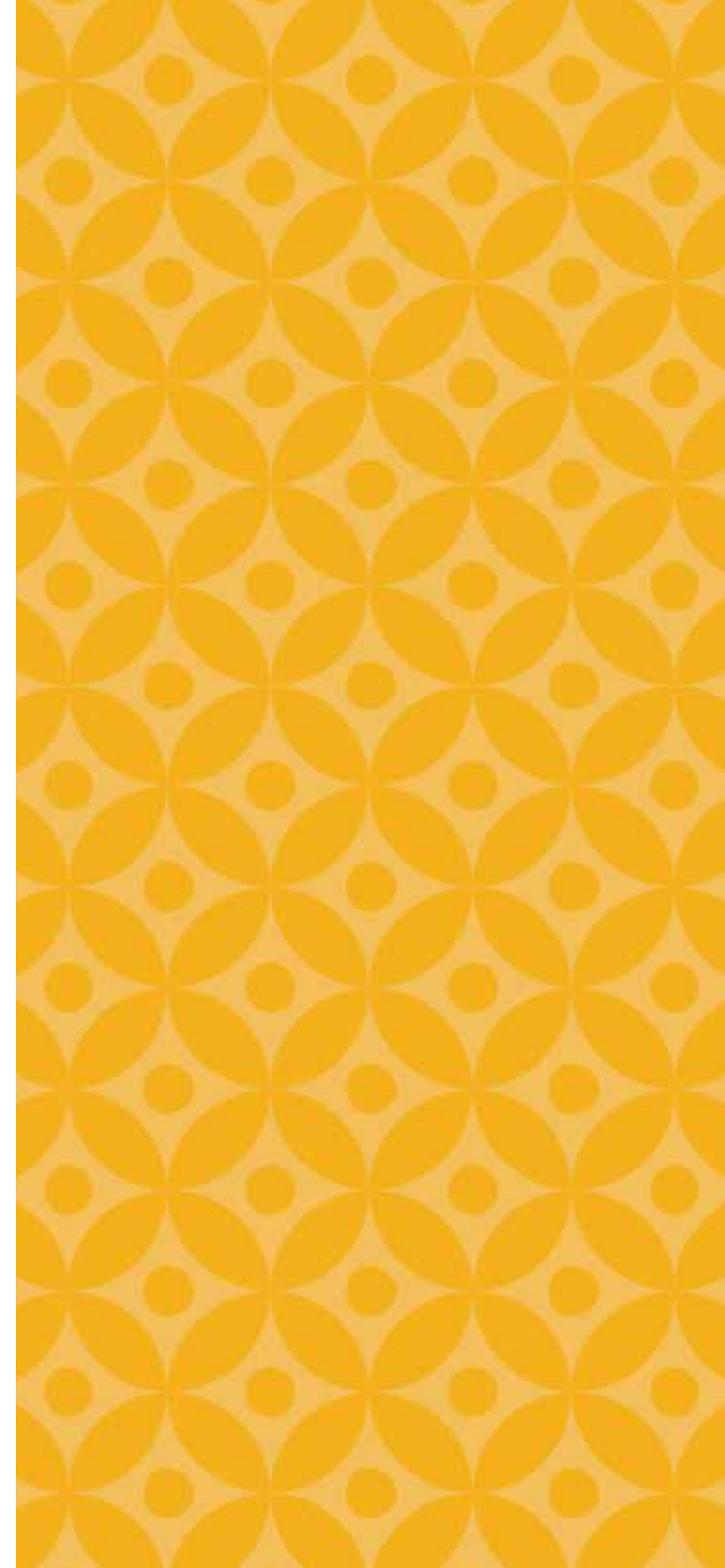




*The Memoir of*  
JANET ALMA WALBERG VANWINKLE





*To Deanna and family as well as future generations  
and to the memory of our beloved son,  
Daniel Steven Van Winkle*

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# Events in the Life of *Janet A. W. VanWinkle*

1938 - Present



1956

Janet graduated from Thornton Township High School.



1961

Janet moved to San Diego, California.



1969

Janet and Dan moved 2,700 miles to Ithaca, New York.



1970

Janet became a mother with the birth of her daughter, Deanna. Nearly three years later, her son, Danny, was born.



2010

On 30 June, Janet and Dan lost their son, Danny, to multiple sclerosis.



1938

Janet was born in Harvey, Cook County, Illinois, to Esther Josephine Dahlson and Leonard Carl Walberg.



1960

Janet began her teaching career while wrapping up her final year of college at the University of Illinois.



1966

On 19 June Janet married Daniel VanWinkle in Harvey, Illinois.



2001

Janet became a grandmother with the birth of Deanna's son Ethan. Today, she has two additional grandchildren: Brendan and Anya.



2012

Janet and Dan moved to Pennsylvania.





## *Introduction*

This is the story of Janet VanWinkle, a first-grade teacher from Harvey, Illinois, who has traveled the world and brought loving kindness to everything she does. In a series of interviews, Janet shared her life story and some of her most cherished memories. She also collected memories from friends, loved ones, and family members, some written down, some shared with Janet over the phone. Her husband, Daniel VanWinkle, was also briefly interviewed.

Together, all of these remembrances paint a picture of a life lived well. Janet has approached every facet of her life with patience and goodwill, influenced by the examples of her parents and her devout faith in God. Her mother's memory book has become a cherished family heirloom, and Janet hopes this book will hold a similar place, both in her own daughter's heart and for future generations.





Chapter 1

## *Swedish Heritage*

*J*anet's Swedish heritage is an important part of her identity. All four of her grandparents immigrated to the United States from Sweden, and she delights in telling friends and family that she is 98 percent Swedish, according to her DNA test results. Her maternal grandparents, Simon Dahlson and Alma Josepfina Olsson, settled in Chicago, Illinois, at the turn of the 19th century. Their three children were born there soon after their arrival: Emil Roy came in 1902, and the following year Janet's mother, Esther Josephine Dahlson, was born along with her twin sister, Mary Beatrice. Simon's addictions to alcohol and gambling caused a rift in the family. They moved to a suburb of Chicago called Harvey, Illinois, where Alma hoped Simon could get a fresh, sober start.

In Harvey, the Dahlsens worshiped at Tabor Lutheran Church, which had an entirely Swedish congregation and held services in Swedish until about 1915. They became friends with Carl Albert Walberg and his wife, Alma Kristina Lindberg, Swedish immigrants who had been members of the church for a long time. The two families frequently socialized together, and it was through these meetings that Esther developed a friendship with the Walbergs' youngest son, Leonard Carl, who was four years her senior.

Hard times fell on Esther's family when her father died in 1909 at the age of 36. To make ends meet, Alma Josepfina became a cook for a boarding house. Esther and Mary sat on wooden orange crates while she worked and had to be quiet. Their brother, Emil Roy, was in school.

*"Grandma was a very strong and independent person," Janet said. "In fact, theirs was the only house during the Great Depression that didn't get any subsidies from the town or the government, because they planted food in the backyard and she canned. So, I guess that's why my mom was independent and me, too."*



15th Street looking east, in downtown Harvey, Illinois, 1941



Her cousin Gordon Rehberg once wrote of his Aunt Esther, "The intensity of Aunt Esther's energy must have been inherited from some Viking conqueror."

Janet believes that the boarding house is where Alma met her second husband, a Swedish immigrant named Carl Adolph Axelson. They married and had one daughter, Elsa Linnea, in 1912.

Esther never graduated from high school, but she had an industrious nature that served her well in the business world. She learned typing and shorthand and found work as a secretary in Chicago. She and Leonard started dating in 1926, and it wasn't long before the lean, athletic boy from her youth had won her heart.

They married on 16 July 1927 in Esther's family home, where she walked down the "aisle" as Elsa played the wedding march on the piano. Leonard and Esther honeymooned at Tabor Farm Summer Resort in Sodus Township, Berrien County, Michigan. They spent a week together playing golf (a beloved shared pastime) and enjoying delicious home-cooked meals.

Leonard and Esther settled peacefully into married life, but a shadow soon fell over the young couple when they learned that Leonard had a bad heart valve. The news



The Walberg home in Harvey, Illinois, where Janet grew up. Note: The house was all white, but Esther (Janet's mom) changed it to red.

Leonard and Esther bought Janet's childhood home in 1934, soon after their son was born. They bought the house from a contractor who had built it for his wife, who loved to play the piano. She died, and the contractor sold the Walbergs the house, along with his late wife's grand piano for an extra \$150. Janet never took to playing piano, but her brother, Leonard, did.

infused their life with caution and care, but it didn't prevent them from finding happiness together. In 1934, they welcomed the birth of their son, Leonard Dahlson Walberg. Four years later, Janet Alma was born.



Janet Walberg, about 1941



# Early Childhood

Janet's mom and dad took great care to create a loving and nurturing home for their two children. "I don't think I could have grown up in a better family," Janet said. "I was really blessed to have them. It wasn't until I got out in the world that I found out how other people lived, and I thought, oh my goodness."

## ORIGINS OF JANET'S SMILE

Janet's earliest memory goes back to 1941, when she was 3 years old. Her jaw hadn't formed correctly, so her parents took her to an orthodontist in Chicago named John R. Thompson. He put braces with little rubber bands on her top and bottom teeth, and to her grandmother's astonishment, Janet never cried. Her bravery was rewarded with little plaster of Paris statues of comic book characters. It took three different sets of braces over the years to fix her teeth. The effort was well worth it, and Janet's smile has been a source of joy for many who have known her. Decades later, Janet discovered that Dr. Thompson was still alive at 95 years old, and he was a client of one of her brother's lawyer friends. She wrote Dr. Thompson a letter thanking him for fixing her teeth all those years ago. "I smiled a lot, and I might not have

Janet and her mom, Esther Walberg, at Mount Laguna Campground, 1968



## Chapter 2

*"My mom was a loving, caring, healthy, independent woman who enjoyed baking bread, coffee cakes, and cookies for us. She sewed all my clothes until I left for college."*

~Janet VanWinkle

not have done that if I hadn't had the orthodontic work done," she said. He included her letter in a textbook he was writing for his students at Northwestern Dental School.





Janet's doll, MaryAnn

## MaryAnn

In 1943, Janet's Uncle Warren, the second husband of her Aunt Mary, gave her an antique doll that he had inherited. The doll was so old that its head fell off the day it was given to Janet. After it was repaired, Janet named the doll MaryAnn, and it became a favorite childhood toy. "She had green eyes and four teeth and a cloth body with a squeaker inside. The head, arms, and legs were all breakable.

And that was a problem, because I put her in my bicycle basket, and we would fall together on the brick road in front of my house." Despite many close calls over the years, MaryAnn has survived and accompanied Janet through her many travels. Janet took MaryAnn to a doll hospital in New York in the early 1990s. MaryAnn was fixed up and given blue eyes to represent Janet's Swedish ancestry. Janet remembers taking MaryAnn to Macy's and furtively trying on clothes in the girl's department. Today, MaryAnn sits in a little rocking chair in Janet's home and even has her own wardrobe and quilt that are changed with the seasons.



Janet's grandson, Brendan, 6 months old, with dolls, MaryAnn and Raggedy Ann

Friday nights were a much-anticipated time of the week for Janet and her family. That was the day her father returned home after traveling for his work as an auditor and accountant for Northern Indiana Public Service Company. "We were very close," Janet said. "I had my nose at the front door waiting for him to come home after being gone all week."

Esther lovingly protected her husband's health, and she taught her children to do the same. Janet remembers helping her mother prepare for his arrival, cleaning the house, mowing the lawn, and shoveling snow in the cement alley so he wouldn't have to do anything that put strain on his heart. The family doctor once warned Esther any stress caused by an argument could bring on a heart attack, and she made sure that Lenny and Janet respected and obeyed their father.

*"Our second-grade teacher, Mrs. Arends, gave me a seat on the opposite side of the classroom from Janet. My family had just moved from the south, and I didn't know anyone and felt scared. The desks were fastened to the floor and couldn't be moved. Janet climbed over the seats of the desks to welcome me and tell me her name. Janet made me feel welcome, and my anxiety disappeared. We've been friends since 1945."*

~Shirley (Corcoran) Collins

"We had a very calm, loving home," Janet said. "I never heard an argument in my house growing up. We were always doing for each other."

Leonard encouraged his children to be studious, so the family didn't have a television in the home until Janet was a junior in high school. Music was an important part of their early education. On Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Walbergs opened their home to anyone in the neighborhood who wanted to take piano lessons on their grand piano, taught by the organist at their church, Mrs. O'Dell. Janet learned to play piano and clarinet, but she considers herself the "musical dropout" of the family.

*"I just wanted to be outside, playing hopscotch, jumping rope, climbing trees. I just wanted to go to the pool and go swimming."*

~Janet VanWinkle

Her brother was the musical one—he started playing piano when he was 4 years old, and by the time he was in the eighth grade he played the organ at church.

The family's Lutheran faith was a central part of their life together. They went to church every Sunday, and the Luther League Conventions they attended together are some of Janet's most cherished memories. When she was in the

seventh grade, the whole family went to a convention in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, with a girl from her confirmation class. On the way, they drove through Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Teton mountain range. In Canada, they visited the resort town of Banff and Lake Louise.

When Esther needed a break, Janet and Leonard spent a week with their Aunt Mary in Michigan City, Indiana. "That was a great place for a vacation," Janet said. "Lake Michigan was a mile away, and we would just walk or sometimes [Aunt Mary] drove the car. There was a zoo near the lake, amusement park, lots of things to entertain us. Sometimes we would go to Vacation Bible School if that was going on at the time."

Esther went back to work when Janet was in eighth grade. She

*The Walbergs and Rehbergs did many social things together, and I remember some good times and parties. The family was so friendly, and Lenny could entertain with his great musical ability and knowledge of many important pieces of music. Janet always seemed happy and added to the good times just by being there. It is true that Gordon liked to tease her and play some tricks on her, but she didn't seem to mind.*

~Chuck Kutscher

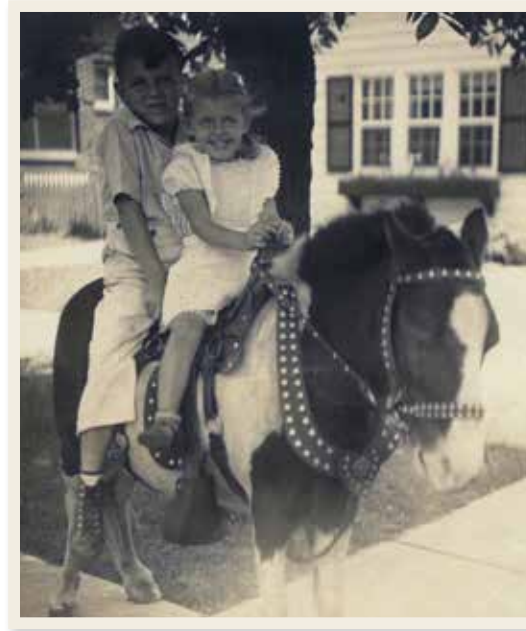
started with a staffing agency that eventually placed her with the Chicago Sun-Times. The newspaper eventually hired Esther as a full-time employee, and she became secretary to the circulation manager in charge of all the south suburban newspapers. "She was very smart. You'd never know that she hadn't finished high school." When she retired many

years later, Janet said the newspaper had to hire three people to take her place.

Esther's independence set a strong but loving example for Janet. "She taught me how to take care of myself," Janet said. "How to be kind to others and a caring person."



Janet, age 16 months



Len and Janet, summer 1942



Janet, about 5 years old



# Family



Klinger Lake in Michigan, 1951  
(Top to bottom): Tucky Lund (cousin from  
Minnesota), Janet Walberg, Sue Rehberg,  
(cousin, left) and her friend, (right)



Aunt Mary and  
Uncle Warren E. Carpenter



Sisters, Mary (Dahlson) Carpenter and  
Esther (Dahlson) Walberg

## BELOVED BROTHER: *Leonard Dahlson Walberg, 1934-2011*

As an older brother, Leonard was patient, thoughtful, and considerate. His good reputation paved the way for Janet in high school and served him well when he started his law career in Harvey many years later. Once he got to college, he started going by Len rather than Lenny. He studied history and pre-law at the University of Illinois before pursuing his law degree at Vanderbilt Law School in Nashville, Tennessee. He returned to Harvey and became a lawyer. In addition to running his own private law practice, Len was elected to serve as Harvey's city commissioner, and then he served as city attorney from 1963 to 1967.

Len didn't like politics, however, so he left his post with the city and continued practicing law. His friends told Janet



Len and Janet, 2006

stories of his kindness and integrity as a lawyer. He offered free legal counsel to those who couldn't afford his services and encouraged couples to seek counseling before filing for divorce. "He was a well-thought-of person," Janet said.

"Caring, generous, and respected."

"We had a United States wooden puzzle, and he would take out a state and I'd have to say what state was missing. I was pretty little, and I knew where all the states were," Janet said.


Len married Catherine O'Leary (known as Kate to friends and family) on 16 July 1966, sharing an anniversary with his and Janet's parents. He was known for his perfect penmanship, his love of movies and stage shows, and his amazing memory. He died on 26 February 2011, at the age of 76.






  
*"Jan and I first met  
 when we were young,  
 engaged, and unmarried.  
 We delighted sharing  
 our shower and wedding  
 plans—and lots of smiles  
 and hugs. I felt so  
 lucky to have such a  
 great sister-in-law!"*  
 ~Kate (O'Leary) Walberg



  
*In Loving Memory Of*  
**Leonard D. Walberg**  
 Born June 6, 1934  
 Passed Away February 26, 2011  
 Funeral Service  
 Wednesday, March 2, 2011 - 11:00 A.M.  
 First United Lutheran Church  
 6705 Holman Avenue, Hammond, Indiana  
 Bassam A. Abdallah, Officiating  
 Inlarnant Cedar Park Cemetery  
 Calumet Park, Illinois  
 God saw you getting weaker,  
 calmer, so He did what  
 He thought best.  
 He came and stood beside you  
 and He whispered,  
 "Come to rest."  
 We could not understand it,  
 no matter how we tried.  
 If love alone could have saved you,  
 you never would have died.

  
 BURNS-KISH FUNERAL HOME • MUNSTER, INDIANA



(Top row, L to R):  
 Len and Kate,  
 wedding day, 1966

Len and  
 Esther Walberg  
 (Janet's dad and mom,  
 two pictures)

(Bottom row, L to R):  
 Len Walberg's funeral  
 program

Kate Walberg and Janet at the Lava Rocks on Maui Beach in Hawaii. Janet came to stay with Kate while her brother, Len, was in the hospital, 2006

Tree in Centennial Park, Munster, Indiana with memorial for Leonard Walberg





Thornton Township High School, Harvey, Illinois, about 1950



*"I remember when we were co-chair of decorations for the Motherdaughter Banquet. Janet was a junior, and I was a senior. It was to be in the cafeteria, and because of big reservations, it got changed to the gym! Holy cow! Had to adapt all decorations to fit a larger venue. I remember the crepe paper flowers and vines we made with electric hand mixers. What fun memories."*

~Sandra (Jehu) Sackett, friend and classmate  
at Thornton Township High School



Chapter 3

## High School

Janet became a prominent member of her class at Thornton Township High School, and she had a hand in a wide variety of activities. During her freshman year she was elected secretary of her class and served on the Girls Club freshman board. The following year she joined the student council, called KIP for Knowledge is Power. On the council, Janet helped resolve problems and went to conferences with other schools. Once the student council visited the Federal Bureau of Investigation field office in Chicago. "The FBI had a map, and they knew where every agent was at all times," Janet remembered. "When I think of the technology today, I think, oh, yeah, that would be easy to do. But back then I was amazed."

Janet also served on "Purple X," a group of students who helped organize school dances that were held after



Thornton Township High School book store, about 1951

home games for the football and basketball teams. "I helped people coming in, and I would take their coats and all that kind of thing, but most of the time I was just doing the Bunny Hop and dancing," she said. "It was kind of an honor, because the people who were on Purple X voted on who would get in. I think I was lucky to have my brother ahead of me, because they knew my name. And then I knew a lot of people in town, as well. I had fun. I was friendly. And I smiled a lot because I didn't have braces on anymore."

Janet attended another Luther League Convention with three other girls while she was in high school, this time in Boston, Massachusetts. She enjoyed staying in the big

hotel and sightseeing, but it was the train ride from Chicago to Boston with kids from all over the country that made a lasting impression. "I remember the California kids singing 'California, Here We Come,' and then the Texas kids were singing their song, and it was going back and forth, and everybody was laughing and having fun."

