



Janis E. Gerkenismeyer

December 19, 1947 - November 21, 2021

Janis E. Gerkenismeyer (Kercheval), 73, of Bloomington, passed away on Sunday, November 21, 2021 at Golden Living Center. She was born on December 19, 1947 in Los Angeles, California; the daughter of Glo and Jim Kercheval.

Janis received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Indiana University and went on to obtain both a masters and a doctorate degree in psychiatric nursing from Indiana University. After moving from Indiana to a wilderness home on the Gunflint Trail in Northern Minnesota, Janis continued to conduct research and completed her final project before retirement—a funded, major National Institute of Health study.

Janis' passion as a psychiatric nurse and a researcher was helping children and their families. She pioneered innovative pediatric pain management practices that are used both in the U.S. and abroad. Her research on supporting the caregivers of children with mental health needs changed the lives of many families. From lobbying at the Indiana State House for the needs of children with mental health issues to providing support to families in need in her community, Janis was constantly caring for others in both her professional and her personal life. Just a few of her numerous awards and achievements include the Carol McMullen Marsh Award from Indiana University School of Nursing, recognition of honors from Sigma Theta Tau International Honor

Society of Nursing, and recognition of outstanding research from the Indiana University Patient Care Research Committee.

Janis was passionate about her gardens and wildlife. She was an excellent cook. Whether someone was invited over for a meal or just happened to “drop by,” there was guaranteed to be a spread that would inspire stories for years and years. Above all, Janis was a natural born caregiver. She was passionate about her work and she was passionate about her family and friends. She had the gift of making others feel loved, no matter how briefly they knew her.

Janis is survived by her children, Amy Ellen Roberts (Sean), Angela Joy Sledd, and Sarah Elizabeth Cullison (Andrew); grandchildren, Owen David Roberts, Brynn Everly Roberts, Ella Delia Sledd, Lily Irie Sledd, Simon Richard Cullison and Charles David Cullison; sister Glory Juare (Hawkins). She was preceded in death by her husband of 51 years, David Gerkenmeyer; parents, Glo Kercheval (Ralston) and Jim Kercheval; birth parents Rose Hawkins (Lacerte) and Francis Hawkins.

A funeral service will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 27, 2021 at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, 3800 E. Third St. Bloomington. Family will receive friends from 11am until the time of service at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association, the Children’s Mental Health Network, and ChildKind International.

Funeral services for Janis will be held in conjunction with services for her beloved husband, David C. Gerkenmeyer.

Guests are welcome to join us virtually through Zoom with the directions below:

Topic: David and Janis Gerkenmeyer's service 11/27/21

Time: Nov 27, 2021 12:00 PM Indiana (East)

Join Zoom Meeting <https://trincoll.zoom.us/j/92824164361>

Meeting ID: 928 2416 4361 One tap mobile +19292056099,,92824164361#

US (New York) +13017158592,,92824164361# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 928 2416 4361 Find your local number: <https://trincoll.zoom.us/u/adu00TCGF>

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 27. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Thomas Lutheran Church
3800 E. Third Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

Service

NOV 27. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Thomas Lutheran Church
3800 E. Third Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

Tribute Wall

SW

“ Oh my dear Jan! I am a childhood and lifelong friend of Jan. I just discovered she has passed and I am heartbroken. We met in Indiana at Union elementary when the Kerchevals moved to their farm nearby. We knew and recognized each other immediately when our teacher introduced Jan to our class. We were maybe around 10 at the time. We saw each other occasionally thru the years but not often enough because my husband was military and we've were always moving. We enjoyed each other tremendously. We were in each other's weddings. We rode bikes, explored the countryside, took diving lessons together and belly dancing! We both went into nursing and met each other's children. The most wonderful friend I have ever had. The recent years separated us sadly. We will meet again after this life. She is enjoying her husband and parents now who have gone before and having a joyous reunion I am sure. My condolences to her children and family. Godspeed my Jan!

sue anne pool wakeland - June 14, 2022 at 11:08 PM

SZ

“ Janis desire to care for others and her compassion still lived in her as her need for care for herself I witnessed in the nursing facility. She was a jewel~a true light.

Suzanne Zook - November 29, 2021 at 11:02 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Janis E. Gerkenmeyer.



November 26, 2021 at 10:51 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Janis E. Gerkenmeyer.*



November 24, 2021 at 12:41 PM



“ *Janis was a joy to work with at the IU school of nursing. She was always very generous and kind. My heart goes out to all the family who doubly grieving now.*

Janet Carpenter - November 23, 2021 at 08:13 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Janis E. Gerkenmeyer.*



November 23, 2021 at 09:46 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Janis E. Gerkenmeyer.*



November 22, 2021 at 10:16 PM



“ [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the family of Janis E. Gerkenmeyer.

November 22, 2021 at 10:11 PM