



Janel Kay Beckman

October 27, 1944 - December 19, 2020

Janel Kay Beckman passed peacefully away on December 19, 2020 at Rakhma Peace Home in Minneapolis. She was 76 and born on October 27th, 1944 to Rubye and Lewis Lansing in Rolfe, Iowa. Her family soon moved to Bricelyn, Minnesota where her parents ran Lew's Meats on Main Street. Janel graduated from Bricelyn High School in 1962 and then attended The Original LaJames College of Cosmetology in Mason City, IA. She married Tracy Beckman in 1963 and they embarked on their life journey together. Janel was a lifelong rock-hound and fossil collector and together with Tracy they explored rock and fossil deposits wherever they went. After Tracy's military stint in Texas, they settled back in Minnesota and lived in Mankato, Madison and Redwood Falls before they purchased Bricelyn Hardware in late 1974. Together, they ran the business, raised a family which included their adopted daughter Rosa, from Bogota, Columbia and made a home for foster children. Janel also worked as a Guardian ad Litem in Faribault County and was a fierce advocate for victims of abuse. When Tracy entered politics, Janel ran the store full-time, managed the household and continued to cook homemade meals for their five children while still consuming piles of mind and heart expanding fiction and poetry. In retirement, she and Tracy explored the US and visited family from their RV. She continued to collect rocks and artifacts weighing down the RV on trips back to Minnesota.

Janel was deeply creative and expressed this energy in many forms including

hair styling, découpage, macramé, antique furniture refinishing, crafting decorative holiday decor, wallpapering, interior painting work, drawing and painting. While living in Washington, D.C. in the early 2000s, Janel dedicated much of her time to studying painting and developed her own style, first water color and then acrylic. Janel's oeuvre comprises over 200 paintings now treasured by family members and friends. Her daughter, Robin, curated a final art show in Albert Lea that displayed much of Janel's work in January 2017.

Janel was a feminist, free thinker, jazz lover, vegetarian and peace seeker. She was a kind soul who always had others in mind. She was a fighter who lived for many years with autoimmune liver disease and then dementia. Yet, she continued to turn outward, helping others until dementia confined her activity. Throughout her life, she touched many and influenced her family and friends to be kind to one another. We also all knew Janel as a straight-shooter who could articulate her disagreements with colorful language, a legacy from her parents.

She is survived by her husband Tracy and their five children: Robin Gudal (Greg), Matt Beckman (Rebekah Teague), Anna Almerico, Rosa Munoz Beckman and Dan Beckman Moon (Amy Moon Offerman Sims). Her grandchildren include Scott (Andrea), Charlene (Brian), Isaac (Ann), Hannah (Matt); Theo, Opal and Iris; Olai and Agnes. She had eight great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren. Her siblings include Loris (Lee) and Armon (Becky) and their families. In-law siblings include the Steve (Linda) Beckman family, the Sandy Lorenz family and the Troy (Anita) Beckman family. She is preceded in death by her parents, in-laws Lucille and Harold Beckman, brother-in-law Bruce Lorenz and many other cherished relatives. Janel had many dear friends who supported her until the end.

When she began experiencing memory problems she enrolled as a participant in studies of dementia at the Mayo Clinic. Her last act of generosity was bequeathing her brain to medical research so that scientists can better understand Alzheimer's Disease and dementia. In lieu of memorials, please donate to Rakhma Peace Home (<https://www.rakhma.org/>) or another charitable organization. In her memory, be kind and generous to others. A celebration of Janel's life will be held at a later date.

Cemetery Details

Hillside Crematory

2610 19th Ave NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Tribute Wall

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“ To Tracy, Robin and the rest of the Beckman family, my sincere condolences to all of you. I have so many great memories of Janel and our time together while we went to school and cosmetology school. Thoughts and prayers,
Linda RosedahL Ludy.

Linda Ludy - December 24, 2020 at 03:48 PM

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“ To Tracy and family. I am so sorry to hear of Janel's passing and sending my sympathies to you all. Definitely good memories of all of you thru the years. May your wonderful memories of Janel sustain you thru this time of grief. Carol

Carol Olson - December 24, 2020 at 12:03 PM