



Sandra H. Graf

June 12, 1940 - May 7, 2016

On May 7, 2016 Sandra Henkel Graf defeated her Multiple System Atrophy. She was born in Saline, MI on June 12, 1940. Her love of life is found growing everywhere; the children she raised, grandchildren she shamelessly spoiled and the great-grandbabies she so adored. It is in all things wild, all things she nurtured. Including all her plants, pets and people during her life. She was preceded in death by her siblings Kendra, Samuel and David Irelan. Her parents Charles and Melba Irelan. First husband and lifelong friend Carl "Corby" Henkel. Her beloved husband Joseph Graf. She is survived by her children, Darren Henkel (Laura Brin), Kendra Gwizdala (Mark), Sara Henkel, Amanda Henkel and Kelley Graf Marhenke (Scott). Her grandchildren Noah Kuhn (Heather), Caitlin Kuhn, Adam Kuhn (Laurie Meister), Corbin Henkel, Amanda Brin, Parrish and Jason Marhenke. Great-grandchildren Demian Kuhn, Celie Periard, and Finn Kuhn. Siblings Jerry Irelan, Dennis Irelan (Karen), John Irelan (Charlotte), Sandy Laws (Dan), Therese Zona. As part of her war against Multiple System Atrophy she donated her brain to the University of Michigan Brain Bank to aid the battle in eradicating this disease. Her family wishes to thank Dr. Vikram G. Shakkottai and the staff on 8D at the University of Michigan Hospital system; Angie, Matt and Colleen from Shared Services for their outstanding care and support. A Celebration Life Service will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2016 at 11:00 A.M. at the Saline First United Methodist Church with Rev. Dr. James E. Tuttle officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Sandra's name may be made to the Multiple System Atrophy Coalition. Envelopes will be available at the Church where friends may begin calling on Saturday, June 4, 2016 from 10:00 A.M. until the time of service at 11:00 A.M. Arrangements entrusted to the Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home of Saline. In honor of her memory plant a tree, some flowers, really anything green, she won't mind, and have a glass of wine with some dark chocolate and most of all, laugh. To sign Sandra's guestbook, to leave a memory, or for more information or directions please visit www.rbfhsaline.com.

Events

- JUN

4

Visitation

10:00AM - 11:00AM

First United Methodist Church of Saline

1200 North Ann Arbor Street, Saline, MI, US
- JUN

4

Celebration of Life Service

11:00AM - 11:40AM

First United Methodist Church of Saline

1200 North Ann Arbor Street, Saline, MI, US

Comments



“ My sincere sympathy to the families of my dear friend Sandy and prayers for peace and comfort during this time of sorrow. I have known Sandy for many years through our work together at the university during which we became good friends. Even now she remains an inspiration to me...from her classy style to her gardening skills, appreciation of art and strong commitment to her relationships.

I loved hearing her stories. The funny ones were generally told with a straight face and at times an impish expression. She lived life to the fullest and made a difference in the world for so many people with her genuine caring and support. When she felt it would be helpful, she offered her message with clarity and strength so it would not be forgotten. She often called me a "marshmallow" pushing me to express my opinions more loudly. Especially if I was whining about something. She was a "tough nut" with a generous spirit and always kept moving forward. I admire that about her.

Years ago I found a Hallmark card which reads:

Your Loved One Lives On

A stream can have no ending,
for the ocean never ends.
A path winds on though we
can't always see around its bends.

Our view must stop
where earth meets sky,
but both stretch on and on.
We cannot see our loved ones --
still we know they are not gone.

For God has promised us a home
through all eternity
where life and love continue
far beyond what we can see.

Knowing how Sandy loved tending the earth, its creatures and its people, I think she would like this. I will miss my friend but believe she has found true peace in the sweet flow around the bend.

With much love,
Marianne Dodd



“ I know Mrs. Graf through my long friendship with her daughter, Amanda. Mrs. Graf was always kind and generous with her advice and encouragement to me and other friends of her kids. It makes me smile to think about her.

I feel certain the close and supportive relationships among her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren was nurtured with her example. I'm glad you have a strong family to rely on during this difficult time.

With all my love and prayers,
Jamie Saye and family



Jamie - May 26, 2016 at 11:02 PM



“ My condolences to the entire family. Sandy & I worked together at Manpower and she showed me the ropes when I needed it! I remember how she could handle the toughest of candidates, no one challenged her. But she did it with such a great heart and everyone also knew what a soft side she had. Hard to believe she's gone....

Robin Baun

Robin Baun - May 17, 2016 at 01:30 PM



“ 3 files added to the album New Album Name



Amanda Henkel - May 14, 2016 at 12:26 PM



“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



sara - May 13, 2016 at 08:56 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. Sandy helped me a lot with hiring and firing staff when I worked in the Business school. She also helped keep my son on the straight and narrow. She called him on the rug several times. Lol. But he learned from it. God bless her. She is much better now.

Ves Chilcutt - May 11, 2016 at 07:00 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. Sandy was a special person and she touched so many lives through her work at U-M HR. She certainly made a difference in my life and I will be forever grateful. Peace be with you, Sandy.



Jennifer Symanns - May 10, 2016 at 09:20 AM



“ I'm deeply saddened to learn of Sandy's passing. I've known her since I was four years old, and am grateful to think of her as my lifelong mentor and friend. There are no words to describe what Sandy meant to me. She was an incredible lady who made this world a better place for many, many people. I'm sending love to her beloved family. You were everything to her.

Much love, Kendra Webster

Kendra Webster - May 09, 2016 at 10:21 PM



“ This is tough news but I know she was welcomed in Heaven with open arms by many including my mom. Sandy was my favorite waitress at the Big Boy (remember that?) where she always made me feel special by showing interest in my life even as a very young girl. My mom and Sandy were good friends for decades and I believe they showed me what it meant to be a lifelong friend and to weather all that life brings with humor and grace. The last time I saw Sandy was a couple of years ago looking stunning in a winter white outfit, coat and hat with her sparkling eyes and lovely smile. I will absolutely plant something in her honor, give my pets an extra treat today and toast her life with a glass of wine as I look up at the stars that remind me of her eyes. Peace to Sandy's family who I know is missing her terribly. ~Bridget Baisch

Bridget Baisch - May 09, 2016 at 04:01 PM