



Kent B. Baumkel

December 15, 1954 - January 4, 2015

Baumkel, Kent B. nee Buesser, age 60 of Plymouth, tragically passed away from a sudden heart attack on Sunday, January 4, 2015. Beloved wife of the late Jan Baumkel. She is survived by her mother Carolyn Pickle, stepfather Bill Bacon, father Tony Buesser, Sr., and stepmother Dolores Buesser. Loving sister of Andy Buesser, and the late Tony. Dear aunt of Maris, and Laurel. Also leaves numerous cousins and relatives. Kent was raised in Detroit's Lafayette Park along with her younger twin brothers, Tony and Andy, by her parents Carolyn Pickle and Anthony C Buesser. She attended Chrysler Elementary, Liggett and Cass Technical High Schools from which she graduated in 1973. Later in life she earned a Bachelor of Arts with distinction in psychology from the University of Michigan. In 1978 she married Jan A. Baumkel and later moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan with him where they set up and ran an alternative family medicine practice together. Kent's pioneering work with the Ann Arbor mayor's task force on increasing safety for women along with her undying commitment to crisis counseling and survivor advocacy helped change the lives of many. Selfless and affectionate, Kent put her energetic compassion into action and helped everyone with whom she shared these gifts. Cremation has taken place and because of her sudden farewell to us all and her deep love of gardening we will schedule a memorial celebration of her life for this coming spring or summer.

A Memorial Service will be held on August 15, 2015 @ 1 PM at the public beach on Russell Island near Algonac, MI. The family is asking that those in

attendance please bring a dish to pass and a story to tell. The ferry's return times are 3:30 PM and 5:30 PM same day.

Charitable contributions in her memory may be made to a tribute fund for women's studies at the University of Michigan, which will be found online in the next few days at leadersandbest.umich.edu. Or, you may mail a check to University of Michigan Office of University Development, 3003 S. State St., Ste 8000, Ann Arbor, MI 48109. Make check payable to: Regents of U of M, memo line of check: In memory of Kent B. Baumkel. To share memories, please use the Share a Memory tab on this web page.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG **15**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Russell Island
Algonac, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Kent B. Baumkel*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *I knew Kent from our time at UM-Dearborn's Psychology Club. We shared many fun times with some amazing people back then. Kent was one of the warmest, kindest and most sincere souls I have ever encountered, and although we had not been in touch for many years I am deeply saddened from learning of her passing. She had a strength that came from deep within to help her through some very difficult and challenging times. And that inner peace and strength that sustained her through those times was also always there to put a smile on anyone's face.*

Kent, dear friend, you are missed and I, for one, shall never forget you.

Chris Shannon

Chris Shannon - August 17, 2015 at 09:48 AM

KW

“ How I met Kent, is one of my most favorite memories. It was “day one” of moving into a house on Westmoreland, in Ypsilanti. I was hard at work with cleaning and unpacking....a bit overwhelmed with such a monumental task in front of me. Mid-morning I heard a knock at my front door; it was Kent. With a warm, infectious smile she said: “Hi, I’m Kent...your next-door neighbor. I’d like to welcome you to our neighborhood. I have prepared a yummy lunch. When you get hungry and are ready to take a break, I would love to have you join me for lunch.” I was so touched – we became instant buds. I am looking forward to joining the Celebration of her life this coming Saturday.
She is truly a dear friend - and, I miss her.

Karen Warren

Karen Warren - August 13, 2015 at 12:03 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kent B. Baumkel.



August 11, 2015 at 07:19 AM

AS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Anne Steel - July 15, 2015 at 12:17 PM

MY

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Master Wasentha Young - January 22, 2015 at 12:18 PM

LG

“ I am attaching a picture of Kent at our home for Thanksgiving this year. She was beautiful and happy. At Christmas she was even more beautiful and more happy. We all had such a good time! The other people in the picture include Kents mother Carolyn, stepfather Bill, and brother Andy. When Andy entered my life he introduced her to me with great affection. She was fun and supportive. She had dreams and goals and a delightful enthusiasm which would bubble out of her. Our last conversation centered on my observation that she had a very pleasing, measured and precise way of speaking that was calming. She was a lovely presence with my daughters. I miss Kent. We all do. I regret that I will not enjoy more time with her on this earth. Her sweet, quiet steadiness of manner stays with me, and I feel her continuing affection for her brother, and an essential kindness of spirit.
I send you much love, Kent.



Linda Gintowt - January 21, 2015 at 04:45 PM

LG

The two young women are my daughters!