Janet's enthusiasm for school did not go unnoticed. During her junior year, her work with the Girls Club earned her a place on the May Queen Court, and she was also elected to the National Honor Society. "I was surprised about the National Honor Society," Janet said. "My mom went off pretending she was going to work, and there she was at school for my induction into the National Honor Society."

In between her academic and extracurricular activities, Janet worked at a part-time job. She started as a sales clerk at Woolworth's Dime Store and JC Penny before taking a job at the YMCA, where she helped young children get ready for their activities. This experience made Janet realize that she wanted to be a teacher. "They seemed drawn to me, and they would always come into my office where I was sitting, and we would talk."

Janet spent the week before high school graduation going through the sorority recruitment process. "My brother



had given me a list of 10 sororities and told me if I couldn't get into one of those to forget joining," Janet said. "There were 29 sororities on campus. I pledged Delta Delta Delta, also known as Tri Delta. I arrived home just in time for a quick supper and dashed off to graduate."

After graduation, Janet spent her summer preparing for college, working at the YMCA, and attending sorority parties. Before she left for the university, her father handed her a check that was her spending money for the year, and it was her responsibility to make sure the money lasted. That simple act taught Janet a lesson about money that lasted a lifetime, and decades later, she would use the same tactic to teach her own children how to budget.



(Left): Football game cheering section, Thornton High School

(Right): Thornton High School Band, 1954



(Above left): Tri Delta House that Janet lived in while at the University of Illinois.  
Janet attended a Tri Delta reunion in 1991.



(Right): Dear friend, Lynn Simmons, with Janet on the quad by the "Illini Union" building, 1991  
Janet was in Lynn's wedding, and Lynn was in hers, too.  
(Below): Panorama of the main quad at the University of Illinois







Janet Walberg  
College Portrait



Chapter 4

## College

Janet earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois, where she lived in the Tri Delta sorority house with 56 other young women. "I enjoyed every minute of it," Janet said. "Back when I was in school there was no alcohol in the fraternity or sorority houses. There were strict rules. The library closed at 10 o'clock, and we had to be in our sorority house by 10:30, and on the weekends we could stay out till midnight."



*"I remember a New Year's Eve party, which you and Len hosted. He favored us with 'the Mexican Hat Dance' with great flourish. You both threw the best parties."*

~Judie Kronvall



Leonard Carl Walberg, 1957

## *Losing Dad*

The summer of 1958 was supposed to be one of hope and celebration for the Walberg family. Janet's brother was graduating from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and they joined together on June 1 to watch him proudly receive his law degree. "We had a wonderful day. The graduation was everything my parents hoped it would be," Janet said. "Once my brother had his law degree in his hand, [my dad] said to my mother, 'Well, Es, we've accomplished everything we've set out to do.' I remember poking him with my elbow and saying, 'What about me? What about me?' And he said, 'I've never had to worry about you.' What started out as a good day ended up being a sad one."

Janet and her dad rested at the hotel after the ceremony, while her mom and Len went out for food. Janet's dad slept so deeply that he didn't hear fire engines that blared by the window. Shortly after Janet's mom and brother returned, her dad needed to take one of his heart pills. Within minutes he had died. "It was like he lived long enough to see everything in its place. My mom had a job, so she was taken care of. My brother graduated from law school, so he was fine, and he never had to worry about me," Janet said.



Len's graduation from Vanderbilt Law School, 1 June 1958  
(L to R): Janet Walberg, Leonard Carl Walberg, Len Walberg, and Esther Walberg

# REMEMBERING *Carl Axelson* written by Janet VanWinkle



*A* year after my dad died in 1959, I asked my mom if I could borrow her car and drive to Michigan City, Indiana, to visit

Grandpa Axelson. My Aunt Mary and Uncle Warren were at work, so Grandpa and I had plenty of time to visit. I asked him why he came to America. He told me his three sisters were always bothering him. He wrote to a friend living in Harvey, Illinois, asking if there would be work if he came over. His friend told him yes and to come. He worked in a factory all his life. In Sweden, he rode a horse telling the workman which tree to mark with an X. He was also offered an apothecary store to run (drug store). He had been on a rowing team, as well, so he did give up a lot when he left. He returned to Sweden just one time and felt he didn't belong there. His youngest sister was married to the president of the bank. I met her in 1961.

Grandpa was known for his storytelling. He used to tell me that when he lived in Sweden, he would have to go up on the roof and chop down the smoke, it was so cold! When he lived with my Aunt Mary after Grandma died, he would take walks to

Lake Michigan about a mile away. When the weather was raining or snowing, he would walk to the main shopping street and stop for coffee. One winter day when there was a blizzard, he walked a couple blocks and stopped for coffee. He was in good spirits and was asked, "Why are you so happy in this weather?" Grandpa answered, "There are no mosquitos!"

Needless to say, he was fun to be around. He died three months after this wonderful visit.



# Memories...

"Interviewing for our job in Downers Grove and making the mistake of going to LaGrange by mistake ... decorating our room at DDD (Tri Delta) for Christmas ... our trip to Oswego in the big snow/ice storm and sliding off the highway (when my folks told us not to try) ... being in your wedding, what a 'lovely bride' you made ... times when we got our moms together. Weren't they darling? So many great times."

~Lynn Simmons

"I remember Janet holding my hand in Klinger Lake, Michigan, walking me from the cabin my parents rented across the street from the lake. The water was shallow and perfect for children."

~Susan Rehberg

Halfway through her senior year, Janet and her close friend, Lynn Simmons, went to Urbana, Illinois, to take a test for their provisional teaching certificates. Shortly after, they both landed jobs at a school in Downers Grove, a suburb of western Chicago, where Janet taught kindergarten, and Lynn taught second grade. They began teaching in February 1960 and went to summer school to finish their electives and graduate from the University of Illinois. "Afterwards, we celebrated by flying to New York City for 10 days," Janet said. "We stayed at a YWCA near the theatre district for \$3.25 a night! We enjoyed Radio City, five Broadway musicals, and several museums. The expensive musical was 'The Sound of Music.' Each ticket cost \$11. The others were \$5." Janet taught at Downers Grove for another year.

After her college graduation, Janet spent five weeks traveling through Europe with her mother, Aunt Elsa, and Elsa's daughter, Susan Rehberg. They visited relatives in London. Her cousin Conrad Dahlson was married and living in London at the time. Her cousin Gordon Rehberg was stationed with the army in Harrogate, England, and he joined Janet and the others

in London. Conrad showed Janet and her family all the tourist attractions, and they stopped for a visit in Harrogate before catching a boat to Norway.

After exploring the Norwegian cities of Stavanger and Bergen, they rented a car in Oslo and drove to Sweden. There, they took a ferry to the island of Orust and drove to the city of Henån, where they connected with Janet's maternal relatives. They stopped in Lidköping (home of Janet's Grandpa Axelson) on the way to Stockholm, where Janet connected with Gunilla Weijer, a cousin she had never met, on her father's side of the family. "Gunilla took my mom and I to a nursing home to meet Elin, my Grandfather Walberg's younger sister," Janet said. "She looked just like my dad's older brother, Rueben, not my dad."

Janet and Gunilla became fast friends, and today they are more like sisters than cousins. "She's caring and fantastic, always ready to be out doing things. She's just wonderful," Janet said. After exploring Copenhagen, Denmark, and Paris, France, Janet returned home, where another adventure awaited her.

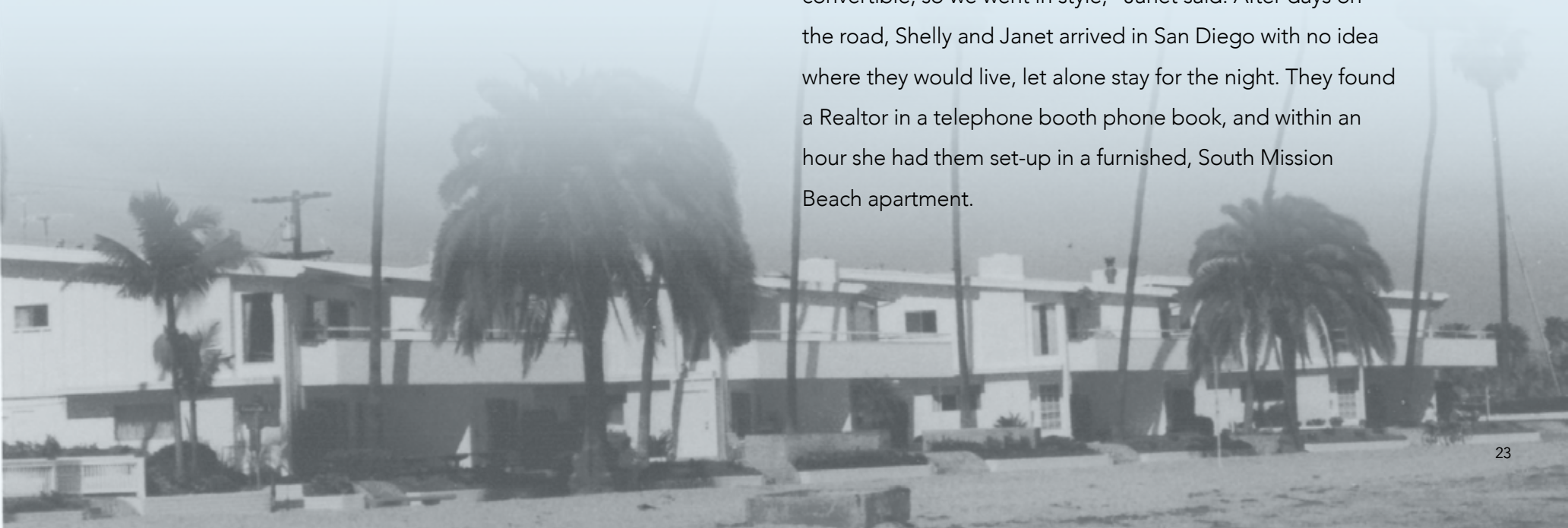




Janet's South Mission Beach apartment in San Diego, where she lived with her friend, Shelley

## *Adventure Out West*

Janet had made plans to move to California with her friend, Shelley, a recent University of Arizona graduate who was going to teach in San Diego. They left soon after Janet returned from Europe. "She had a big Oldsmobile convertible, so we went in style," Janet said. After days on the road, Shelly and Janet arrived in San Diego with no idea where they would live, let alone stay for the night. They found a Realtor in a telephone booth phone book, and within an hour she had them set-up in a furnished, South Mission Beach apartment.



