



Joan Haley Sheldon

January 25, 1933 - July 23, 2013

Joan Haley Sheldon of Providence Court, 379 East St in Pittsfield died surrounded by her loving family at Berkshire Place on July 23, 2013. The eldest child of William and Mildred Kellogg Haley, Joan was born January 25, 1933 in Schenectady, NY where she received her early education from the Sisters of the Holy Name at St. John the Evangelist. Here she discovered her lifelong love of music and became an accomplished pianist as a very young age. She received her secondary education at Minerva Central High School in Upstate New York. Soon after high school, Joan joined her family in Albany, NY where she met and married John "Jack" Sheldon on January 30, 1954 until his passing in February 1989. Shortly after settling in Pittsfield with Jack and their five children in 1969, Joan began working at Wendell Pharmacy on Elm St. in Pittsfield, where she remained for many years. She also enjoyed many years as an Avon representative in the Pittsfield area. A lover of crossword puzzles, gummy bears and reading, Joan was renowned for her quiet perseverance and her great ability to listen without judgment. A long time member of The Friends of Bill W., Joan maintained the Pittsfield Recovery Hotline, and was a grateful friend of the Pittsfield recovery community for nearly 44 years. She was also an active participant in several different prayer lines in the Pittsfield area. Joan's greatest joys in life were found in her roles as mother, nana, and most recently, as "super nana." She will be greatly missed by her children, Susan Bronner and her husband, Frank, Sandra Phillips and her husband, Kerry, Michael Sheldon and his wife,

Tina, Edward Sheldon and his wife, Jamie, and Paul Sheldon and his wife, Carrie. Joan was the beloved Nana to Chris and Lisa Phillips, Melissa and Brian Rathbun, Stacey Phillips, Colleen, Samantha and Jaclyn Bronner, Jonathan and Emma Sheldon and Joshua and Benjamin Sheldon. "Super Nana" will be forever missed by Evelyn and Owen Rathbun, and Camden Phillips. Joan also leaves her siblings, Frances Feldsine, Joseph Haley and his wife, Anne, Mary Hensel, and Sara Stevens, and her husband, William, as well as many nieces and nephews.

FUNERAL NOTICE:

Funeral Services for Joan Haley Sheldon, who died Tuesday, July 23, will be Monday, July 29 at 9 a.m. from the Dwyer Funeral Home with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church, celebrated by Rev. James K. Joyce, pastor. Burial will follow in Irishtown, NY. Calling hours will be Sunday, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the DWYER FUNERAL HOME, 776 North St., Pittsfield MA 01201. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Moments House in care of the Funeral home.

Tribute Wall

DN

“ *To the Sheldon Family,
Your mother truly had one of the most beautiful souls and has definitely earned her wings. She was very kind and supportive to our mother and family, especially when a need arose. We loved her very dearly and are so sorry for your loss. A mother's loss is never an easy one. Hopefully she has a card game going with our mom or running a meeting.*

*Love,
Denise Nash and family*

Denise Nash - July 31, 2013 at 08:16 PM

“ Some people asked me to share what I said in my mother's Eulogy. Here it is...

If I had to try and list out all the lessons my mother taught me throughout my life, we would probably be here for a couple days. I thought I would share just a few of those today that I am sure some of us all learned from Mom as well...

Don't be embarrassed to sing. It means you're happy, enjoying life. I think that is why she loved to play the piano so much.. It allowed others to sing-a-long with her.

You never should say you HATE someone. You can disagree with them a great deal, but you should never say you HATE them. I never knew her to hate anyone, and then again, never knew anyone that hated her.

It's OK to cry. This one I always found the most intriguing because I rarely saw her cry. Through all those difficult times in hospitals, her silent struggles, even the loss of Dad and her parents, - she always stayed so strong and composed.

Sometimes, you just have to listen. Everyone here knows she was the master of that trait. She would just let you tell your story, and respond with just a nod, and her kind smile – 'nuff said !

I really DO like the Yankees AND the Red Sox – really ! If there was anyone that had the ability to know how to do that – It was Joan Sheldon.

Feel free to chat with God once in a while – he enjoys hearing from you. She always made time every day to chat with God, and wanted everyone else to do the same.

Anyone is welcome in our home –no matter who they are or where

they have been. There were always plenty of cars parked in front of the home on Chickering Street – or as Jack Sheldon deemed it – “Joan’s Home for Wayward boys “

Friends may come and go, but you will never have the same relationship as you do with your family. This one I know will forever hold true. No matter how far we roam, my brothers & sisters, our children, our Aunts and Uncles and cousins will always remain close to share the fun & lasting memories of Mom.

There’s a well-known acronym – WWJD which is known to stand for What Would Jesus Do. I like to think it also stands for What Would Joan Do, and think “How would she react to a difficult problem” ? What would she say about friend’s troubles? Or NOT SAY ?

My brothers and Sisters would all like to thank everyone for the kind comments and wonderful stories about Mom (PLEASE - Keep them coming) – I know that Every single person in this room (and hundreds of others) have become a better person for just knowing her.

I love you Mom – just as we danced to it at my wedding – you are truly the “Wind beneath my Wings” – and will always be my hero. Thank you for making me the man I am today and teaching me the right lessons in life

Ed Sheldon - July 30, 2013 at 09:18 PM

TE

“ *May it comfort the Family to know that you have so many wonderful memories to share and remember, while she has touched so many hearts with love. May peace be with the Family always. Love, Teresa & Jenna Egan*

Teresa & Jenna Egan - July 27, 2013 at 07:29 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joan Haley Sheldon.* ”



July 26, 2013 at 08:39 AM