



Mrs. Jean Ann Brindle

June 2, 1946 - December 29, 2020

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Jean Ann (Herman) Brindle, 74, a loving wife, mother, sister, daughter, and teacher to thousands of central New Jersey students, formerly of Lawrenceville, N.J., died unexpectedly at her home in Longwood, Fla. on Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020.

Jean had a unique blend of warmth, wit, and quiet stoicism, personality traits undoubtedly rooted in her Finnish heritage and cultivated by her late parents, Aili and T. August “Gus” Herman. Jean was born June 2, 1946, in Newark, N.J. and grew up with her sister, Bette, in Springfield, N.J.

Her personal and professional life changed forever when she decided to attend Trenton State College, where she earned a degree in elementary education. Due to a dorm shortage, Jean found off-campus housing in a nearby home. The host family’s son, Mike Brindle, was off at Glassboro (Rowan) State College, but she soon became friends with Mike’s sister Tori.

Eventually, Mike started coming home a lot on weekends — to see the girl who was staying in his room – and a 50-year love story began. They were

married on Aug. 17, 1968, just after Jean's graduation.

Jean began her teaching career in Whitehouse Station, N.J. She pored over lesson plans meticulously – all written in her perfect cursive handwriting. She had a flair for creative arts, and she could command a classroom of rambunctious youngsters with one of her signature glares.

After five years off to stay home with her newborn daughter Janet starting in 1974, Jean returned to the classroom in Hopewell Valley, N.J., where she taught at Bear Tavern School and Toll Gate (Grammar) School. She inspired generations of students, staging the Greek Olympics, diagramming sentences, and teaching both Gifted & Talented and Special Needs classes until her retirement in 2006.

One of Jean's favorite times each year was the week in August spent with her sister in North Wildwood, N.J., until Bette's death in 2012.

Jean and Mike made the most of their time off, rooting for the Philadelphia Phillies and traveling the world on cruise ships to ports as distant as St. Petersburg, Russia, the Mediterranean Sea, and her favorite – Magens Bay in St. John, Virgin Islands. She had a favorite slot machine at the Paris casino in Las Vegas and several Atlantic City casinos. They were married for 46 years until his death in 2015. She missed him every day since.

Shortly after Mike's death, Jean moved to Florida, where she spent five years spoiling Janet and her husband Jay, who she loved like a son. Jean's first in-state purchase was a Disney Annual Pass. She took up adult coloring, channeled her vast vocabulary into a Words With Friends habit, and despite Janet's gentle teasing, began following one of Jay's interests: professional wrestling.

Celebrating her life are her daughter Janet Brindle Reddick and husband, Jay, of Orlando, Fla.; sister-in-law Tori Socha of Yardley, Pa.; niece, Jennifer Richardson and husband, David, and daughter, Ella, of Morrisville, Pa.; niece, Christine Hunt and husband, Shawn, and children, Ryan and Hailey, of Hillsborough, N.J.; and nephew, Mark Janutolo and partner Allison Trabb, and children, Mackenzie and Corey, of Hillsborough, N.J.

A remembrance will be held sometime in Summer 2021 in New Jersey. In lieu of flowers, please feel free to honor Jean with simple acts of kindness or a donation to your favorite charity in her name.

Tribute Wall

AA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Annmarie Anthony - January 06, 2021 at 03:09 AM

AM

“ I have many fond memories of Jean, as she and I shared a classroom for several years and our desks used to face each other. She talked a lot about Janet and Jay and what they were doing down in North Carolina, about her parents (who passed away during that time) and Mike and how they were such a perfect match. Mrs. Brindle was very tough, but the kids **ADORED** her! Her advanced math students even wrote a song dedicated to her. She was always very generous to me and a great mentor. She had a heart of gold and will be missed by many. I am so sad to hear about her passing and extend my heartfelt sympathy to Janet and Jay, and to the rest of her family and friends.

Alison Morrison - January 03, 2021 at 04:45 PM

BM

“ I have many memories of teaching next door to Jean, but my favorite is always having to warn her when I was teaching beginning saxophone lessons because that sound was just too much to teach over. Go *Phillies!*

Bryanna MacAdams - January 03, 2021 at 12:37 PM



“ To our little family in Greensboro, Jean was, is and always will be Santa Claus. Her thoughtful (and always anonymous) greeting cards arrived in the mail each December, addressed to our son and signed simply "Santa Claus." The mystery of where the cards came from added to the magic of the season for our now-12-year-old boy. We'll miss her, and we offer our heartfelt condolences to all Jean's family and friends, especially to Janet & Jay. Your mom was one cool lady. -- Jeff, Kim and Griffin Mills.

Jeff Mills - January 02, 2021 at 06:11 PM



“ I so remember Jean's priceless facial expressions! They were legendary at Bear Tavern. I also loved spending time with her when she visited the Wildwood's each year and again in Florida. She will be greatly missed and was a wonderful friend. So very sorry for your loss, Janet. The obituary is just beautiful and very apt.

Ann Marie Anthony - January 02, 2021 at 05:13 PM



“ So sorry to hear this, Janet & Jay. Always enjoyed watching both of your parents in the classroom, where I was an assistant at both BT & TGG. Remember running into them at the airport once when we were all leaving for a trip. Also loved staying in touch with Facebook posts.

kathy meszaros - January 02, 2021 at 02:11 PM