## Memories...

"Now and even as a child I loved looking at mom's wedding pictures. I thought everyone in the pictures looked beautiful and everything seemed regal and almost fairy tale like. I remember looking at mom's bridesmaid, Janet Walberg, with the beautiful burgundy dress, with its v-neck that draped off the shoulders and the little hat with the netting that matched the dress. Mom kept that dress, and I played dress-up in it all the time pretending I was you!"

~Patti (Norville) Silvers, Janet's 2nd cousin

"I can recall some of us sitting in front of the TV in the evening, and I felt guilty because you were always working on clever lessons plans ... You were definitely the more dedicated teacher!"

~Nancy Eastman, friend and roommate in San Diego



1st grade poetry party, January 1983

(L to R): Janet VanWinkle, Erica Tamburro, Eric Tanalski, Carrie Chaikin, Sarah Gottesfeld, and Kevin Grassel



It wasn't long before Janet had a network of friends and a job teaching kindergarten. She loved the children in her class, most of whom had parents enlisted in the Navy and lived in low-rental housing. But eventually her struggle to get along with the school principal became unbearable. "The principal only wanted me to have the children play and socialize. I wanted to teach! Nine [teachers] left after that school year," Janet said. She transferred to a second-grade class at Marcy Elementary in University City, a white-collar neighborhood in San Diego. There, she found much more support from faculty and parents.





## *Europe, Summer of 1962*

During her second trip to Europe, Janet connected with more extended family members. She traveled with her roommate and a friend from the beach, and the three of them relied frequently on the kindness of strangers who shared advice and directions.

They traveled by train until Janet bought a Volkswagen at the factory in Wolfsburg, Germany. The little VW Bug carried them through adventures in Austria, Switzerland, Italy, and France. In Paris, Janet connected with Gunvar, a Swedish relative of her step-grandpa, Carl Axelson. Gunvar and her husband, Pierre, told Janet about their harrowing experiences living in Paris during the German occupation of World War II.

Janet had a funny experience in Paris that she will never forget. "The three of us were walking down stairs to take the Metro in Paris," Janet said. "A fellow was walking up the stairs. He stopped us and asked me if he could ask a question. I said yes. He asked, 'Are you of Swedish descent?' When I said yes, he said, 'I thought so,' and continued on up the stairs."

The Volkswagen was shipped home to California, and Janet and her friends ended the trip in London, where her



The house in North Mission Beach where Janet met Dan in 1963

cousin Conrad once again played tour guide, served them dinner, and provided a place for them to stay for the night.

On a Friday night in May 1963, Janet was at a party in North Mission Beach when she spied a tall, slender, and handsome man across the room. He had brown eyes and a nice smile, and he had noticed her, too. His name was Dan VanWinkle, and he was in a Beach Jumper Unit in the U.S. Navy, stationed at the amphibious base, Coronado.

"That was an evening I've never forgotten and probably never will," Dan said in an interview. "I looked across the room. She was sitting at a window with a view of the beach behind her, and it was love at first sight. What struck me

immediately was the big smile. Suntanned face, because we were both living on the beach, and she has a widow's peak, which gives her a heart-shaped face, and the high cheekbones of a Swede. Her smile was infectious, and it just really infected me."

Although he was shy, Dan summoned the courage to talk to Janet. They quickly discovered that they had much in common. Like Janet, Dan had grown up in Illinois, in the town of Galesburg, a three-hour drive west from Harvey. After the party, they went their separate ways, and it took four weeks for Dan to get up the courage to ask Janet out on a date. He took her to the San Diego Zoo, followed by dinner at a German restaurant called The Schnitzelbank and a moonlit walk around La Jolla Cove.

Dan was smitten, but hesitant to get into a serious relationship. "In my mind I was thinking, uh-oh, this is the marrying type of girl," he said. He was a Naval officer and spent half the year stationed in Japan. Such a career would

*"During the week I watched what I ate so I could chow down at the restaurant. Growing up with my brother, I remember him talking about going on dates where he would spend money and then his date just picked at the food and didn't eat. So, I knew that's not what I should do. I should eat the food that he bought for me."*

~Janet VanWinkle

be demanding on a wife and children, but despite his reservations, Dan couldn't stay away. He and Janet began a serious courtship and soon fell in love.

When Dan was in San Diego, they spent their weekends together enjoying the outdoors, either on the beach or in the mountains. He often took her out for a steak dinner in La Jolla, followed by ice cream at Baskin Robbins.



Lieutenant  
Daniel VanWinkle, 1964

When Dan was overseas, he and Janet wrote letters to each other almost daily. Nevertheless, the distance proved to be a strain on the relationship, and they broke up in January 1965. Heartbroken, Janet began writing to various schools in the San Francisco Bay area, where she had friends. She went up for interviews and decided to accept a teaching position in San Rafael, north of San Francisco.

Dan and Janet got back together in March, but that didn't stop Janet from packing up her little, blue Volkswagen Bug for another adventure in Northern California. She stayed with friends until she found a group of girls to share an apartment. She and a friend took turns driving to school every other week, and Janet liked having company across the Golden Gate Bridge.

Dan asked Janet to visit him that Christmas in Yokosuka, Japan. "I was so surprised when he asked me to come to Japan for Christmas vacation," Janet said. "I quickly called my mom to tell her I wouldn't be coming home. I'd be in Japan! You can imagine her surprise."

Dan took her to Kyoto and Nara, and when he had to stay on base and work, she ventured to Tokyo on a blue and cream train. Among her many adventures there, Janet remembers the rock gardens and tea ceremonies. "At one they had me dress up in a kimono. They picked me out of the audience to put it on," Janet said.

Dan returned home soon after Janet's Christmas-time visit, and they got engaged to be married in February 1966. Shortly after, Janet's father visited her in a dream for the second time since his death. It was one of three times in her life he would come to her in times of need, and this time he gave Janet



Engagement notice for Janet and her soon-to-be sister-in-law, Kate O'Leary in the local paper, 1966





Janet and Dan VanWinkle on their wedding day, 19 June 1966

his blessing for her engagement.

Dan and Janet set the date for Sunday, June 19—nearly one month ahead of her brother's marriage to Kate. "Just a little sister trying to beat her brother," Janet said. She went home to pick out the wedding cake over Easter vacation, but her

mother did the rest of the wedding planning. Her wedding dress belonged to a friend who had been her neighbor in Harvey before moving to Tiburon, California. Janet would often stop and visit her on the way home from school in San Rafael, and during one of these visits she suggested that Janet wear her wedding dress. "Both our moms worked on it, making it special to the two of us," Janet said. "I tried it

on immediately, and it fit perfectly. That was the something borrowed!"

The wedding ceremony was held at First Lutheran Church in Harvey. Janet walked down the aisle on her brother's arm, as her father had already died. She had a large flower bouquet made by her cousin, Susan Rehberg. After a reception at the church, Janet's mother hosted a big party at her house. Dan remembers finding their VW camper decorated with tin cans tied to the bumper and rice thrown all over the inside. They would find rice in the van's nooks and crannies for years to come.

## THE HONEYMOON

Dan and Janet spent their honeymoon on the road in their Volkswagen camper, driving around Lake Michigan, through Wisconsin and Michigan, with a stop back in Illinois for her brother's wedding before meandering



Janet and Dan camping at Mount Laguna campground, 1968





across the western half of the United States, stopping to see interesting sights and camping when they needed a rest. One of their first stops was Cave of the Mounds near Blue Mounds, Wisconsin, followed by a fish boil at the Viking Grill outside a town called Ellison Bay in Door County, Wisconsin. At Washington Island, Wisconsin, Janet was surprised to see a "great, big, huge Scandinavian coffee pot" that said *Velkommen*, or welcome.

From there they continued around Lake Michigan into Michigan state, where they took a ferry to Mackinac Island and watched a 4th of July fireworks show. They briefly visited Janet's Aunt Mary in Michigan City, Indiana, before returning to Harvey for Len's wedding.

For both Dan and Janet, the most memorable stop on the honeymoon was Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. They climbed to the top of Long's Peak and camped at the tree line. "When we woke up in the morning it was spectacular," Janet said. "All the clouds were below us, with the bright blue sky and no clouds above us." Then they hiked up to the summit and enjoyed the breathtaking view before hiking back down to their tent.

Dan was amazed by his wife's quick adaptation to such a strenuous adventure. "That was an experience, watching her learn how to do all this, and do it safely, and enjoy it. To see

her make that change and grow into a whole new pastime, that was really something."

They continued to take in the splendor of the American West, with stops in Yellowstone National Park; Devil's Tower in Wyoming; Craters on the Moon Monument and National Preserve in Idaho; Crater Lake National Park in Oregon; and Mendocino, California, to name just a few of the stops on their journey back to San Diego.

Back in San Diego, Dan pursued his master's degree in biology with a specialty in plant physiology at San Diego State, while Janet returned to teaching at an inner-city school. The children were delightful and wanted to learn but were significantly behind. "Some of them didn't even





Janet and Dan's first Christmas together in 1966 at Longs Peak in the Rocky Mountains—elevation 14,259!



know their colors. I had to teach them red from blue and green from yellow before I could teach them how to read the color

words. It was really an eye opener for me," she said.

"One day I found a little girl holding a flower for me at 7 a.m., waiting for the 9 a.m. bell to ring. She just wanted to be at school. There were 17 children in the family! I was sick and had come early to leave more lesson plans for the substitute teacher."

Married life was a peaceful respite from whatever challenges she faced at work. "It was wonderful, and it still is," Janet said. "Dan would study, while I would knit and had school work to do. When we had time, we'd be off doing things together. We liked being outside, and we would take rides into the mountains. We

kept doing things like we were on a date again."

When Dan needed a break from his studies, they hopped in the camper and traveled. Catalina Island, Hoover Dam, Las Vegas, Big Bear—there was no shortage of beautiful places within driving range.

Dan and Janet's marriage was off to a great start. And yet, their greatest adventures lay ahead.

