



Jean Anita Rothermel

November 3, 1934 - October 20, 2015

In January 2014, mom sent me an article from The Palm Beach Post by Dr. Melanie Bone under the headline "Inspiring Obituary a Delight." In the commentary, Dr. Bone insisted that obituaries should contain entertaining insights into an individual's character and truly celebrate their unique life. She suggested that "everybody will want to read them (obituaries) with the same anticipation that is now reserved for front-page news." Mom strongly agreed and went so far as to leave a copy of the column in her trust document. This, she said, was how she wanted her obituary to be written. So, okay mom, here goes. . .

Dancing fool, realtor extraordinaire and watchdog over the family's finances best describes Jean Anita Rothermel, late of Jupiter, Florida.

She was the queen of the jitterbug in 1954 and equally enthused about line dancing in 2015. She avidly followed the musical duo Pam and Dave, danced every dance she could with The Sierra Band, supported Jimmy Falzone scholarship events and charmed staff and guests alike at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre. Many Fridays she would take a chemo treatment in the morning, grab a nap in the afternoon then don her wig, a stylish outfit she'd purchased that week and dancing shoes, climb into her red Lexus and head out for an evening of dancing with her dear friend Anne. When she walked in the door of local clubs, men and women alike hugged her, asked how she was doing, and invited her to dance. Most of them never knew she was in a 20-year contest to beat cancer, nor that she was 80 years old.

She was passionate about selling residential real estate, a career she embarked on in Ohio at age 40, at the height of the 1970s recession. Teamed up with Francis Rothermel, her late husband, and a fledgling real estate company, she took most delight in helping a young couple starting out in life buy their first home. In 2004, she officially moved herself and her business to Jupiter, FL, affiliating with Keller Williams Realty and continuing her reputation as an insightful, savvy, straight-shooting realtor.

An enthusiastic investor, Jean enjoyed the challenge of foiling the stock market, staying one step ahead of declines and taking calculated risks as it rose. As a young mother she was consistently required to juggle the family finances and she worked avidly to pass these skills on to her granddaughter, Paige. Mere weeks before her passing, they watched a series of DVDs hosted by Suze Ormond about budgeting, effective investing and planning for retirement. She loved it.

Jean supported cancer research events, was an advocate for women (especially those trying to make it on their own in the world) and loved decorating her home inside and out for every season. She supported her children in every way possible, laughed uproariously with her grandchildren and found comfort and inspiration at Jupiter First Church.

Focusing on others needs to the very end, Jean opted to donate her body to The University of Miami Medical School in hopes that research will yield a preventative for cancer. She was especially grateful for the many years of superior care and straightforward assessment she received from Dr. Neal Rothschild and his incredible staff. Memorial donations may be made to Jupiter First Church, TrustBridge Health (Hospice of Palm Beach County), The Maltz Jupiter Theatre, the Jimmy Falzone Scholarship Fund or the charity of your choice.

You are cordially invited to gather for a celebration of Jean's life at 4 p.m. Monday, November 2 at Jupiter First Church, 1475 Indian Creek Parkway, Jupiter.

Tribute Wall



“ *Jean Anita Rothermel*

October 22, 2023 at 10:17 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss of a great woman. I used to do her nails in Ohio and she was more than just a client. She was a friend. She helped us with our first house, came to our wedding and lost advice for life. It was such a blessing to know her. Again so sorry for your loss.*

Robin Reese - Canton, OH - Friend - January 01, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Heaven is a brighter happier place with the arrival of dear Jean. She lights up every room she enters and we were so fortunate to have her love and support at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre. She will be terribly missed by so many here on earth. We are all grateful to have had her "dance" through our lives! Godspeed dear friend.*

Pam Dyar - Jupiter, FL - Friend - November 01, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Jean is such a special woman. She saved me in ways she may not have even been aware of. Thank you for connecting me to Charlotte. I am truly blessed to have met you.*

Trish - Jupiter, FL - friend - October 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Jean was an awesome friend to my husband Ray and I. Ray did all of Jean's home improvement work and property management on the properties when she moved to Florida. We loved Jean like she was family and are so sorry to hear of her passing. When I lost my hubby, Jean gave me so much comfort. We have known Jean and Francie for many many years. Rest In Peace Jean... You are one of a kind!

Doie Shanklin - Canton, OH - Friend - October 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ I met Jean back in the 80s when she hired me as her assistant. We had a busy 8 years together and I learned the real estate business, how to do it the right way, all from her. I will be forever grateful for that and her laughs and friendship. She will be missed.

Lin Halter - Fort Myers, FL - Friend - October 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ Jean was a wonderful women and an outstanding Realtor. I always looked up to Jean. She was a pioneer in our business and always lead with professionalism and courtesy. Always a smile on her face. She loved her family and her grandchildren. You will all remain in my prayers.

Debbie Bachtel - Massillon, OH - past co worker - October 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM

VF

“ *What a wonderful woman she was. She once came to my home for Thanksgiving and brought a delicious blueberry pie. Not only was the pie a hit of the party, but she was too!!!*

We can not say enough good things about her. Jean, you will be greatly missed, but never forgotten by anyone who knew you.

No one was as up-beat as Jean. All our love & sorrow go out to her daughter and granddaughter & to all her family & friends.

Thank you, Jean, for choosing us as friends & allowing us to be apart of your life.

Vicki Loeb & John Kraft - Palm Beach Gardens, FL - Friend - October 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM