



Jan Larson Butcheri

March 17, 1952 - September 20, 2020

“Hidy-ho!” If you knew Jan Larson Butcheri, you likely can hear this greeting ringing in your ears even now. Throughout her life, Jan was perpetually ebullient, frequently changing the energy in any room with a simple smile and wave. As a founding member of the “Friends of the Friendless Club” in her hometown of Mount Jewett, PA, even as a child, Jan naturally found ways to form connections with everyone she met and ensured no one felt excluded, alone, or without love. This thread of kinships, kindness, and empathy became the lovely tapestry of her life, its reach immeasurable.

Jan attended Grove City College, where she met the love of her life, Terry. The two wed in August of 1973. They began their newlywed years travelling overseas as Peace Corps volunteers and serving as teachers in the Mariana Islands. After several years of dedication as educators abroad, Jan, Terry, and their first daughter – their “pearl of the Pacific,” Beth Ann, settled in North Tonawanda, NY. Jan went on to serve as an English teacher at Lockport High School, where she dutifully shared her zeal for reading and writing performing a job she loved. Her classroom, room 206, became a warm and welcoming sanctuary for her students and colleagues alike. During that time, she also gave birth to her second daughter, Amy Lynn, on what Jan called “the sweetest and most peaceful Christmas Eve” she had ever experienced.

While Jan’s allegiance to her family was always forefront, her devotion to her church family was equally profound. A member of the First United Methodist Church of North Tonawanda, Jan’s involvement was extensive and included

singing with the Chancel Choir and ringing handbells with the “Jubalation” Ringers. To see Jan express herself musically was a gift, her joy pouring forth with every note, in perfect harmony with her infectious smile. For over two decades, Jan hosted a Tuesday night prayer group at the dining room table of her home. Getting ready for “the prayer ladies” was a task frequently handed down to her daughters, who would set the table and put out the coffee cups each week. Most summers, Jan would unfailingly teach a new clutch of children “Climb, Climb Up Sunshine Mountain” during Vacation Bible School. And on Saturdays throughout the year, she could be found in the church kitchen calculating how to make meatloaf for 100 guests as a host of the Community Corner Café. Her Christianity was exemplary. She loved unconditionally, she forgave immediately, and she welcomed all.

Jan appreciated books. She loved to read, both to herself and to others. Her vocabulary was robust, and favorite words included “serendipitous”, “kerfuffle”, “curmudgeon”, “serpentine”, and “autumnal.” She enjoyed the lost art of letter writing, frequently toting a bag of stationary, stamps, stickers, and confetti even on family vacations. It was not uncommon to see Jan lying on the beach at Jekyll Island each year, delightfully scrawling notes to friends at home and away, filling them in on the ordinary details of sunsets, weather, and nightly meals. Her Christmas card list was lengthy, but Jan enjoyed the seasonal task of writing an individualized note on each card. She decorated her house for every holiday and every season, much to the delight of her daughters. She was an expert hostess, opening her home for any occasion – birthdays, holidays, celebratory milestones, and gatherings of refuge. Jan adored having her family and friends congregated around the table - especially around the television during Bills games.

Sadly, Jan was diagnosed with early-onset Dementia over a decade ago. Her family has said a slow farewell to all the glimmering qualities and traditions that made Jan the person she was. She peacefully passed away on September 20, 2020. Jan was predeceased by her parents, Elmer “Red” Larson and Dorothy “Betty” Larson. She is survived by her husband, Terry, her

daughters Beth Ann (Matthew) Crvelin and Amy, her granddaughters Cameron and Kerrington, and her siblings Lynn Larson Swanson, Dawn Larson Weborg, and Jody Larson. In lieu of flowers, please remember Jan with a memorial to the Alzheimer's Association.

Cemetery Details

Acacia Park Cemetery

4215 Tonawanda Creek Rd N.
North Tonawanda, NY

Tribute Wall

JJ

“ Terry - Our deepest sympathies to you and the whole family. We're so sorry for your loss. We'll keep Jan, you and the family in our prayers. - Jaz and Wavie Jablonski

Jaz Jablonski - October 03, 2020 at 10:53 AM

MC

“ Sharing room 212 at NTHS with Jan was delightful. As an English teacher she was engaging and warm. As a colleague she was generous and empathetic. Memories of her bring smiles and laughter, a notable legacy. Her family meant the world to her and she was genuine in her love for them. Although she will be missed by many, each of us shares a little piece of her humanity. In that, we are blessed.

Marsha Campbell

Marsha Campbell - September 28, 2020 at 10:23 AM

KB

“ My sympathy is extended to the Butcheri Family. Terry, may God continue to give you the strength you need for each day.

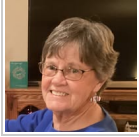
Kathy Elliott Barton

Kathy Barton - September 28, 2020 at 07:23 AM

MM

“ Terry, I'm am deeply saddened by the passing of your wife, Jan. My prayers are with you and your family. Marty Miller

Marty Miller - September 27, 2020 at 04:12 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to Jan’s family!*

Wendy (Ellman) Binkley

Wendy Binkley - September 27, 2020 at 03:06 PM



“ *As an NT grad, I knew Jan’s sister in law, Bonnie. When Jan and I worked together at LHS, she could be counted on always- to wrangle with a tough student with grace and aplomb or do an extra assignment for the good of the order. Jan and I shared parenting daughters too, and a love of dogs. She once regaled me with a hysterical tale of the dog stealing the second day off the platter while folks were dining!*

She was a true gem and I cannot imagine how difficult it has been to lose her over time. My condolences to you, Terry, and her beloved daughters- her church family as well. We will all look forward to seeing her again with our Maker in heaven.