Janet has fond memories of a trip with friends to climb Mount Whitney. They set-up camp about halfway up the mountain. The next day, all the men made it to the top. The wives needed another day to adjust to the altitude, so they stayed behind and enjoyed the sun.

Another especially memorable trip made in the early years of their marriage was to the Grand Canyon. They traveled with fellow second-grade teacher, Kathy Ford, and her husband, Ed Ford, who had made plans to ride the mules down to the bottom of the canyon. "I told her Dan wants to walk, but I'd

prefer the mule. She suggested that all four of us go together when Easter vacation arrived," Janet said. "Dan and Ed hiked down and back up while Kathy and I rode the mules. There was snow at the rim where we camped. Halfway down where



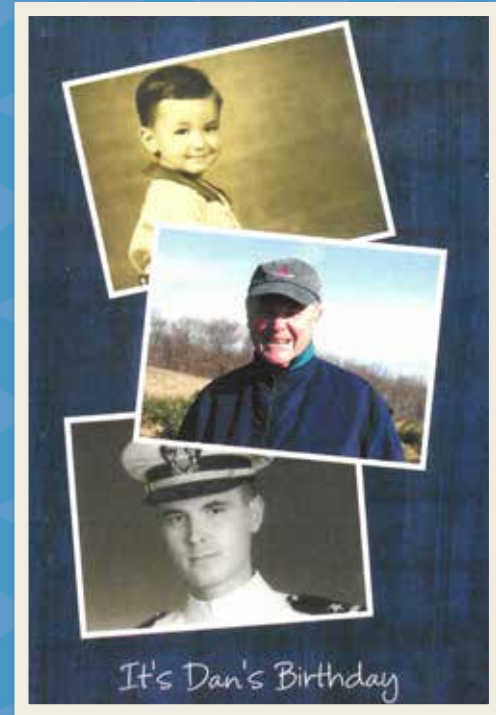
Janet and Dan, San Diego, California, 1965

we stopped for lunch, we enjoyed spring with flowering trees, and at the bottom it was summer. Kathy and I slept in the cabin, and the fellows slept beneath the stars by the Colorado River."

# The Van Winkle Brothers



DAN AND STEVE







The VanWinkle family, 1976  
(L to R): Deanna, age 5½, Janet, Dan, and Danny, age 3





## Chapter 6



The home of the VanWinkles in Hillsborough, New Jersey. Janet and Dan moved in after grad school in 1974 and raised their family.

## Starting a Family

Dan and Janet moved to Ithaca, New York, in 1969 so Dan could study plant physiology in pursuit of a PhD at Cornell University. Janet was pregnant with their first child and looking forward to yet another adventure, but her doctor was concerned about how the journey would affect her and the baby. Janet flew to Harvey to allay the doctor's fears, and Dan planned to meet her there with the car. Despite the precautions, Janet had a miscarriage shortly after arriving in Harvey, and Dan rushed to be with her. "By the time he got there I was, oh, pretty good, but I was sad. You always wonder if you have a miscarriage before you have children, will I be able to have children? Of course, we

wanted to." Indeed, children were in the VanWinkles' future, and it wasn't long before Janet was pregnant again.

In Ithaca, Dan's colleagues helped them get settled. While attending a potluck for the wives of Cornell faculty and graduate students, Janet connected with a woman named Gwen Sandstead, who helped her get a job at Lansing Elementary School. What was supposed to be a temporary job covering for a first-grade teacher on maternity leave turned into a permanent position. When Janet herself began preparing for motherhood in 1970, Lansing Elementary saved the job for her.



Deanna,  
21 months,  
with Janet  
painting,  
Ithaca,  
New York

## THE JOYS OF PARENTHOOD

Janet gave birth to their daughter, Deanna Lynn, on 12 October 1970. Their son, Daniel Steven, was born nearly three years later, on 22 April 1973. Janet's mom supplied plenty of homemade baby clothes and came to help in the weeks after their births. Dan describes Janet as a loving and

patient mother whose knack for teaching had a large influence on her parenting style.

"She adapted to always having approaches that were teachable moments," Dan said. "Learning along the way like most moms do—sicknesses and how to deal with all those things. That was a learning experience for both of us. Good cook—everybody was always well fed. She encouraged them to be outgoing and friendly like she is."

Dan graduated from Cornell in 1974. He got a job with American Cyanamid Co., an agricultural chemical company in Princeton, New Jersey, where he worked in research and development creating crop protection chemicals. He started in a discovery laboratory, transferring over the years

into product development and then going into the field as a researcher. "I was out there for 10 years and traveled in five states in the Atlantic area," Dan said. "That was doing the same sorts of things, only at the farm level, working with farmers and agricultural people, calling on university researchers." He eventually moved back into the office as an assistant manager for the whole field force, working on the budget, logistics, and safety.

With financial help from Janet's mother, they bought a house in the small community of Hillsborough, New Jersey, just north of Princeton. During that time, Janet's top priority was making sure that her children met other kids and had fun. Deanna and Danny spent lots of time outside, and one of their favorite activities was swimming at the Roycefield Swim Club. "They would take swimming lessons, have

*"Summers at the pool watching the kids swim and play. We would sit in the sun and bake till we were crispy, and then we would sun some more. Always loved our lunches on the picnic table, in the shade, with the kids running around. We loved the swim team and watching the meets. That's how we spent every day of the summer."*

~Joan Wilson, friend from Hillsborough, New Jersey

*"Janet not only welcomed me to first-grade teaching, but offered help and gave encouragement, as I was teaching first grade for the first time. I remember seeing the way she handled her classroom with unemotional, but loving confidence. She was such a good example of how to handle challenging children with love and patience, but with expectations of compliance and quiet consequences for children who didn't follow the rules. I aspired to be the calm, loving teacher she was in the classroom."*

~Nancy Garrett

principal, you know, I'm a taxi cab driver, and I teach in my free time."

lunch, and play in the water until we'd go home about 4:30 to make supper," Janet said.

"That was kind of a daily thing. I had good friends that I sat with, and they had kids that my kids played with."

Janet stayed home with the kids until 1978, when a job opened at a school in Hillsborough. She loved teaching there. Her principal belonged to the same pool and understood her need to be home when Deanna and Danny came home from school in the afternoons. "I told my prin-

She kept their minds and bodies active and encouraged them to pursue their interests. Deanna enjoyed piano and horseback riding lessons. Danny was on a state soccer team for a few years and played baseball one season. In the winter, he and Deanna both enjoyed ice skating for the Princeton Ice Skating Club. "You'd put figure skates on a kid like Danny, and he'd skate like a hockey player," Janet said.

Deanna and Danny both joined the Roycefield Swim Team in the summer of 1979. Deanna was more of a recreational, summertime swimmer, but it became a passion for Danny. Before long he was strong enough to join the older team members who swam year-round at the Bridgewater indoor pool that was later purchased by the YMCA.

Danny excelled in swimming, winning championships at the YMCA that took him to regional competitions at Raritan Valley Community College. There he swam in the Junior Olympics,

*"My daughter, Laura-Ashley, had a wonderful year filled with learning as well as fun experiences at Hillsborough Elementary. I'll always remember the celebration of St. Lucia. Jan's heritage is Swedish. Therefore, on the feast day of St. Lucia, she donned a white robe and flowery crown. She had the children make one from construction paper to include the candle that would be lit during her celebration."*

~Barbara Wilson,  
friend and quilting buddy

# Memories...

*One of the most important things that I remember about our friendship was how you stood by me during my breast cancer treatments back in 1995. You would stop in and visit me on the way home from work and fill me in on what was going on at school. Those visits were very important to me. So many people when they hear cancer are afraid to visit the person because they don't know what to say. You came, and we just talked about what was going on in our everyday lives. That is what a person needs when they are sick, just some normal conversation.*

~Barbara Elvin, colleague at Hillsborough Elementary

*"The transition from kindergarten to first grade was rather frightening, and if I think about it long enough, the same butterflies of anxiety return. Luckily, I had Mrs. Van Winkle there to greet me with a big and warm smile every morning. Over time, the butterflies settled, and I began to love coming to first grade every day."*

~Rachele Padula, student at Hillsborough Elementary

*"Deanna, Danny, and you (Janet) visited us in the 1980s. I think Börja took you to visit some of our relatives in Orust. My dad, Mats, took Deanna, Danny, me and a friend called Lena to Liseberg (an amusement park) on 21 July 1984 in Gothenburg. In those days we didn't get to Liseberg very often, so it was quite exciting for us, too. And we really had a wonderful time there. Your visit then is really the first that I remember from relatives from the U.S."*

~Karin Skär, Janet's cousin in Sweden

opening opportunities for him to win additional meets at West Point, New York, and the Eastern Zone in 1984 and 1986—all before his 13th birthday. Janet and Dan were proud of their son, but soon after his wins at the Eastern Zone, an unkind swimming coach squelched his love for swimming, and he quit when he was 14.

## FAMILY FUN

**D**an and Janet's love for adventure found new inspiration on the East Coast. On a trip to Tarrytown, New York, they toured Portland Manor, Philipsburg Manor, and Janet's favorite, the home of Washington Irving, called Sunnyside. In Rhode Island, they toured the Vanderbilt Mansion, and in Massachusetts, they explored Salem and the Mayflower II. In Hartford, Connecticut, they visited the homes of Mark Twain and Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Of course, their love of the outdoors extended to their children. As a family they enjoyed annual ski trips to Frost Valley, New York, in the winter. In the summer, some of their favorite camping spots were at Lake Ontario, and Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park in Maine. When Deanna was in high school, she and Dan hiked the Appalachian Trail in New Jersey.





Camping in Maine  
with the top-up  
camper

## DAN'S HOBBIES

*In* his free time, Dan enjoyed hiking, fishing, and trail running, and he is skilled in woodworking. But “the big thing was sailing. I have been sailing since I was in high school,” he said. “I combined that hobby with my woodworking, and started building and repairing boats, small ones that I could get in and out of the garage. That was really fun, combining the two skills and coming out with a product you could actually get in and sail in. That was really neat.”

While they lived in New Jersey, Dan served as flotilla commander in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, instructing their boating and navigation courses. He can also carry a tune. In addition to singing in their church choir, he belonged to a barbershop quartet called “The Sound Decision,” and The Princeton Barbershop Chorus, called “The Garden Statesmen.” Janet

was always supportive, attending his shows or sending him out the door with good tidings and a kiss.