Linda Gintowt - January 21, 2015 at 05:07 PM

DG

“ I became acquainted with Kent around 2005 through Tai Chi classes at the Peaceful Dragon School. We got together to do the form outside of class, and during that time we ended up spending a good deal of time together. I really enjoyed meeting her amazing family in the course of gatherings at her house or out and about with her.

A shared sense of design, love of art and architecture, and a quest for finding meaning, peace and fun in this sometimes crazy world, brought us together. Kent was a wonderful combination of free spirit and competent, and we were close then, when other things in our lives were upside down. She meant a lot to me.

We lost track of each other during several moves on my end, and when I stopped by her house in Ypsi, she was no longer there. I had truly hoped we'd reconnect and have more chances to play this lifetime . . . But then again, we know this is not all there is. . .

Blessings to her family, you are a dear, gifted, vibrant bunch, and she loved you very much.

Dina Christine Greenway, Battle Creek and Clearwater

Dina Greenway - January 21, 2015 at 08:14 AM

CN

“ My friend, Andy Buesser (Kent's brother), introduced me to Kent in Oct 2012, when I was looking for a new administrative assistant to help me with my private practice, Lifetime Nutrition. He emphatically said that her work was excellent, that her dedication was unsurpassed, and I could tell by the look in his eyes that he was preparing me for a force of nature! She was amazing. Every last detail and then more! No stone unturned and my business was taken to a new level due to Kent. She treated every patient with utmost dignity and compassion and made sure everything was provided in terms of support for them. Just imagine that her last project was working on a team to develop my new website, and she literally jumped up and down with joy and pride when it was finished just before Christmas. I am so grateful that Kent came into my life. She knew she was respected, appreciated, and she smiled with the realization of her own brilliance. Now she shines in heaven. Thank YOU Kent, with Love, Coco



Coco Newton - January 19, 2015 at 09:00 AM

AS

“ Kent was my cousin. Through many summer days together on Russell Island I know these things about her. She could do an awesome cannonball. She could put a worm on a hook, catch a fish, and take it off the hook. She didn't mind walking barefoot on a gull-poop encrusted dock. Tying up her dad's boat with a few easy half-hitches was a piece of cake. She never seemed to complain about having to dry the tall stacks of dirty dishes after big family dinners at the cottage, even though her pesky little brothers often seemed to get out of doing cleanup duty. She fiercely loved her collie dog whose name I can't remember. She always got me talking about myself more than I got her talking about herself. She could do a strong overhand crawl up river against the strong current of the St. Clair River. Come to think of it, that is kind of a metaphor for her life. Kent had more than her share of adversities and challenges in her life, but she faced each one with courage, determination and grace. I feel a kinship now with all who knew her, because we carry a little of her amazing spirit and love inside us, and we are better people because of it.



Anne Steel - January 15, 2015 at 05:35 PM



“ Kent, how sad it is to hear of your passing. In opening this tribute page the first thing I saw was that smile... That same smile that you offered to all of us growing in Lafayette Park, that same smile I remember you having the last time I saw you in 1970, that same smile you will always have in my memories of you. Thank you for that smile Kent....,I also want to thank you and your parents for being the only one of the twelve of us friends growing up together in Lafayette Park, all from broken homes in one way or another, whose parents remained husband and wife at that time beside Roy and Dee Jackson. Having been with my wife now for nearly thirty five years I have to believe this had made an impression on me that I carried with me. So, be well Kent, fly with the angels and tell Bennie, Don, Ray, Dee, and all the others that have passed and that are with you now, that they as well are truly missed and the memories of you and all of them will always remain in our hearts. Keep Smiling.

Steve Clark - January 13, 2015 at 09:59 AM

MK

“ Kent was my first walking buddy in the sense of no destination in mind, just walking to walk from Shadow Fort, over the tracks, to Ellwood Park, wherever our feet took us. She was the first person I ever shared a belly laugh with during those walks. She was the first friend to have a boyfriend and wear makeup! She, Leslie Schaefer and I commiserated over papers and homework and pulled As at Liggett. At Cass Tech I could always depend on her to do the long walk home with me on sunny days instead of the two bus commute. We also hovered around the front door Cass crowd of hippies, communists and Hare Krishnas. I loved hanging out at her house, always something interesting to read. And it was fun to hang out with her and Georgie Evans and trade barbs with Georgie’s mom, “The Bird”. Even as a teenager she seemed somehow enigmatic, wise, and empathetic - all words I couldn’t articulate then about my walking buddy, but I know now. And will never forget about Kent.

