friends.

Growing up, Jane lived in Webster, MA and attended St. Louis Church every Sunday. Each week, after church, the Ryan family visited with their Grandparents. The children threaded buttons with a blunt needle to store them, but mostly to keep them busy during the visit. On Saturdays, Jane frequented the movie theatre in Webster where the cost for a movie was \$.10. The family had no TV until the neighbors purchased one and were invited over to watch Howdy Doody Time.

The Ryan family spent summers in July at Gray's Cabins on Webster Lake, accompanied by the Scott's, Jewell's and Austin's. Many great childhood memories were formed there. Jane attended Bartlett High School and played clarinet for the high school band. She took an interest in sewing at an early age, and made it her Major at Nasson College, ME. After graduation, Jane moved to Worcester, MA and lived at the YMCA, working for Paul Revere.

Jane met her husband, Robert (Bob) Wackell of Worcester, MA in early 1963 and was soon after married in 1966. They said "we met in a revolving door and have been going around ever since." Upon their wedding day, Jane and Bob settled into the small town of Millbury, MA on Singletary Lake, which was ideally located between both their parent's homes. When the 1st of their 3 children was born in 1968, Jane decided to stay home and devote her time to raising the children;



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providing a warm, stable and loving environment. She balanced getting the kids ready for school, preparing lunches, and taking them to Boy Scouts, Camp Fire, Soccer, Baseball and various other activities. “It will be all better before you get married” was one of Jane’s favorite sayings if the children had a scrape or bruise. The days would always end with the family gathered around the table and a home cooked meal.

When the children were young, Jane worked as a seamstress. As a hobby she made clothes and Halloween costumes for them. Once the kids were in school full time, she decided to work at the Millbury Federated Church Nursery School. The two youngest children attended this nursery school and Jane assisted with many activities over the years prior to her employment. She enjoyed crafting, mentoring and positively influencing many children. She received thankful gifts and kind gestures from children and their parents over the years.

Jane also worked for Betatherm Corporation in Shrewsbury, MA and later worked for Fallon Community Health Plan in Worcester, MA as a Billing Representative into retirement. Jane made many close friends through work and kept in touch with them, even after retiring.

Family vacations were taken throughout the Northeast, including Lake Sebago and The White Mountains. Memorable summers were spent with her sister Dorothy and family, most notably at Lake George, Story Town and Six Gun City. They often visited with one another during the holidays.

Jane always loved the beach and ocean. She took her children to visit Aunt Bets & Uncle Al (Jewell) in Charlestown, RI where the family enjoyed quahauging and crabbing on Ninigret Pond. Her sister Judith and husband Ralph later built a house in Charlestown, which then hosted many family gatherings, incorporating delicious New England seafood, family stories, puzzle making, and laughter.

In the 80s, Jane’s brother Donald and wife Patricia purchased a townhome in North Topsail Beach, NC. Jane arranged a trip with the family to visit. She and Bob liked the area so much they decided to purchase a condo for themselves. This became a vacation spot and place of relaxation for the Wackells.

In 2003, Jane and Bob began to snowbird, living part time in Pompano Beach, FL. The two of them enjoyed the sunshine and taking walks on the beach to Hillsboro Lighthouse. Jane loved



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exercise class and easily made friends in the area. She spent time knitting blankets, sweaters, hats, and scarves for her kids and grandkids, and enjoyed sitting in the sand with a good book.

In 2011, Jane and Bob decided to permanently move to FL, settling in Punta Gorda, although they knew no one in the area at the time. Jane joined the YMCA and, again, easily made friends who were also from the New England area. Jane and Bob joined the Elks Club and enjoyed socializing with close friends and going out dancing on Friday nights. Jane loved to do “the twist”. She cherished facetime chats, pictures, videos and visits with her children and grandchildren.

Although Jane lived in FL, she enjoyed keeping in touch with old friends from MA and helped organize many high school class reunions. She even arranged mini-reunions with those friends who also migrated to FL.

Shortly after Jane and Bob moved to FL, Jane was diagnosed with kidney disease. Despite the disheartening news, Jane kept a positive attitude and continued to be active. She never complained, and once on dialysis she treated it as “her job”. She passed her treatment time by reading, doing crossword puzzles or playing words-with-friends. Jane remained a strong and inspiring woman through her final breath.