## HOSTING SWEDISH RELATIVES

*A*mong those many guests was Carin Christenson, one of Deanna’s friends from preschool who moved back to Sweden with her family as a young girl. In 1978, Carin came to stay with the VanWinkle family and practice her English. Deanna visited Carin and her family the following summer, making the international flight by herself at 8 years old. Jan took both of the kids back to see the Christensons for two weeks in 1984. Carin’s brother, Marcus, was the same age as Danny, so the children had a lot of fun together. “Then Dan joined us, and we were off visiting wonderful relatives that we still see on visits,” Janet said.

Gunilla’s daughter, Anna Gil, came to live with Janet and Dan to improve her English in the summer of 1986. They traveled to the suburbs of Chicago to meet Janet’s mom and other relatives. Then they explored Chicago, especially the Museum of Science and Industry (Janet’s favorite). After returning to the VanWinkle home, the entire family drove to Orlando, Florida, and had fun at Walt Disney World.



Anna Kristiansson visiting from  
Sweden, with Janet in 1992

# REMEMBERING *Esther Walberg and Margaret Van Winkle*

*written by Janet VanWinkle*

*J*anet's mother, who had been a source of love and support for Janet and her children, died on 14 May 1994.

When Deanna was just learning to talk, she gave her grandmother Esther a nickname that stuck not just for the rest of her life, but with successive generations as well. Unable to say grandma, she called Janet's mother NeNe instead. She became NeNe to the rest of the family, and Janet's grandchildren call her NeNe, too. (Janet's favorite).



Danny and Deanna with  
Grandma Taylor



Esther Walberg and grandchildren:  
(L to R): Deanna VanWinkle, Sheila  
Walberg, Esther (NeNe), Brian Walberg,  
and Danny VanWinkle



Christmas 1993, (L to R): Deanna,  
Esther, Janet, Danny, and Dan

In 1993, another Swedish cousin sent her daughter to live with the VanWinkle family. Deanna and Danny were working, so Anna Kristensson and Janet drove to Dalton, Georgia, stopping along the way to see interesting places in Virginia. After seeing many relatives, Janet and Anna went to see more family in Illinois. On the way, they stopped in Kentucky and took a two-hour tour of Mammoth Cave.

In Illinois, Janet and Anna took the train from the Chicago suburbs into the city to see the sites. On their way home from Illinois to New Jersey, they discovered that Sea World was open in Ohio, so they stopped to enjoy the animals and shows there before continuing home. Since then, Janet has seen both relatives in Sweden.

The 1990s brought significant change to the VanWinkle family. Early in the decade Dan was unexpectedly given the opportunity to retire from the agriculture world and pursue his love of sailing. American Cyanamid was taken over by another company that closed the agricultural division, and Dan was given money to start another career. He took the money to Florida, where he studied at the Chapman School of Seamanship, earned his Coast Guard captain's license, and became a certified teacher of sailing, seamanship, and navigation. Janet's career in teaching was going strong, and in 1992 she earned a master's in education from Seton Hall University in New Jersey.

Around the same time as losing Janet's mother, Danny started showing the early signs of multiple sclerosis, although getting that diagnosis would be a long and painful process that tested the family's strength and resilience. "We just had to put our heads together and decide what was the next step to do,"

Dan said. "[The doctors] are not always sure, depending on the experience of the doctor and where you go, whether it's MS or something else."

Despite his pain, Danny excelled in school. He graduated from Raritan Valley Community College in 1996, earning a place on the dean's list. He finally learned that he had MS, and the diagnosis turned out to be the first in a series of heartbreaks. Dan and Janet struggled to find a doctor who was up-to-date on the disease and the best treatments for it.

"That was a very hard struggle," Dan said. "We had to team up and drive Danny to different places to see different



Janet and Dan, on the day she received her master's in education, 1992



doctors." No matter how hard they tried to get help for their son, the treatments didn't work. Staying strong for Danny was a "matter of teamwork and boosting each other, when the other got discouraged or very low morale," Dan said. Jan's optimism and religious background was a life preserver during these tough times. They spent many a night together, talking and sup-

porting one another, searching for the next best step.

Eventually the numbness spread throughout his body, and Danny had to move back home. He enrolled at Rutgers University, but the campus was too large for him to navigate in his condition. He started studying computers at DeVry University, and soon discovered that he excelled in the world of computers.

He found a job at Bristol-Myers Squibb, a biopharmaceutical company that became an important ally in the later stages of his illness, helping him get the long-term disability that he needed. "Danny was helping everybody, he knew more about the

computers than the other people that were hired around him," Janet said.

The years that lay ahead would test Janet's buoyant nature. "I was always happy," she said. "The only time I was sad is when Danny got sick. I just prayed a lot to get help, and I got the help I needed, I think. That was a difficult time."

Danny must have inherited his mother's enduring optimism. Even as his illness became harder to manage, he found reasons to express gratitude. "I remember Danny always saying he was glad he was the one that got MS instead of his sister, Deanna," said Elia Bazan, Danny's girlfriend, who was like part of the family. Janet remembers sitting with him at the kitchen table in those later years, when he told her he was glad that he'd at least had a happy childhood.

While attending the memorial service of Janet's cousin Gordon in December 2001, Janet reconnected with an old friend from high school named Bill Stuart. He ran a multiple sclerosis clinic in Atlanta, Georgia, and he referred the VanWinkles to Dr. Jeffrey Greenstein in Philadelphia. "Were we ever thankful that Danny finally had a good caring doctor," Janet said. "We made an appointment, and when we met him, the first thing he asked us was, 'How do you know Bill?'"

*"I definitely remember the yummy tuna melts at your house and apples with peanut butter for lunch. Always busy with your quilting projects and looking for specific pieces of fabric to help you complete the 'theme' you were working on to give away to a friend or a family member. Always thoughtful."*

~Elia Bazan, Danny's girlfriend

Meanwhile, Deanna had married Ben Locke and started a family of her own. A new generation of children brought joy to the family. Janet was such a devoted mother and grandmother that she retired in 2002. The extra time allowed her to support Deanna, her husband, and grandkids. She also spent a lot of time driving Danny to see Dr. Greenstein in Philadelphia and to a pain center in Bayonne, New Jersey.

In 2008, Danny was put on a promising medication called Tysabri. Research had not yet discovered that the treatment put patients at risk of developing a rare brain infection if they took it for too long. "They learned that in the third year you can get a brain virus if you have a certain gene in your body," Janet said. "That's what happened to Danny. He got the brain virus." Dr. Greenstein spent two hours talking with Janet and Dan before Danny left the hospital for hospice. Danny died on 30 June 2010, when he was 37 years old, in Metuchen, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

At Danny's memorial service, Deanna told her parents that she wanted them to spend the next two years preparing to sell their house, so they could move closer to her in State College, Pennsylvania.

Despite the pain of losing a child, their marriage stayed strong. Dan describes their marriage as "a lifelong love affair,"

and Janet says that the honeymoon never ended. In Janet, Dan found a loving wife who is always willing to help and listen. "I am the type of guy who is always thinking the glass is half empty," Dan said. "She's the person who says the glass is half full. That's the main difference [between us]. She has a much happier outlook on life than I tend to do. I'm an analyzer. So, it's tougher for me to make decisions. She has a faith and an optimism that always helps me get along."

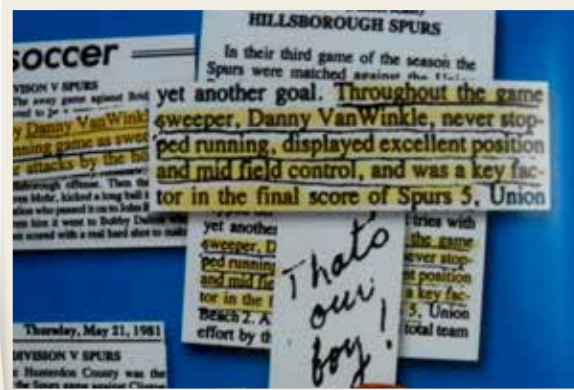


Danny VanWinkle in Round Valley,  
New Jersey, June 2009

# REMEMBERING *Daniel Steven Van Winkle*



Collage of the many images of Danny from childhood to adulthood.



Danny's sports ribbons



Danny with his swim trophies won in just one swim meet, 1987



# Van Winkle leads Valley Y triumph

SOMERVILLE — Both Somerset Valley YMCA Blue Dolphin boys teams and the girls A team won their dual meets Saturday.

Dan Van Winkle, competing in the age 11-12 group, was a triple winner when the boys A squad toppled the Somerset Hills YMCA 119-80. Double winners for the locals were Scott Sherman (9-10), Peter Higgins and Dan Thomas (11-12), and Doug Uken, Derek Saut and Scott Nevin (13-14).

The boys B team downed Rahway 102-50 as Stephen Hiltbard (8-and-under), J.P. Kehoo (9-10), Brent Cronnell (11-12), Alex Smith (13-14) and John Pauly (15-16) were triple winners.

Double winners were Andrew Bauda and Matthew Needleman (8-and-under), Tony Maslowski (9-10), Carol Giordano and Colin Simons (11-12) and Brian Thompson (13-14).

Tiffany Sawin (8-and-under) and Kim Caswell (9-10) each had a hand in three victories when the girls A group defeated Somerset Hills 119-80.

The 15-17 300-yard freestyle relay foursome of Tania Scheffel, Jeanette Tornatore, Carrie Kennedy and Jennie Gold also set a team record.

Double winners were Ellen Wilson

and Suzanne Lynch (8-and-under), Brenda Amerman (9-10) and Lisa Prendi (11-12).

The Somerset Valley B girls team lost to Hamilton 196-84. Double winners for the local team were Kerrie Sherman, Erika Golliday, Val Amorosa and Amy Martin.

Three Valley Y swimmers — Scott Sherman, Brenda Amerman and Peter Higgins — set meet records Sunday in

the Y Invitational 13-and-under Sprint Meet at the Valley Y's Bridgewater pool.

Sherman (age 10) took the 25 butterfly in 14.35, Amerman (age 9) the 25 free in 14.10 and Higgins (age 11) the 25 free in 12.41.

