



Mary Ann Janda

June 30, 1952 - November 12, 2021

UTICA – Mrs. Mary Ann (Bartels) Janda, age 69, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, November 12th, 2021. At the time of her crossing over she was in the hearts of those she loved the most.

Mary Ann was born in Kansas City, Missouri in 1952 to Alfred and Mary Bartels. She lost her mother early and moved to be brought up by her father in Illinois. She later married Robert Janda and had two daughters, Mary (“Maisie”), and Marlene. After completing her doctorate at the University of Illinois, she took a teaching position at Utica College in Utica, New York in 1987, moving the family to central New York.

Mary Ann enjoyed many passions including gardening, crochet, traveling, enjoying music, and practicing yoga. She had various collections such as rocks, boxes, books, and figurines. She loved animals, particularly cats, which she had as pets for most of her life. Her style was completely unique and will be missed.

Mary Ann is remembered fondly by many as a teacher. She took part in and led different organizations as a professor of English. Her career spanned thirty-five years at Utica College which was never just confined to traditional classroom teaching. Notably, the “Mohawk Valley Writing Project”, which helped teachers from many disciplines refine and develop their writing. She served on the bargaining committee for the “American Association of University Professors”. She advised faculty, hosted student events, attended conferences, mentored graduate students, published articles, and designed

workshops. Towards the end of her life, she wrote a novel, and participated in a virtual writing group at Uptown Theatre for Creative Arts, never ceasing to write even after retirement.

Memorial donations may be made to Root Farm Inc. at The Root Farm, 2860 King Road, Sauquoit, NY, 13456, <https://checkout.square.site/buy/WBI5DG7SMQWWFYNPJGJCYBDM> where Mary Ann sponsored animals and loved to visit.

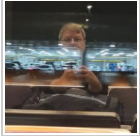
A Celebration of Life honoring Mary Ann will be held at a date and time to be announced in the Spring of 2022.

Tribute Wall



“ *My mother adored Richard Nixon, and now I hope she gets to spend eternity with him.*

Marlene - May 27, 2022 at 12:24 PM



“ *I am heart-broken by Mary Ann's untimely departure. I spent 1999-2004 in Utica in the English Department, and I was a vulnerable young thing trying to secure a future. There were some disappointments for me in the English Department at the time, and Mary Ann rallied always to keep my spirits up. We enjoyed Happy Hour on Fridays. We ate cheese cubes and drank bad beer together. Mary Ann commented that she saw me out running for exercise one day and called me a whipper-snapper or something like that. I met Mary Ann's daughters and husband--all beautiful people. Mary Ann and I served together on the union negotiating team. She read my transcripts and praised me like a grandma proud. Mary Ann was down-to-earth, accepting, withholding of judgment, kind and wry at the same time. I always noticed her wispy hair on top and thought how cool she did nothing to hide herself from the world. Mary Ann graced the planet. She's what human beings should strive to become. I will miss her Facebook encouragement. And though she's gone, I don't think she will ever be gone from my psyche or my memory or my soul. Lovely, witty, direct, kind: Mary Ann, I will miss you as a force on the planet.*

Bob Darcy - March 13, 2022 at 09:38 PM

SS

“*Mary Ann was a wonderful colleague as a mentor and a friend. She was tirelessly dedicated to students, and fierce in her commitment to making UC a better institution. She was one of few courageous vocal advocates for students and faculty when "the going got tough", in terms of pushing back on administration. A great role model for younger colleagues. But I also want to say, she was a caring and compassionate friend too. I especially loved when she would present her writing at conferences. Wonderfully creative and engaging. Rest in peace MAJ. You are missed by all of those who had the pleasure of knowing you...*

Steven Specht - January 21, 2022 at 07:33 PM

DO

“*RIP, Mary Ann. You were always a kind and gentle soul. You are now resting in the arms of our Lord. Happy reunion with your mom and dad. Our family is a little less bright with you gone. Love, Cousin Donna*

Donna Oborski - November 15, 2021 at 08:42 AM