Jane will be missed dearly by family, friends and all who knew her. May those she touched continue to hold a piece of her close to their hearts.

Services and Celebrations of Jane’s life will be held in Punta Gorda, FL and Massachusetts.

Punta Gorda, FL:

Friday, June 18th, 2021 @ 11am-Noon

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

211 West Charlotte Ave.

Punta Gorda, FL 33950

941-639-3957 <https://sacredheartfl.org/>



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Reception to follow:

Village Fish Market and Restaurant

1200 W Retta Esplanade Ste J36,

Punta Gorda, FL 33950

941-639-7959 <http://www.village-fish-market.com/>

Webster, MA

Friday, July 9th, 2021 @ 11am-Noon

St. Louis Church

15 Lake St

Webster, MA 01570

508-943-0240 <https://stlouischurchwebster.org/>

Reception to follow:

Point Breeze

114 Point Breeze Rd



Webster, MA 01570

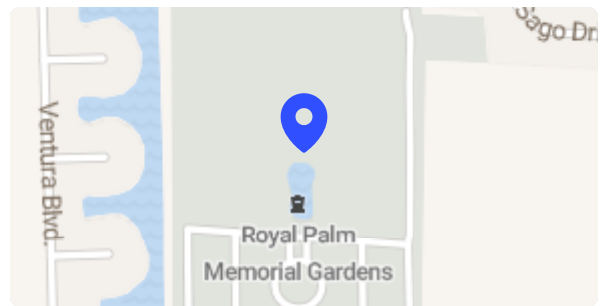
508-943-0404 <https://www.pointbreezeonwebsterlake.com/>

Condolences may be sent to Robert Wackell at his home in Punta Gorda. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made The National Kidney Foundation. <https://www.kidney.org/>



Cemetery Details

-  **Royal Palm Memorial Gardens**
27200 Jones Loop Rd, Punta Gorda FL 33982
-  **(941) 621-2739**





Tribute Wall

Jane Louise Wackell



Thomas Wieloch posted:

I went to Bartlett High School with Jane and I was her date in the School Senior Prom. I liked Jane and am glad to see she had a wonderful life and was blessed with family and many friends. Thomas Wieloch

November 17 at 1:30 PM



Kathy Fogle posted:

Dear Family Members of Jane, Martin and I met Jane later in life when we started attending the Jewell/Crocker family reunions. We remember Jane as a kind soul with a beautiful family. She was blessed, as was her family. Our sincere condolences. Kathy Jewell Fogle and Martin Fogle

August 9 at 1:42 PM



Tribute Wall

Jane Louise Wackell



Dorothy Ryan Martinez shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



Some memories of my sister Jane (being honored today) Jane was my sister, my friend, my mentor. Being only two years apart (I was younger), we were best play mates. She would get us outside to play ball or hopscotch or jump rope or jacks. She was always better than I because of the age difference but she would never make me feel bad if I didn't get it. She would always praise me when I did. I remember playing Hide and Seek and we were both hiding under the porch. They found Jane but never found me and she never told where I was. They had to call "Allie, Allie in Free". I remember sharing a room with the twin beds. We would share stories about our friends, who like who and who was the current boy she wished would ask her out. We would spend hours looking out the window to watch the boys go by. When she got a job in Worcester after college she called me and asked, "Dot, do you want to come and see my apartment and meet my roommate?" That was significant to me because she was accepting me on an equal level. That was the beginning of our adult relationship. Jane was always there for me. She was there at the dance when I met my husband, Bob and then again two and a half years later to help me pick out my wedding gown. She was there to celebrate the birthdays, the anniversaries, the holidays and a few vacations. Jane was the one that stayed near home. So when we went home for Christmas or Thanksgiving she was there. The part that will never be forgotten is how she was there for Mom and Dad. She had three kids and a job but managed to find time to visit with them weekly. Then when Dad was in the nursing home she would visit and later when Mom was at Joshua Place. She did this all while having chronic back pain from scoliosis. Yet she hardly ever complained. We were together when Mom got the call that Dad had died. We were together when we got the call that Mom had died. I can still feel her hugs every time I think of those moments. We had a lot of vacations together. However Lighthouse Cove was the best. When Jane and Bob moved to Florida and we went to visit we bought a Timeshare at Lighthouse Cove in Pompano Beach where they had a condo. So once a year I got to see my sister every day. We would take walks on the beach and go swimming in the ocean in January. They even took us down to The Keys and also Miami. Then we had mini reunions with Judy and Ralph and Pat and of course Pam. Then we added a week and our kids started coming too. Jane was the catalyst that made that happen. Thanks for the memories, Jane. I miss you already. Love from your sister, your friend.

