



## Josie (Nancy Jo) Babcock

June 28, 1946 - February 17, 2014

Josie was under hospice care and passed away at her home on Monday morning, February 17, 2014, surrounded by her family. She was born June 28, 1946 in Toledo, Ohio, the daughter of Walter and Thelma (Fisher) Kahn, and grew up near Temperance, Michigan. Her married life with Bryce Babcock began on July 9, 1966, and he survives. They lived in Saline, where they raised their two sons, Matt (Sharon) and Mike (Elvira). In addition to her husband and sons, other survivors include her grandson Alex and brother Gary (Annie) Kahn. She was preceded in death by her parents. An avid reader, Josie enjoyed working as cataloger at the Saline District Library for over 25 years. With access to all of the library's new acquisitions, she made sure her family and friends were provided with the latest books by their favorite authors. She was committed to her faith, loved the Lord, and was an active part of the Westminster Presbyterian Church family in Ann Arbor. As an accomplished cook, one of her special joys was hosting small dinner parties at home. Josie will be remembered by her family and friends for her love and generosity, easy and welcoming smile, warm hospitality, quick intelligence, and gentle wit. Visitation will be held on Sunday, February 23, 2014 from 2:00 PM until 8:00 PM at the Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home, Saline, and also at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor on Monday, February 24, 2014 from 1:00 PM until 2:00 PM. A memorial service officiated by Rev. Stephen Carl will begin at 2:00 PM, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall. In lieu of flowers, Josie's family suggests memorial contributions to the Hope Clinic, American Cancer Society, or the Westminster Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund. Envelopes for memorial contributions will be available at the funeral home and the church. To sign Josie's guestbook, leave a memory, or find directions and other information, please visit [www.rbfhsaline.com](http://www.rbfhsaline.com).

# Events

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**FEB 23**   **Visitation**   02:00PM - 08:00PM

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Robison-Bahnmilller Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
301 East Michigan Ave., Saline, MI, US, 48176

**FEB 24**   **Visitation**   01:00PM - 02:00PM

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Westminster Presbyterian Church  
1500 Scio Church Road, Ann Arbor, MI, US, 48103

**FEB 24**   **Memorial Service**   02:00PM - 03:00PM

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Westminster Presbyterian Church  
1500 Scio Church Road, Ann Arbor, MI, US, 48103

# Comments

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“ Nancy Jo - rest in peace friend. Nancy was my first real romance. We grew up right next door to each other and barely noticed. That would change dramatically, the first time I came home on leave in my Air Force uniform. Me, the dashing Airman - her, the gal I hadn't noticed had blossomed while growing up right under my nose! What an unlikely duo - her an honors student and me a dropout. But we had fun together - we really did. Nancy had "class" even then - and I found this kid (who acted beyond her few years) to be attractive, intriguing and fun

There was that night I was home on leave and we were cruising the snow-covered back roads of Michigan (yeah - we were "cool" - literally). Nancy kissed me and thereby distracted me to where the old Ford ended up in the bottom of a DEEP, snow-filled ditch. It was my folk's car and I was sure I'd get holy heck if I had to get my dad involved. Especially since it was about midnight.

So there we are - me pushing vainly while trying to teach Nancy how to drive stick shift. It was a futile effort, of course. Spotting a porch light on at a distant farm house, we walked there and were warmly greeted by the farming couple that lived there. After the wife made us some hot cocoa, the farmer got his tractor out and pulled the Ford out of the ditch for us. We got home about 2AM that time. It was a great adventure that we laughed about thereafter.

Nancy was as sweet a gal as you'd want to know - a quality, I trust, that served her for the rest of her years. Rest easy old friend. You unwittingly taught me things I never realized I'd learned. Such enlightenment takes a special sort of skill. Skills I'm sure you had a bounty of and utilized throughout your years.

