



## Joanne Jacqueline Kotjan

November 26, 1950 - October 16, 2012

On Tuesday, October 16, Joanne J. Kotjan's beautiful spirit left her body and soared back to Source. Joanne died at home in Bellingham, WA after 5 1/2 years of living heroically with ovarian cancer.

Joanne was born in Philadelphia, PA on 11/26, 1950. She graduated from Upper Merion High School where she excelled in sports and received 10 varsity letters.

She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1972 and got her Master's Degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1974.

Joanne was known as a master saleswoman, demonstrating her skills in her work as a realtor and then 15 years with Context Associated as Vice-President of Sales and Marketing. She also created a very successful direct sales business with USANA Health Sciences. Her sales coaching helped hundreds of people manifest their dreams.

Joanne was a talented gardener and artist of many mediums, including life. Her patient guidance helped many discover their inner artist. She was an active member of First Congregational Church in Bellingham and volunteered many consulting hours with Excellence Northwest. Joanne's purpose in life was to create beauty and to "make the ordinary extraordinary".

Joanne leaves behind her beloved partner of 23 years, Janet Ott, 5 adoring cats, and many friends and fans. She was predeceased by her parents John and Eleanor (Gruici) Kotjan and is survived by siblings Robert Kotjan (Gloria) of Lynnwood, WA, Carol Baker (Gyle) of West Chester, PA, and Eileen Hripto (James) of Montrose, PA. She was the loving aunt of Jennifer, Karl and Latoya Deans, Christopher & Michelle-Deans, Bryan & Hannah Kotjan, April Kotjan, Johanna Hripto, Michelle and Kristen Baker and great niece Amaya Deans.

We want to extend a special thank you to Dr. William Rubin, Whatcom Hospice and everyone who supported us in myriad ways during the last 5 years.

In lieu of flowers, please send memorial contributions to Whatcom Hospice.

# Tribute Wall

RP

“ To all the wonderful Family & Friends, may I offer my sympathy in the painful loss of your dearly loved Joanne. She will be sorely missed by all who knew & loved her.along the way.Hopefully you will find a measure of comfort & peace in the Bible Verses that follow. Psalm34:18 “JEHOVAH IS NEAR TO THOSE THAT ARE BROKEN AT HEART, AND THOSE WHO ARE CRUSHED IN SPIRIT HE SAVES.”

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**Rita Perry** - October 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ Joanne and were roommates freshman year at Pitt. I loved her instantly. Not just for her gorgeous long hair, quick smile, and super sewing skills, but for her enthusiasm and sense of humor. I was always so in awe of her talents and proud of her many accomplishments. We laughed a lot, listened to each other, and learned. She introduced me to little straw flowers, fabric, and a broader view of life. I only learned today that she passed away, and the world is suddenly a much dimmer place for me.

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**Elaine Rudnick Cohen** - October 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM