



Janice Rose Alpers

December 3, 1941 - June 13, 2023

Janice Rose Alpers, age 81, of Fonda, Iowa died June 13, 2023 in Carroll, Iowa.

Funeral services will take place Monday, June 19, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. at the Mahaney Funeral Home 202 King Street in Fonda (formerly First Lutheran Church) . Visitation will take place one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Burial will be in the Cedar Cemetery in Fonda. The Mahaney Funeral Home in Fonda is in charge of the arrangements.

Janice Rose was born December 3, 1941, the first of Rose and Robert Siedler's four children. The family lived in her birthplace, Fort Dodge, Iowa, until moving 40 miles to Fonda when Jan was in the fourth grade. Growing up in Fonda, she was inseparable from Carol, her one-year-younger sister and best friend; doted on her only brother, Bob; and nurtured Kathy, 11 years younger. At Fonda Public School, Jan played and loved softball and six-on-six basketball, which inspired her to earn her bachelor's degree in education at Tarkio College, then become a physical education teacher. For more than 40 years she shared her passion for sports with young students, first at Jewel South Hamilton, then for 30 years in Rockwell City public schools. After retiring from Rockwell City in 1997, she taught PE at Our Lady of Good Counsel School in Fonda for five years.

On June 25, 1967, Jan married Gib Alpers. For the next half century, they lived in Fonda with a menagerie of rescued dogs and cats. What started with an antique car collection evolved into their passion for preserving small-town Iowa history, especially from the 1920s and 1930s. They travelled the Iowa countryside for all things nostalgic from by-gone times. As their collection and people's interest in it grew, they attentively put many of the items on display in a building on Main Street they named the Fonda Museum. For about 35 years, Jan and Gib opened the museum when asked so that class reunions and others interested in the history of Fonda and beyond could step back in time as ragtime rang from the player piano.

In addition to her love for sports, animals, and historic preservation, Jan loved children. She was a devoted aunt to her nine nieces and nephews. She looked after them when they spent parts of their childhood summers in Fonda. She introduced them to golf on Fonda's nine holes, taught them to drive a clutch in her red MG Midget convertible, delighted them with bed-of-the-pickup rides for after-dinner ice cream, and built a whimsical playhouse in her backyard, where her great-nieces and nephews also escaped to for games of Old Maid. Jan enjoyed a robust life until the last few years, when she began to incur health issues.

Jan died on June 13, 2023. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Gib. She is survived by her siblings: Carol Mullen and her husband, John, of Omaha, Neb.; Bob Siedler and his wife, Irene, of Kansas City, Mo; and Kathy Siedler of Atlantic, Iowa; nine nieces and nephews; many great-nieces and nephews; cousins; and friends.

Jan was an honest, generous, hard-working woman. She will be greatly missed.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **19**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Mahaney Funeral Home
202 King Street
Fonda, IA 50540

Funeral Service

JUN **19**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Mahaney Funeral Home
202 King Street
Fonda, IA 50540

Tribute Wall

JT

“*Mrs Alpers was the best and most memorable physical education teacher I had. I remember so clearly how every time our class had bowling she would completely blow someone's mind with her perfect grace as she would step forward to release the ball for what seemed like an effortless strike, and I'll never forget how she made a 7/10 split look so simple to hit. She was always so enthusiastic about teaching us new and exciting game and sports that it made a permanent impression on not just school but my whole childhood. She will always be in my thoughts, especially when I bowl, as I can still hear her encouraging words telling me that nothing is impossible with practice patience and perseverance. Love you Mrs Alpers!*”

Jestun Thomason - October 27, 2024 at 12:34 AM

KI

“ I attended RCHS, Class of '85. Jan made sure we always had fun in her PE class, even the kids that weren't as talented or interested in that day's activities.

She also was coaching Junior High Volleyball, when I started officiating in the fall of '85. She was one of the (very) few coaches over the years that tried to give equal playing time to everyone, so that they would remain in sports in Junior High to gain experience and could decide if they wanted to pursue athletics later when they got in to high school. She helped me learn the "on court" officiating stuff and work out the kinks for maybe 3 seasons, before my schedule was filled with high school and college matches. And now, as I get ready to start my 38th year of officiating volleyball, she can join some of my other mentors in the Golden Bleachers in the heavens to see how the game is changing.

Thank you for everything you did for me coach!! I reminisce about those early days quite often as I pass your knowledge and thoughts on to the younger generation. RIP Jan.

Kent Kocour- Pella, Iowa - June 17, 2023 at 05:04 PM

FH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - June 17, 2023 at 04:39 PM

TW

“ Jan Alpers was the best PE coach ever. She was always there to assist you if you could just not get the hang of it. I think out of all the teachers going through school she is the one that stands out in my mind. She may be gone but she will never be forgotten.R.I.P Jan.

Tina Williams - June 17, 2023 at 06:49 AM

MO

“ I taught art at the RC elementary school for several years, and Jan, Cathy Charleston, Diane Wintz, and I were good friends, as the "special" teachers!
I always enjoyed Jan, and she was so kind and fun to be around. She loved working with the kids, and had such rapor with them. I was so sorry to hear of her death. She and Gib had such a wonderful museum in Fonda, I took my 95 year old dad there for a visit one time, and they were so kind and loved sharing history with him! Jan was very special.

Marilyn Olivari - June 16, 2023 at 10:30 PM

CA

“ Jan an I taught at RC Elementary for over thirty years. We developed a special friendship over the years. Along with Dianne Wintz and Marilyn Olivari we were the “special” teachers. I will really miss her stopping by when she is in Pomeroy. My sympathy to the families. She and Gib left quite a legacy to the community. Jan was so proud of the Fonda Museum. Cathy Charleston

CathyCharleston - June 16, 2023 at 07:21 PM

CC

“ Cathy C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janice Rose Alpers.

Cathy C. - June 16, 2023 at 06:46 PM

CC

“ Jan and I taught at RC Elementary for over thirty years. We developed a close friendship over the years. Along with Diane Wintz, Marilyn Olivari we were the “special” teachers! So many stories I could share! My sincere sympathy to the family. She will be dearly missed. She and Gib left a great legacy. Cathy Charleston

Cathy Charleston - June 16, 2023 at 06:41 PM

RB

“ Jan was the BEST PE teacher there was. She stood up for you against anyone & that's hard to find. I remember all the fun things she did from bowling with candy to her bringing her model T cars for all to see. She was a true Icon.

Ranea Beck - June 16, 2023 at 05:18 PM

JM

“ Jan was an icon to both our boys. From skating to hockey in the gym..she touched generations of Rockwell City kids. Our sympathy. Jane & Gerri McCurdy

Jane McCurdy - June 16, 2023 at 03:21 PM

NI

“ Ms Alpert's was a great PE teacher and a wonderful role model during my highschool years. She spoke up and was a woman in charge that was not often in our school setting. So glad to see her passion for history. All my best

nicolette - June 16, 2023 at 02:03 PM

JK

“ Mrs Alpers was my PE teacher when I attended Rockwell City schools. She was a very interesting teacher. Joy

Joy Johnson Krause - June 16, 2023 at 11:56 AM



“ My condolences! Mrs. Alpers was the Phys-Ed teacher in Rockwell City when I was in high school. She was always nice to all the students.

Tom Stell - June 16, 2023 at 11:46 AM

JO

“ So enjoyed Mrs. Alpers as our P.E. teacher during my school years. Introduced to wide range of activities.

Jolene - June 16, 2023 at 11:07 AM

MW

“ I worked with Jan a number of years at the Rockwell City elementary. Outstanding teacher and awesome friend.

Mark Williamson - June 16, 2023 at 11:02 AM

RS

“ Jan's call Home to be with Gib ends a wonderful period in Fonda history. Jan's devotion to the museum is unquestionable. Her special spirit throughout the decades whether in teaching, church activities or the community created a lasting legacy. We enjoyed the countless visits and sharing of Fonda history. What a tremendous wealth of knowledge she has shared. God bless you, Jan. You are free to accept the beauty of God's Peace which you and Gib so richly deserve.

Randy & Marilyn Schmitt - June 15, 2023 at 07:36 AM

LE

“ My deepest sympathies to her family. I knew Gib and Jan through my father Paul. He always enjoyed spending time with them and helping them at the museum. Jan was always so welcoming when I would be around for a visit. May you hold close your fondest memories.

Lisa Easley - June 14, 2023 at 09:37 PM

ML

“ On Tues.am I received the phone call I had been dreading that God wanted you home. You left a void in my heart and home. I miss you coming thru my door to let me know what was going on in town.I lost one of my dearest cousins but God could see you needing help.So now may He wrap His arms around all of us and give us peace.Thank you for your generous gifts to the little kids, and animals in Fonda. My deepest sympathy to the Siedler and Alpers families.



Mary Lange - June 14, 2023 at 07:57 PM

LK

“ I am so sad to hear of this news. Her and Gib always treated me like their daughter. Throughout the years they have given back to the community and to me so much. Prayers for everyone during this difficult time. Lori Kehmeier formally known as Lori Tastad.

lori Kehmeier - June 14, 2023 at 03:47 PM

JC

“ *Jan gave of herself. She taught for years and cared for her students and fellow teachers. Jan worked to make the Fonda Museum mean something to Fonda and all who visited. She was modest about her work, but when you thanked her for a tour she glowed. Larry and I extend sincere sympathy to her family and friends. Wish we could have talked her into coffee at Mary's'. Rest in Peace.*



Jeanne Calkns - June 14, 2023 at 03:19 PM

LM

“ *Linda Arnie Menke lit a candle in memory of Janice Alpers*



Linda and Arnie Menke - June 14, 2023 at 02:28 PM

CS

“ *My Sympathy to Jan's famliy. May she rest in Peace.*
Carleen (Nieland) Schwieso



Carleen Schwieso - June 14, 2023 at 02:27 PM

DE

“ *Diane Eral lit a candle in memory of Janice Alpers*



Diane Eral - June 14, 2023 at 11:48 AM

TS

“ *Terra Sievers lit a candle in memory of Janice Alpers*



Terra Sievers - June 14, 2023 at 10:50 AM

BR

“ *Bev Reis lit a candle in memory of Janice Alpers*



Bev Reis - June 14, 2023 at 10:32 AM

PG

“ *OUR SYMPATHY & PRAYERS IN MEMORY OF JANICE ALPERS. MAY SHE RIP.*

JOY,PEACE & LOVE, LARY & PATTY GUNVILLE--STORM LAKE, IOWA



PATTY GUNVILLE - June 14, 2023 at 09:31 AM

DE

“ *We are so Sorry to hear of Janice’s passing!
Prayers for her family! She was a good friend.
Duane & Eldona Hornor*



Duane & Eldona - June 13, 2023 at 10:36 PM