Other meet winners were Betsy Berghand, Kim Caswell, Keith Fuhrhop, Suzanne Lynch, Ben Reyes, Felicia Saltzbarb and Craig and Keith Sieverding.

The following area students have been named to the Dean's List for fall 1994 at Raritan Valley Community College, North Branch:

Carolyn Barry, Melinda Bopp, Kimberly Carter, Theresa Ciadella, Leslie Cornelia, Stephen Feist, Nancy Kirby, Alfred Lesiak, Michael Perovich, Kimberly Phibbs, Christina Scherer, Delores Stanislav and Dan Van Winkle, Belle Mead.



Danny on his graduation day. (L to R): Deanna, Janet, Danny, and Dan VanWinkle, June 1992



Daniel Steven VanWinkle, 37

Daniel Steven VanWinkle, 37, of Hillsborough, NJ passed away at Willow Creek Rehab & Care Center in Somerset on Wednesday, June 30, 2010 after a 14-year battle against multiple sclerosis.

In his final days, Dan was surrounded by family and friends; hugs and kisses; tears and laughter; love, kindness, and a lifetime of memories that we will treasure.

Dan was born on April 22, 1973 in Ithaca, NY, the second child of Daniel and Janet VanWinkle. He graduated from Hillsborough High School in 1992; Raritan Valley Community College in 1996; and DeVry Institute in 1999. He loved his job and short career as a computer help technician at Bristol Myers Squibb.

Despite the burden of relentless nerve pain, Dan reached out to others who were suffering and offered his unconditional support and encouragement. He fought bravely and set an amazing example of strength and courage for those around him.

Dan is survived by his parents, Daniel and Janet VanWinkle of Hillsborough and his sister, Deanna Locke of State College, PA. He touched many people's lives in his lifetime and will be remembered as a fun loving guy, an amazing swimmer, a fly fisherman, the kid with the half pipe in his backyard, a Grateful Dead fan, a computer whiz, and one of those people who could always put a smile on your face. Dan is deeply missed by his family and friends.

A memorial service, in celebration of his life, will be held on July 10, 2010 at 10 am at Faith Lutheran Church 381 South Branch Road, Hillsborough, NJ. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made "in Memory of Daniel S. VanWinkle" to the Multiple Sclerosis Research Institute, Penn Treaty Park Plaza, 1341 N. Delaware Ave., Suite 213, Philadelphia, PA 19125.



## In Loving Memory of Daniel Steven Van Winkle

April 22, 1973 - June 30, 2010

One night a man had a dream. In it he was walking along a beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord.

When the final scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints, and realized that they came at the hardest and saddest times of his life.

Bothered about this, he questioned the Lord saying, "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most burdensome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you the most you would leave me."

The Lord replied, "My dear child, I love you and I would never leave you. During the times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

Hillsborough Funeral Home  
Hillsborough, NJ

Danny's funeral cards

HILLSBOROUGH BEACON Thursday, July 31, 1980

## Riffs take second swim season win

The Reynolds "Seahawk" swim team won their second meet in a row last Saturday, against the Somerset Hills swim team. The final score was the Hills 88, Somerset Hills 36.

In the first event of the day, the Girl's Medley Relay, the Hill swimmers placed first with a time of 1:11.4. Swimming in this race were: Mary Scotton (backstroke), Melissa Eckerstrom (butterfly), Pat Scotton (freestyle), and Tracy Bryan-Ashwell (freestyle).

Ribbon winners for the day were: Girls 25 yard freestyle eight and under age group — Heather Strawlerman, first place, 29.2; Pam Mayo, third place, 31.1; 8-10 Diana Koppers, third place, 37.9; 11-12 Kerry Bryan-Ashwell, first place, 38.4; Danielle Moon, third place 38.9.

Girls fifty yard freestyle 13-14 — Pat Scotton, first place, 52.1; Dalise Sock, second place, 58.1; Girls — 15-17 Margaret Eckerstrom, first place, 39.4; Chris Coppola, third place, 51.6.

Swimming in the boys 25 yard freestyle, eight and under: Danny Van Winkle, first place, 18.1; Mike Messinger, second place 21.1; Boys one — 15, Tim Knox, first place, 24.7; Vince Maslowski, second place, 30.7; 11 — 12, Jim Tolpet, first place, 12.1.

Boys 11 — 14 in yard freestyle — Rob Strawlerman, first place, 26.8; 18 — 17, Ed Messinger, first place, 30.4; Bill McKinley, third place, 27.2.

Mary Scotton placed first with a time of 1:29.8 in the girls 11 and under Individual Medley. The boys 11 and under 1.5M featured Robert Eckerstrom who placed first with a time of 1:40.9 and Robert Koppers with a third place win of 1:52.8. For the girls 11 — 17 1.7M Louise Dersy came in second with a time of 1:26.8 Bill Strawlerman placed second for the boys with a time of 1:23.2.

The boys Medley Relay won blue ribbons, but they were scratched at the end of the meet because of a debated disqualification. Neither team received any points for this event. The Hill swimmers were: Bill McKinley (backstroke), Robert Eckerstrom (butterfly), Bob Levy (freestyle), and Steve Golombak (freestyle).

Mary and Patty Scotton won the double blue ribbon winners for the day along with Robert Eckerstrom.

The Seahawk Riffs will be going against Pike Brook Swim Club, Saturday, August 2, at Pike Brook.

SOME OF the blue ribbon winners from the Riff's previous meet. Top row left to right, Rob Strawlerman, Jimmy Tolpet, Bill McKinley. Bottom row left to right, Pat Scotton, Tracy Bryan-Ashwell, Heather Strawlerman, Danny Van Winkle, Mary Scotton, Kerry Bryan-Ashwell.

## DEANNA LYNN (VANWINKLE) LOCKE

When Deanna left home to attend the University of Vermont, Janet passed her father's financial wisdom on to her daughter. "I said, 'Here's your spending money. You have to figure out how much you can spend each week, because this is it.' She told me later that was the best thing I had done, because she's really good at managing money today."

Deanna majored in psychology with a studio art minor and took gym classes in two of her favorite childhood

pastimes: ice skating and horseback riding. She became a skilled artist, and Janet cherishes some of the pen and ink drawings Deanna has given her over the years. "She's very thoughtful," Janet said.

After earning her master's degree in clinical and community psychology from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1996, Deanna moved to Boston. She worked in a psychiatric hospital before transitioning into early



Doll house built for Deanna by her dad, Dan, 1978



Deanna, age 7, June 1978

childhood education. She met Benjamin DeForest Locke, who was working toward his PhD from Boston College, and they soon fell in love.

Deanna and Ben married on 6 June 1999 and briefly lived in New Hampshire, where Ben pursued his post-doctorate degree. They have three children: Ethan Daniel (30 April 2001–), Brendan David (25 January 2003–), and Anya Claire (23 September 2006–). Today, Deanna and Ben live in State College, Pennsylvania. They both work at Pennsylvania State University. Ben serves



Deanna and Ben Locke on their wedding day, 6 June 1999

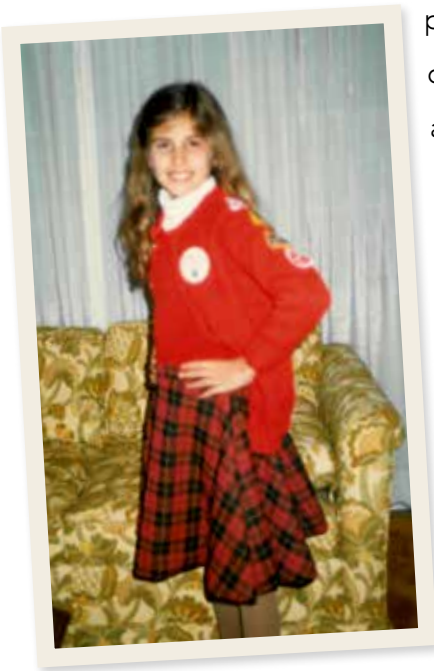


Deanna, high school graduation



as the school's director of Counseling and Psychological Services, and Deanna counsels students who have run into trouble for the first time.

All three of Janet's grandchildren are musical. Ethan plays saxophone. Brendan plays cello, trumpet, trombone, ukulele, and guitar. Both boys played in their high school marching band and symphonic band, and they play together in a jazz band comprised of older adults and students. Anya plays flute in the band at Park Forest Middle School, and ukulele with help from Brendan. The drive to teach runs strong in the family, and Janet is proud that Ethan has been accepted at Pennsylvania State University's School of Education.



**Deanna Van Winkle, of Hillsborough, earned her masters from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She was awarded the Outstanding Clinical Psychology award by the Mecklenburg (County) Psychological Association.**

(Top left): Deanna enjoyed horseback lessons

(Top right): Deanna, age 9, first summer on swim team

(Above): Like her mother, Janet, Deanna became a Tri Delta at the University of Vermont.

(Left): Deanna in her ice skating outfit, age 10, 1981

(Bottom): Deanna (right) with friends at her college graduation, 1992



*"One of the most special Mom memories I have is of our trip to California in 1992 after I graduated from college. We flew to Los Angeles, borrowed a car from her cousin, and explored from Tijuana, Mexico, up to San Francisco. Mom showed me all the sights from when she lived in California. I even got to see a new side of her—the side that haggled for a better price in Mexico, when all I wanted to do was get out of there!"* ~Deanna Lynn (VanWinkle) Locke





Janet and Dan on a South American cruise, September 2011





## Chapter 7

# Janet's Golden Years

Janet and Dan moved in 2012 to Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, where their grandchildren are just a 20-minute drive away. Janet relishes her role as grandmother and takes great pride in being there whenever they need it. "I'm on call at the drop of a hat," she said.

Her other passion is quilting—something that would have surprised Janet in her younger years. Although her mother was a talented seamstress, Janet didn't take an interest until after her mother's death. At first, she was reticent to use a sewing machine, so she took a hand-sewing class with friends. Before long Janet was an avid quilter who attended a bi-annual quilting camp with friends and sorority sisters now scattered across the country. The camp stopped in 2013, but Janet continues to sew, and she loves making quilts for loved ones. "I think my mom's watching me from above and saying, 'You will sew, and you will like it,'" she joked.

Today, she sews doll quilts for Toys for Tots, an organization run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve that gives toys to needy families for Christmas. "In November everyone is donating games and toys. I spent a day organizing them to be given away to children-in-need when I first moved here," Janet said. "I saw a pile of quilts and asked about them. When I was told a quilt goes with every doll, I began sewing them."

