



JANET A. BRECKENRIDGE

January 14, 1940 - December 21, 2020

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS MEMORIAL DONATIONS MAY BE MADE IN
JANET'S NAME TO:

OAK RIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PO BOX 302
OAK RIDGE, NEW JERSEY 07438

MEMORIAL SERVICE:

SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 2021
2PM

OAK RIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
342 OAK RIDGE ROAD
OAK RIDGE, NEW JERSEY 07438

Janet A. Breckenridge, 80, of Jefferson Township died on Monday, December 21, 2020 at the Newton Medical Center. Born in Rutherford, NJ she was a daughter of the late James W. and Josephine (Schaefer) Breckenridge.

Janet was a graduate of Wayne High School in Wayne, NJ and received her undergraduate and master's degrees in music education from Trenton State College.

She loved music and taught vocal and instrumental music in the Jefferson

Township school system for over 35 years. Beside the responsibilities of full-time teaching, Janet was also heavily involved with her greater community during her more than 50 years of living in Jefferson Township. She was one of the original committee members of the Jefferson Arts Committee which was founded in 1987. She was also an integral part of the Jefferson Community Players – a community theatre group, The Jefferson Township Community Band, The Jefferson Township Community Chorus, The Jefferson Township Jazz Band – for which she played piano, French Horn and Tuba, the Jefferson Township Gazebo Committee and the accompanist and interim director of the Picatinny Chorus. Janet remained heavily involved with all of these up until this year.

Janet was also a long-time member of the Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church, and for many years was the church organist and Music Director. She also served on the church's board for many years fulfilling most any role that needed filling, which included being a very effective head of church property for several terms. The devotion that she always showed to her church and church family will be greatly missed.

Janet is survived by a sister, Ruth, of Newton, NJ; a brother, John and his wife Judy, of Lancaster, PA, nephew Scott of New York City and niece Wendy Nystrom of Downers Grove, IL.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 12, 2021 at 2pm at the Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church, 342 Oak Ridge Road, Oak Ridge, New Jersey 07438.

In lieu of Flowers please consider a memorial donation to Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church, PO Box 302, Oak Ridge, NJ 07438.

Log onto www.sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com tribute wall to personally post

your condolences, memories, photos, and videos.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 12. 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM (ET)

Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church
342 Oak Ridge Road
Oak Ridge, NJ 07438

Tribute Wall

DS

“ When we first came to America from England, Janet, her Mother Jo and Ruth adopted us and we all became family. They gave us unparalleled kindness and memories we will never forget. Rest In Peace Janet.
How is Ruth?

Diana and Peter Skidmore - January 15, 2022 at 01:00 PM

MG

“ I remember Miss Breckenridge from elementary school. She was my chorus teacher. She was always so nice, sweet, patient and a good teacher. I've never forgotten her to this day which is over 50 years! A wonderful person is always remembered! My condolences to her family and friends. Rest in peace Miss Breckenridge. You surely had a wonderful life!
Maryann (Chwalek) Gredzinski

Maryann Gredzinski - March 10, 2021 at 12:10 PM

JF

“ Thank you Miss Breckenridge for starting me on the baritone in 4th grade and the tuba in 5th grade. I will always remember Henry-George the sousaphone in White Rock School and the many years we played tuba together in the Jefferson Community Band. I owe my career path as a music teacher to Janet Breckenridge. My sincere condolences to the family.

Jeff Foth - January 01, 2021 at 05:53 PM

PD

“ Janet was my neighbor growing up. She was also my music teacher, which I thought was the coolest thing, to live next door to a teacher! I remember I wind the “wonderful win against contest” In 5th grade because I could hold a single note on the flute for the longest time. She was so good at making music fun for all types of musicians.

She was classy and since we shared bushes and things in our backyards, we would always communicate and she would send flowers or Christmas wishes.

Even though I left Jefferson more than 20 years ago and have had several neighbors since then, I feel a great loss knowing she is gone.

I’m sending prayers of peace for her family and friends and the whole community of Jefferson that is missing not only a great piano/French horn player, teacher and neighbor, but a inspirational leader. Congratulations to Janet for a life well lived.

Pam Drayton - December 29, 2020 at 05:26 PM

CP

“ Many remember her as an elementary school music teacher but she was also a founding member of the Jefferson Arts Committee, an Executive Board member as Treasurer, and most recently as Corresponding Secretary. She was very involved over the past 30 years in the Jefferson Township Community Concert and Jazz Bands playing French horn, tuba, or keyboard; the Jefferson Township Community Chorus as an Assistant Director/Accompanist and Steering Committee member; and the Jefferson Community Players as Treasurer, show organizer, and performer. She assisted over the years with 30 Jefferson Township Day annual events and 14 annual Christmas in the Village events. She will be missed by me and the many people whose lives she touched.