Susan Nablo

susan Nablo - September 27, 2020 at 09:05 AM



“ *Mrs. Butcheri was my 9th grade English teacher at Lockport. I will never forget her, especially her kind welcome and her love of reading.*

Former Student - September 27, 2020 at 08:27 AM

LS

“ My son went through elementary school with Jans daughter, Amy. I remember Amy reporting to 3 year old pre-school **READING** ! Amy was the youngest in the class. When I approached Jan in amazement over Amys ability to read so young -she pointed me to a good book that she said helped Amy. It was *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*. Now my son reads itcto his daughter ! Jan was always full of life & on the move when I would bump into her at our children’s school ! Deeply committed to her family, her students & most importantly-her Savior. Rest In Peace & our prayers are with Amy, Beth & Terry today
Lynne Smith

Lynne Smith - September 24, 2020 at 09:17 AM

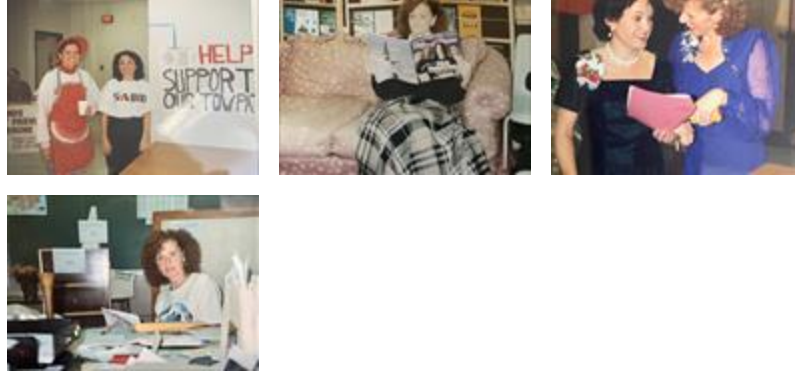
SS

“ Beautiful woman . She will be missed . The memories written of her are amazing . May she Rest In Peace and love to the family —. Star serra

star serra - September 23, 2020 at 10:13 PM

LB

“ Here are a few pictures of my wonderful teaching buddy for over 17 years . We had more fun than anybody should be allowed to have - I have missed and will continue to miss her , but I am so very grateful to have had her in my life.



Laura Baren - September 22, 2020 at 05:44 PM

RF

“ I'm glad I was able to meet your Mom and wish I could have known her better since she sounds like an amazing person. Thinking of al of you.

Robin Fowler - September 22, 2020 at 03:36 PM

BM

“ I am so sorry for your family's loss. It was a joy and blessing to have attended bible study at your home for so many years. The beautiful Christmas trees, log fires and seasonal decorations were always fun to look forward to. I am so happy Jan is at peace now after such a long battle. Hugs.

Beverly Mingle - September 22, 2020 at 03:22 PM

MB

“ I remember sitting at her patio table in the summer, reading *Maniac McGee*, and drinking juice with ice cubes out of a plastic wine glass with a fish for the stem. Those summer afternoons tutoring with her are some of my favorite memories from growing up. She was such a vibrant woman and taught me to love words. It is very fitting that one of Teagan's favorite books has her inscription. Love to all of you...
Maria, Jeremy, Teagan, and Rocco



Maria Batt - September 22, 2020 at 02:59 PM

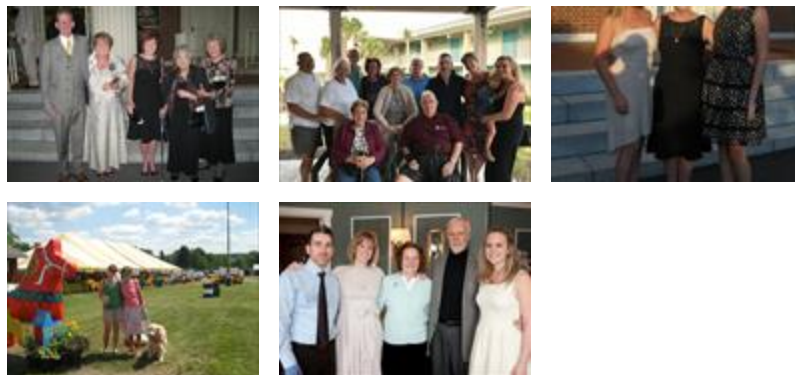
EB

“ Our prayers and sympathy go out to your entire family. I will miss making music with her in the handbell choir and her infectious laugh and smile. Ken and Ellen Baker

Ellen Baker - September 22, 2020 at 10:33 AM

BC

“ 18 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Beth Ann Crvelin - September 21, 2020 at 04:21 PM

BC

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Beth Ann Crvelin - September 21, 2020 at 04:07 PM