



## Joan Dagmar Stenberg

June 25, 1931 - December 15, 2018

Stenberg, Joan D. Age 87, of Minnetonka, died December 15, 2018. Joan was born on a farm in Amboy, Minnesota. Joan is survived by her sister Virginia (Ed) Smereka, nieces Teri Vore (John), Karen Smereka (Jamie), and Susan; nephews John Vehrs (Brenda), Rick Vehrs (Renee), and Robert Smereka and other friends. She is preceded in death by her parents, Sigval and Ragna Stenberg, her nephew, Peter Smereka, and close friend, Bee Dickson.

She received her BS University of Minnesota - 1954, MS University of Minnesota - 1975 and an

Honorary PhD University of Minnesota - 1995. Joan's career combined 19 years of nursing with 21 years of teaching nursing skills all at the University of Minnesota and was marked with a number of awards, including the University of Minnesota Excellence in Nursing Award in 1995.

Joan had many interests beyond her career and these were sources of inspiration and infectious energy to all that knew her. She was devoted to her friends and family and made many lasting friendships in her various communities. Joan shared her enthusiasm for opera, classical music, playing her Steinway daily, and performing duets with her dear friend, Karen Ciske, and beloved Dr. Kelly. She was an avid birder and found excitement in adding new birds to her life list. Seemingly contradictory, she loved cats and always

carried pictures of her cats, George and Mittens, in her purse. She volunteered for over 20 years at Westwood Hills Nature Center where she educated elementary school children about birds and ecology. She was a skater and loved to watch ice skating competitions on television. She belonged to a Gurdjieff group since 1979. The friends and the practices created through this community influenced her life and work. She was the “cool aunt” who did Tai Chi, meditated, was single, chewed Doublemint gum and made friends with all the wait staff wherever she regularly dined.

She touched the hearts of many and she will be sorely missed by all.

In lieu of flowers, donations preferred and can be sent to the Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave., St. Louis Park, MN 55426. Donations will go toward supporting educational programs. Westwood Hills Nature Center

A memorial service will be held at Washburn-McReavy Funeral Home - Edina Chapel on April 20, 2019 at 11 a.m. Visitation will be at 10 a.m. and a reception will follow the service.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **20**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Edina Chapel  
5000 West 50th & Highway 100  
Edina, MN 55436  
(952) 920-3996  
[info@washburn-mcreavy.com](mailto:info@washburn-mcreavy.com)

## Memorial Service

APR **20**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel  
5000 West 50th & Highway 100  
Edina, MN 55436  
(952) 920-3996  
[info@washburn-mcreavy.com](mailto:info@washburn-mcreavy.com)

# Tribute Wall

LS

“ My Mom (Blossom Gullickson) taught with Joan at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing from 1970 until 1995. They remained active and connected during their retirement years while working on the Heritage Committee, meeting for tea before meetings to catch up with each other. Joan has always been one of the first two people I called whenever my Mom has been in the hospital. I last spoke with her on Dec. 1st to let her know my Mom had moved into a nursing home and to give her the new phone number. She shared her health concerns with me then. My Mom & I deeply miss her. She was always a source of comfort and a peaceful presence during difficult times.

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**Lynn Gullickson Spencer** - April 13, 2019 at 06:52 PM

LS

“ Lynn Gullickson Spencer lit a candle in memory of Joan Dagmar Stenberg



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**Lynn Gullickson Spencer** - April 13, 2019 at 11:22 AM

JB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**JoAnn Butrin** - March 26, 2019 at 10:38 AM

KA

“ With "Tools" often being part of my teaching load, I had the privilege for working with Joan. We became good friends. Once my twins were about four they knew that cigarettes are bad for your health. Visits to Joan from then on included two little kids searching until they located the stash. They would then hide them from Joan! Once she nearly panicked when they hid them too well! What a game! They remember it even now. They just turned 41! I have a picture of Joan opening the drawer where she hid them.



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Kathy Accola - January 13, 2019 at 06:44 PM

KA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



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Kathy Accola - January 13, 2019 at 06:32 PM

KA

“ I had written a lot of memories but went to fold laundry and now it's gone! Will try to reconstruct. I am Kathy Accola I taught with Joan at the U in 70's and 80"s. She became and remained one of my best friends. When I was hospitalized at Sister Kenny in 2010, she drove over to see me. That was the last time I saw Joan. Even though she helped with the writing of some of the first computerized nursing education programs ever, Joan remained afraid of the computer. I would email her, she would read it and then call in a day or two. I last talked with Joan on December 1st. She told me about the spots on her lung and that she knew it was not good. At her age she did not want treatment if the tests proved they were cancerous. I was unable to contact her after that. She told me that she had lived a long life and was lonely especially after the long-time friend Bea had died. She didn't call again even in response to my emails. Today I called and it didn't go through. The email didn't either. Hoping against hope I googled her name and the obituary came up. I wish have said good-bye to my friend but perhaps it would have been too hard for her.



Kathy Accola - January 11, 2019 at 04:03 PM

KA

I will tell my stories later if that's ok.

Kathy Accola - January 11, 2019 at 04:05 PM