June 1 at 6:31 AM



Anonymous sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Wackell family.



June 15 at 5:31 AM



Tribute Wall

Jane Louise Wackell

NZ

Nancy Corbett Zose posted:

Jane was my cousin. Our grandmothers were sisters. We saw each other's families growing up. I remember her in her body cast and the visits we made to Webster Lake and especially visits to the family home in Webster. I was one of those Words With Friends friend. I am so sorry for the family loss. She leaves a big hole there. Nancy Corbett Zose

June 6 at 6:54 AM

AA

Ann Axtman posted:

Jane and I had been friends since high school. She was an exceptional person and will always have a place in my heart. Mr thoughts and prayers go out to Bob and family. I will never forget you Jane. .

June 2 at 4:51 PM

BP

Barbara (Bergner) Piechocki posted:

Jane and I were classmates from kindergarten and were close friends until graduation from Bartlett. We have remained friends thru facebook for several years. She was a sweetheart of a person and will be missed. Thoughts and prayers go to Robert and his children and grandchildren.

June 1 at 6:38 PM

CL

Carol Lavallee posted:

Jane was always a great classmate. Our paths changed after graduation, but we rekindled our friendship working on reunions, etc. I am sorry for the large loss the family will have. But I'm sure she will let her presence be known in some surprising way. Carol Lavallee

June 1 at 1:29 PM

BE

Bette Ewing posted:

I am heartbroken to hear of Jane's death. I pray for peace and comfort for her and her family. I am one of the classmates she included in the mini-reunions in Florida and we always had such fun. Jane and I worked together at the card factory in high school. We had lots of adventures in those days and I will always remember her funloving ways. Jane, you will be so missed by so many.

June 1 at 12:02 PM



Tribute Wall

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Shirley Charbonneau posted:

My deepest sympathy to your family. There are no words that can express the loss of a loved one, be it family or friend. Jane and I grew up together, were friends and went to school together, enjoying life as it was. May she rest in peace. God Bless and be with you during this trying time.

June 1 at 6:58 AM



David Wackell posted:

My mother, Jane Wackell led a good life, a life full of family and friends. She cared deeply about her family and was loving and supportive to us kids. Aside from that she was creative and skilled at most things she tried. Mom was in the 4-H growing up, she was also in a body cast for the better part of a year to help straighten her spine. Being told at a young age that you would likely have no children, then going on to raise three successfully – that’s my Mom, beating the odds and defying absurdity for common sense. Our house was “the house” where everyone gathered. In wintertime she would make hot cocoa for us after a long day of sledding. She taught me to feed the birds and sat with me while I was frustrated with spelling homework. Jane Wackell was nothing short of inspirational. When the Kiss record “Rock and Roll Over” came out, she made t-shirts hand painted with the album cover. I think nearly every kid in town owned one. She was an incredible seamstress, skilled at knitting too. She was a maker and a do-er. What about all those incredible meals! What about the brick facade she built, or the faux wall finishes; the cork wall with the string-art ship? Never ending creativity. And though not much of a writer that I know of, Mom was always wordsmithing and playing games. When I was little, we always played “Kismet” with Aunt Sandy. All our cousins and aunts and uncles were close to us growing up. Thanksgiving, Christmas, birthdays, vacations: all of it made better through her quiet organization and inclusivity. How fun! Professionally, Mom worked in insurance, as a seamstress, a nursery schoolteacher, “screwing caps on toothpaste,” then insurance again. The view of this child was of a woman that was effortless and strong, courageous, and loving. I am continually impressed by the number of lives she touched: always inspiring, connecting, and growing kindness. I miss her dearly. I love you Mom.

June 1 at 6:31 AM



Dorothy Ryan Martinez shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

June 18 at 5:10 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Jane by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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