**Bob Kabchef** - September 06, 2014 at 11:22 AM

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“ Josie is a big part of my best high school and early adult memories. I loved her smile, her mind, her wit, the books she shared with me, the books we read together, the books we talked about, the fun we had laughing, the many, many, many things we talked about for hours and days. I still have my copy of James Thurber's 13 Clocks she gave me. I remember our wonderful trip to Chicago instead of the Prom, how we took the train into the City and how she ventured into some dark and shady alleys with me while we searched out pawn shops. I bought my first guitar and we picked up little things that caught our eyes. We laughed so hard knowing our parents would be mad that we didn't buy clothes with the money they gave us. I remember standing up for her at your wedding and how proud I was that she asked me to do it. I remember one of my most all-time embarrassing moments. She had Mathew who was just an infant at the time and was visiting her parents. I was home from school and dropped over to see them. Mathew was crawling around on the floor and having just taken my first microbiology class and full of self-importance, I asked her if she had any idea how many bacteria were in one square inch of that carpet he had his face on. Mom's mouth dropped open in horror but Josie just looked at me and laughed and told me she hoped I'd ace the class. And I also remember a time when I needed a friend very badly and she was there for me without question, without judgment; just opened her arms and hugged me Even though I haven't seen her in a long time, she has been and will be part of my heart forever. She made this earth a better place and I loved her.

**Patricia Shea Motz-Frazier** - February 21, 2014 at 04:00 PM

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“ I was a classmate of Nancy's at Bedford Public Schools. I am saddened to hear of her death, and I offer my condolences to her family and friends. It is my sincere hope that with their strong faith, they will be comforted in their loss.

**Charlene Stemen Kolar** - February 21, 2014 at 10:44 AM

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“ I am so very sorry to hear about your mom. She sounded like such a wonderful mother. I hope you share her memory often with your family in the future. Sincerely,  
Anne Sharp

**Anne Sharp** - February 20, 2014 at 09:09 PM

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“ Will miss you very much Josie. I enjoyed working with you. Your work station was filled with your personality, personal items and things to amuse all passerbys. A great comfort is that you are now with your heavenly Father.

**Marina Tyson** - February 20, 2014 at 02:55 PM

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“ Josie's smiling face, greeting everyone on Sunday mornings, will be missed, as will her quiet humor and grace. May the Lord be with you, Bryce, and your family.

**Irene Rochette** - February 20, 2014 at 09:59 AM

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“ As a patron of the Saline Library for over 35 years, I remember Josie well! Her smile, friendliness and help was top notch! I pray for her family - what a loss!

**Diane Irwin** - February 20, 2014 at 07:58 AM

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“ Josie's warmth, hospitality, laughter, and joy enlivened every community of which she was a part - especially her church family. Though we are all saddened and diminished in losing her, we are uplifted knowing she is enfolded in Christ's peace and love. In loving one another and continuing to live with intentional joy, she will always be remembered by us. May God grant comfort to all who loved her.

**Melissa Anne Rogers** - February 20, 2014 at 07:15 AM

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“ I loved her smile and I loved her laugh -- I loved when she added her wisdom and her humor into the conversation -- I loved the NYTimes electronic articles she'd send me and I loved her sassy way -- I loved having her in Bible studies and I loved celebrating Communion with her -- in short, I love you, Josie --  
The sunrise was breathtaking Monday morning even though my heart was heavy -- my life has more light in it for having known you. -- Cathi King

**Cathi King** - February 19, 2014 at 03:11 PM

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“ Josie was the Library's first cataloger and she was born to do it! She was the consummate book lover and knew the collection better than anyone! We love her dearly for her wit, her knowledge of so many things, and her wonderful habit of connecting people to books that she knew they would enjoy. Josie's place is secure in Saline District Library history and she will be remembered fondly by her many friends, coworkers and patrons. What a gift she was to us! Leslee Niethammer

**Leslee Niethammer** - February 19, 2014 at 10:01 AM

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“ Our prayers of comfort for the family as they journey thru the coming days and months. Having known Josie for many years, we know of her faith and we rejoice in knowing she was welcomed into heaven by God and many angels.  
Gene and Sandy DeRossett

**Gene and Sandy DeRossett** - February 18, 2014 at 03:46 PM



“ O Dearest Josie, Beloved Girl. Such genuine kindness and nature. Your lovely voice! An angel on earth, always with a kind word and ready smile. Now you are borne on the wings of angels to journey forward and sing in that most unique choir. Prayers to your soul mate, Bryce. Prayers to your sons and family. I search to say something that comforts, encourages. But, I am so heart broken that language alludes me. Sweet Josie, Dear Heart. Your presence will be, already is, immensely missed.

\* Deborah Pohrt

**Deborah Pohrt** - February 20, 2014 at 01:24 AM