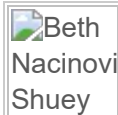
Carol Punturieri - December 29, 2020 at 02:56 PM

SB

“ She was my first clarinet teacher, a lifelong friend, and a beloved member of her community. Her devotion to sharing the gift of music with so many is a priceless legacy. I remember her encouraging me to play the bells and clarinet in concerts at cozy lake school and allowing Bob Malone, another student and I to work on a jazz piece Bob was transcribing from a recording. After I graduated college she gave me opportunities to play the organ at the Presbyterian church. Margaret Brandell often spoke of how devoted Janet was to the musical community in Jefferson. I am lucky and blessed to have known her throughout my life.

Bravo my friend on your beautiful life. My heart is broken, I will miss you and cherish the memories you made in my life.

Stephen Beun - December 27, 2020 at 05:00 PM



Marge and Janet both were such devoted teachers and musicians. Sad neither are here to share their talents and passion for music.

Beth Nacinovich Shuey - December 29, 2020 at 09:34 AM

MS

“ Condolences from my family to yours. My family moved into White Rock in 1967. I had her for music and the recorder. My sisters, Patti, Betsy, Chrissy, Janet and Linda all had her at one time or other. You know she made a difference when you can recall her name 53 years later. Mike Singleton.

Mike Singleton - December 27, 2020 at 02:52 PM

RO

“ Thank you, Ms. Breckenridge for teaching me how to play clarinet, which led to piano, and assisted me in being not just a good singer, but a smart musician! Later in life, thank you Janet for being someone I could always talk to and continue to learn from. Heaven will now have the right conductor.

Rosemarie Owen - December 27, 2020 at 02:37 PM

LK

“ Miss Breckenridge was an amazing music teacher and community member! She taught me how to play my flute which I still play. She also took the time to come and pick me up so I can play in special events. Our community was made a better place by the sharing of her sharing her time, talents, and treasures with us all. Heaven now will be an even more musical place!

Lisa Klepp - December 27, 2020 at 09:11 AM

SH

“ My oldest recollection of Ms. Breckenridge was in the mid-60s. She was the music teacher at Milton School and taught me to play the recorder and then the flute. So many pleasant memories of her through the years - her smile and sweet spirit.

Sim (Van Natta) Van Houwe - December 26, 2020 at 11:19 PM

RK

“ Thank you for teaching me to love music!



Rhonda Renka Knight - December 26, 2020 at 09:34 PM

JY

“ I worked with Janet at White Rock School for many years. I was the speech therapist there. She was a great music teacher, beloved by all the students and staff. She was a delight to work with and I know she will be missed by many people. Judy Yates

Judith Yates - December 26, 2020 at 07:58 PM

CL


“ Miss Breckenridge taught me(or did her very best to teach me!) To play the clarinet in 5th grade...she was a neighbor, teacher and dedicated volunteer as long as I can remember...my condolences to her family and friends. She will always be fondly remembered ❤️🕊️

Clara List - December 26, 2020 at 07:32 PM

JT

“ In my memories of Ms. Breckenridge is that she was very kind and patient. Especially when trying to teach all of us the piccolo. I was very young at the time, but had the opportunity to attend a few holiday parties later in life. Talking with Ms. Breckenridge was always interesting, and I always walked away feeling very comfortable and more knowledgeable. She was a classy lady that will be missed, and you can't replace the dedication that was brought to our town. RIP Janet.

John Tasker - December 26, 2020 at 07:29 PM

 Cindy Brennan

“ Janet was a wonderful person, she taught me how to play the clarinet in elementary school and had a great love of music. She will be truly missed. God Bless you Janet, and God Bless your family.
Cindy Parr Brennan

Cindy Brennan - December 26, 2020 at 06:00 PM

AW

“ So sorry for your loss. My kids really liked her at White Rock.


ann westervelt - December 26, 2020 at 05:31 PM

SR

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. I had Mrs. Breckinridge for chorus in elementary school. She was so talented. I remember the musical we did when I was in 6th grade, Mulligans Magic. I had a speaking and singing role. She treated me so kindly and helped me get over my stage fright. I still remember the song, by heart. May she sing with the angels in heaven!

Susan Ward Rodriguez

Susan Ward Rodriguez - December 26, 2020 at 05:22 PM

 Beth
Nacinovich
Shuey

“ Cannot believe she is gone. She touched my family's life in so many ways. First, as a long-time, good neighbor who lived catty-cornered to us. Always stopped by at Christmas with a pointsettia for my dad and mom. Long time elementary music teacher, and a colleague of my mom's. Very long ago, she was my Girl Scout Cadet leader. We'd meet in her basement to do some fun activity. Knowing how much the arts expanded in Jefferson, I'm a little sad I moved out of the area. I would have loved singing in the community chorus and attending the other performances Janet was a part of. I can only hope I'm lucky enough to be as actively involved in music for as long as Janet was. She will be missed!



Beth Nacinovich Shuey - December 25, 2020 at 12:21 PM

ES

I remember her as my music teacher at white rock..and telling me she taught my mom and aunt..Oscar the omincord will always stick with me

evan spano - December 26, 2020 at 07:37 PM



“ Prayers for peace, hoping the music guides you home.

Debi Merz-Bennett - December 23, 2020 at 07:59 AM