



Gay Lee Elks

June 10, 1938 - November 5, 2024

Gay Lee Elks, 86, of Ipava, formerly of San Jose, passed away at the Clayberg Nursing Home in Cuba, Illinois on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. She was born on June 10, 1938 in Peoria, Illinois to Martin and Opal (Miller) Bartman. She married Joe Elks on July 31, 1961 in San Jose and he survives. Also surviving are her children, Joe E. (Ken Reid) Elks, Jr. of Sydney, Australia and Rene (Julio Cedillo) Elks-Cedillo of Ipava, Illinois; grandchildren, Rodrick (Cara) Janz, Marissa Janz, Caleb (Therese) Goding, and Noel Goding; great-granddaughter, Rio Janz-Acevedo; son-in-law, Andrew Janz; sister, Charlotte (Don) Brewer of Kansas; and many surrogate children and grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and daughter, Kalyn Janz.

Gay Lee was a member of San Jose United Methodist Church. She attended Illinois State University and Chicago State University and Northern Illinois University. Most of her teaching career was dedicated to Special Education and teaching severely and profoundly emotionally disturbed children. She was passionate about the health and education of children. She was a lay minister for the United Methodist Church. She enjoyed singing, playing the piano, hand bells and trumpet, using her loom, crafts, and making music boxes.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at San Jose United Methodist Church, with a visitation from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Pastor Dawn Bevan will officiate. Burial will follow the service at Green Hill Cemetery in San Jose.

Memorial donations may be made in Gay Lee's name to the Alzheimer's Association or Friends of the Children of Haiti. Online condolences can be left for her family at www.hurleyfh.com.

Hurley Funeral Home in Mason City is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Green Hill Cemetery

San Jose, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 9. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

San Jose United Methodist Church
600 South 1st Street
San Jose, IL 62682
(309) 247-3232

Funeral Service

NOV 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

San Jose United Methodist Church
600 South 1st Street
San Jose, IL 62682
(309) 247-3232

Tribute Wall



“ Hurley Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Gay Lee Elks



Hurley Funeral Home - November 08, 2024 at 10:20 AM



“ John W. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gay Lee Elks.

John W. - November 08, 2024 at 04:02 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gay Lee Elks.



November 07, 2024 at 08:37 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gay Lee Elks.

November 07, 2024 at 08:37 PM

MS

“ So sorry to hear of Gay Lee's passing. I remember her fondly from the Oak Lawn church. Thinking of you all. -Melanie Neumann-Stancampiano

Melanie L Stancampiano - November 07, 2024 at 01:14 PM

RM

Gay Lee will be missed. I enjoyed taking care of her. She was a funny lady that I'm glad to get know. So sorry to see her go. Becky May of Clayberg. Be thinking of her family.

Rebecca May - November 08, 2024 at 09:48 AM

NN

“ Nancy Nykanen purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Gay Lee Elks.



Nancy Nykanen - November 07, 2024 at 11:15 AM

NN

“ Nancy Nykanen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gay Lee Elks.

Nancy Nykanen - November 07, 2024 at 11:15 AM

PO

“ We remember her contributions to our church, First UMC of Oak Lawn, IL. May God comfort her family, and may her soul rest in peace.
Pastor Amos



Pastor AMOS OLADIPO - November 07, 2024 at 11:13 AM



“ *Forever Our Angel Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gay Lee Elks.*



November 06, 2024 at 08:13 PM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear about your mom Rene. The Rockey family was so lucky to have your family as neighbors for so long. I remember your family moving in, babysitting for you guys and running all over Tripp street. We are thinking of the entire Elks family as you grieve her loss.*

Lynn Molenhouse - November 06, 2024 at 07:33 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Gay Lee Elks.*



November 06, 2024 at 07:29 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gay Lee Elks.*

November 06, 2024 at 07:29 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Gay Lee Elks.*



November 06, 2024 at 06:28 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gay Lee Elks.

November 06, 2024 at 06:28 PM