Mary Anne Kenealy - January 13, 2015 at 12:20 AM

MK

P.S. Oops that was Chateaufort and also Hyde Park was in that area too? MAK

Mary Anne Kenealy - January 13, 2015 at 12:31 AM

AN

“ I met Kent at Jan's practice and always marveled at her manner. So caring and personable, and yet, so professional. We often talked of our gardens and our mutual affinity for social welfare causes and concerns. I was so proud of her when she took the position on the Mayor's task force promoting women's safety. A better advocate could not have been found. Periodically our lives would cross paths which was always a pleasure. I ran into her a few years ago in Ypsilanti and was surprised and pleased to know we lived in the same community. Her service to Ypsilanti was also admirable. My heart goes out to her family and close friends as I know their loss is great.

Anne - January 12, 2015 at 10:13 AM

DL

*I am so sorry to hear Kent has passed.
I remember when Jan and Kent were married and her free spirit back then.
It is amazing that everyone still recalls Jan and her together in their memories.
He would of liked that.
My condolences to her family.
Dena Baumkel Luciano
(Jan's sister)*

Dena Luciano - July 25, 2015 at 11:53 PM

MB

“ I first met Kent in 9 th grade at Liggett and then attended Cass Tech with her. I remember as a very kind and soft spoken individual. Kent encouraged me to come to Cass so that the Liggett girls could stay together. Although I did not live in Lafayette Park, Kent made me feel accepted. She taught me how to apply mascara on the bumpy school bus rides home. We talked about all things regarding the human condition and I was always impressed with her compassion. Kent was quite stylish and hip in high school and I always admired her fashion flare.

Whenever I eat an orange I think of a conversation we had about how much we both loved their scent and I can still hear Kent comment: "If only someone could capture their essence without the stickiness." Kent's essence was kindness. Marianne Balton

Marianne Balton - January 11, 2015 at 10:25 PM

PK

“ Grew up with Kent, Andy & Tony during the summers on Russell Island and even though we didn't see much of each other as the years passed by, whenever our paths crossed again on Russell Island she was always there with a smile and a hug ready to laugh about our younger years! May you rest in peace Kent!



Paula Kaip - January 11, 2015 at 03:49 PM

CW

Thank you for your words and photos. It is how I will remember Kent. With hugs and smiles."The girls from Russell Island" Godspeed Kent.

Cathy Tomlinson Wood - January 12, 2015 at 07:53 PM

GR

“ I met Kent and worked with her on the Mayor's Task Force for increasing safety for women. She was very professional, inspirational, hard-working and enjoyable to work with. She - and all of her efforts - will be missed. So sorry. Ginny Russell-Sheldon

ginny russell-sheldon - January 11, 2015 at 09:09 AM

KM

“ I met Kent when we both served on the Ypsilanti 20/20 task force. She was very intelligent, hard working and knew how to write grants better than anyone I ever met. She was such a sweet person, almost too sweet for this world. Kent helped me write a grant for my business and I have lost touch with her once she moved out of Ypsilanti but will never forget her. She greatly cared about Ypsilanti as all the 20/20 task force members and will be greatly missed. Blessings to her and her family.

*Karen Maurer
Ypsilanti MI*

Karen Maurer - January 11, 2015 at 08:19 AM

GP

Kent and I shared an office at the Ann Arbor Police Department when she was on the Mayor's task force and I was in Police Community Affairs. She was a kind and compassionate soul who touched the lives of many.

George Patak

George Patak - January 13, 2015 at 08:46 AM



Kent was a co worker at First Step. She was an amazing advocate for sexual assault survivors. Kent was compassionate, kind, gentle, skilled and always a supportive co worker. She was a human being who truly made the world a better place. I am sad to hear of her death and give condolences to her friends and family. A sweet, gentle soul who will be missed and remembered with great admiration.

Judy Barr

Judy Barr - April 02, 2015 at 06:24 PM

AB

“ I met Kent through her work with the City of Ypsilanti and admired her professionalism. We kept in touch for a few years and I always felt she valued everyone and everything. Her presence lit up a room when she entered and her conversation was always positive no matter what she was going through personally. I am saddened by her departure from us but pleased our paths crossed in life as she was certainly a ray of sunshine in this community.



Anne B - January 10, 2015 at 10:15 PM

GC

“ It was my great honor and pleasure to serve with Kent on The Ypsilanti 20/20 Task Force the goal of which was to ceate a vision for our city in the year 2020. Over the year and one half that we met and I chaired, Kent was always in attendence and she went far beyond what was required of her to help to produce the best reports we could including the final one which is still in circulation today. Her dedication and wry wit will be missed by all and so will the delicious candy that she was recently producing. Safe journey and blessings to her.

*GaryClark
Ypsianti, Michigan*

Gary Clark - January 10, 2015 at 09:37 PM