Dan's lifelong interest in photography and photo editing has taken a more prominent place in his retirement activities. He is also an avid fly fisherman and active participant in his local Trout Unlimited chapter. The non-profit organization works to preserve freshwater fish habitats. He also serves as operations manager and mentor with a veterans' service program that helps them transition from active duty to civilian life.

In between all of these activities, Dan and Janet continue to indulge their love of travel. Janet counts Puerto Rico and Hawaii among her favorite post-retirement destinations, along with her regular trips to Sweden. There, her relatives always manage to show Janet something new in her ancestral homeland. Gunilla takes Janet on trips around the country's east coast, while her cousins Berit, Karin, and Karin's husband, Bengt, show her around the western side.

"My favorite cruise was a Christmas gift from Dan in 2009," Janet said. "We left January 3 for a South American cruise with friends. I'd do that again! It was fantastic. We walked around Ushuaia, Argentina, the most southern city in North America, and walked among the penguins. I even met a Swedish girl watching the sunset in Colonia, Uruguay. I asked her what city she was from, and she told me Lidköping, where my step-grandpa Axelson was from.

He lived the longest, and I knew him the best of the grandparents. Small world!"

In 2012, Deanna surprised Janet with the good news: she and Ben would join her in Sweden that year using some of the money she had inherited from Danny. The family rented a car in Sweden, and Ben drove them across Sweden, from west coast to east and then back again following a different route, stopping at several places along the way. They celebrated Midsummer in Taby, a town north of Stockholm, with relatives on Janet's dad's side of the family.

"By the time Gunilla and I arrived, flower wreaths for our heads had been made," Janet said. They danced around the Midsummer pole to Swedish music that Janet recognized from her childhood with her grandparents. The children didn't speak Swedish, and the fourth cousins they were visiting didn't speak English, but they had fun anyway.





# Janet's Quilts



(Clockwise from top): Quilt for Ben and Deanna, 2000; Danny's "Life Activities" quilt, 1996; Bicentennial quilt of University of Vermont for Deanna, May 1992 (not made by Janet); quilt to Len and Kate, Christmas 2004.





# Quilting with Friends



Tri Delta quilters at quilting camp in Irvine, California. (Top): Bonnie and Kae. (Bottom): Alice, Rachel, and Janet, 1998



Tri Deltas at a quilting retreat in California. (L to R): Karen Godfrey, Janet, Kae Chiaramonte, and Rachel Maus (in front), 2006

*"Moving to Pennsylvania seemed lonely at first, until I met Jan! We both love our common ethnicity, being Swedish! We can share our background and visit with each other for hours and never run out of conversation! We are more like sisters than friends."* ~Polly Vraneza

*"My fondest memories are quilt related—shows we attended from Virginia, to Kentucky, and California, and classes we took together. One class I just couldn't follow and struggled through the day. I was so relieved when Jan confided that this would be one quilt she would not finish. We have had so many great times together, all fond memories!"* ~Katharine Chiaramonte

*"Jan and I have known each other since we were Delta Delta Delta pledge sisters in 1956. It was when we had a DDD reunion we really reconnected and found out we were both interested in quilting. We have attended many quilting functions together, including Camp-Watch-A-Patcher, the National Quilt Festival in Paducah, and a quilting event in Williamsburg. And our husbands have started going too and have become friends."* ~Rachel Maus

# Janet's Retirement



Dan's barbershop quartet singing to Janet at her retirement surprise party, 2002. Dan VanWinkle is second from left.

Janet's surprise retirement party, June 2002. (L to R): Len, Kate, Dan, and Janet





# Visiting Sweden



(Top): Memories of summer postcard and stamp, 2018  
(Left): Janet and Gunilla midsummer celebration in Sweden in the town of Tabby north of Stockholm, 2013

*"I have had so much fun visiting you. You always took such good care of me and showed me around a lot! Among all the things I remember is Niagara Falls and how you lost your passport on Rainbow Bridge! How you showed me New York City, with all the famous places and how I loved being there! I also remember how my feet ached of all the walking we did! All the adventures with you in Chicago, Philadelphia, Virginia, Upstate New York Bishop Hills, outlet shopping and many other places."*

~Gunilla Weijer, second cousin on the Walberg side

# The Travels of Janet



(Clockwise from top): Stockholm, Sweden, dining in a restaurant called Kaffogillet located near marketplace and Palace Cellar, summer 1984; Janet on mule ride to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, Easter vacation, 1968; Deanna and Dan hiking the Appalachian Trail in New Jersey; Janet and Dan in Minnesota where the Mississippi River begins, August 1989; and Janet and Dan in Nassau on a weekend trip, 1984



# Family Memories



(Clockwise from top):  
Christmas 2018 with the  
Locke grandkids: Brendan,  
Dan, Ethan, Janet, and  
Anya

Deanna (15), Mickey, and  
Anna Gil (15) from Sweden,  
Disney World, August 1986

(L to R, back): Anna Gil  
and Deanna, (front): Dan,  
Janet, and Danny at Disney  
World, August 1986. (Anna  
Gil is Gunilla's daughter  
from Janet's dad's side of  
the family).

Christmas Eve, 1987  
(L to R): Sheila, Brian, Len,  
Esther, Janet, Deanna,  
Danny. (seated), Kate,  
and Dan.

Anya Locke looks like her  
grandmother Janet.



# Shared Memories

## LYNN SIMMONS

*“I have so many memories of our times together, but some of the really cute ones are:*

*The time we went to the show in DeKalb and took food into the theater, and people around us were wondering where all the odors came from.*

*Making dinner for my school principal (Nan Erwin), a fancy supper of three-can tuna casserole.*

*Going to NYC for our big graduation trip and walking the city over in three-inch high heels, plus going to Grand Central Station for a drug store item and finding out the next morning that there had been a murder there shortly after we went there.*

*Going to Danny’s Hideaway restaurant in NYC, knowing that Frank Sinatra ate there sometimes but not realizing that they had no menus. Choosing a steak because we didn’t know what else to order and getting a bottle of free wine from the owner. Panicking because we might not be able to pay for the dinner (counting our traveler’s checks). Staying at the “Y” because it was deemed safer.*

*Trips to sun at the Dunes ... a big adventure.*

*Living in the farm house with Ruthie Johnson, supposedly having to drown the stray baby kittens and keep the African violets alive and the reverse happening*

## CATHY (NORVILLE) AMOS, JANET’S COUSIN

*I have a faint memory of coming up for Christmas when we were young and had a meal with you and Esther and the family at your mom’s house, and I remember how neat it was to have so many together for a meal. We never really did that growing up, so I loved it.*

*My other memory of you is just that you and Dan were always there for every big family event—all weddings and funerals. It has always meant a lot to me. I am also the lucky recipient of Merle and Zack’s wedding album and love looking at how pretty you were as a bridesmaid*

## NANCY (NORVILLE) HALLSWORTH, SECOND COUSIN TO JANET

*I remember going with Mom to buy A LOT of towels for you when you were going to marry Dan. I also remember a VW van/camper you were going on your honeymoon in, but it was filled up with something like paper or boxes or balloons—not sure—and Len and Gordon and everyone was laughing*

## STEVEN TAYLOR, DAN VANWINKLE’S BROTHER

*I have many memories of one indefatigable and hardy woman of Swedish descent named Jan. To an “outsider” these snippets of memories may seem trivial or disconnected, but when laced together over time, I believe they come to reveal the character of a person.*

# Shared Memories

*As a very young man, I recall one of my first encounters with Jan—who, at a picnic table near a barbecue grill on Mission Beach in San Diego, asked with a smile why I did not consume the skin of the potato I was eating. Defenseless over this silly habit, I tried the “whole” potato and haven’t gone back since. Me and my GI specialist are forever grateful. And I link this to many memories over my lifetime of having wholesome, healthy meals in proper proportion whenever Jan sets a table.*

*Also, as a young man, I remember the patience of a cheerful, gregarious woman teaching me a new card game at a cold, snow-bound cabin at Big Bear Lake in Southern California (and the nonchalant way she observed the mouse frozen in the toilet of the cabin where Dan and Jan’s mutual friends stayed).*

*There are good memories of Jan’s ability to construct instant picnics almost anywhere. A blanket, some bread, cheese, and grapes...and of course, a green apple. I don’t recall exactly where we did these “pop-up” picnics, but they were many and fun.*

*In another trip to San Diego, I remember Jan introducing me to Swedish relative Anders and her willingness to share the experience of decorating the VanWinkles’ Christmas tree on Catocin Drive.*

*I recall many activities that caused Jan to become known as the “Energizer Bunny.” Here is a woman who loves to walk. I have walked with her along Ocean Beach in San Francisco, the neighborhood in Boalsburg, in Yosemite*

*Valley, in Manhattan, Mt. Tamalpais in California, and many other places. I have duly noted my near inability to keep pace.*

*On the sadder side of life, I have indelible memories of a woman showing incredible grace and strength in the face of incalculable loss. These memories have in turn strengthened my own character.*

## DAN VANWINKLE, JANET’S HUSBAND

*Ithaca is a very hilly area. The hospital was at the bottom of several steep streets with cross streets forming “drop-offs.” So, the trip was memorable in a VW bug. Orders to the driver were, “speed up!”, “slow down!”, “hurry!”, “slow down!”, “speed up!”, until we reached the hospital. What was an expectant father to do?*

*After the inevitable, frantic rush to the hospital and after the birth, I returned to our apartment to find a scavenger hunt. A series of notes led me around the apartment to find hidden treasures. I remember finding a chocolate bar, a Guinness beer. The others escape me now, but it was a big surprise and funny. She was thinking of me even during one of the most important events of her life.*

## PAM CARINA

### *How I met Jan VanWinkle*

*It was a Thursday evening, 1 May 2014. I had just relocated two days earlier back to Pennsylvania after living 38 years in New Jersey. I was standing outside in my driveway when a woman approached me. She called me*

# Shared Memories

by my name and said, “Hi. I’m Janet VanWinkle from Hillsborough, New Jersey.” Imagine my surprise to have a complete stranger not only call me by my name but also announce that she was from the town I had just left a few days ago.

Jan graciously welcomed me to Liberty Hill, the community I had just moved to, and after introducing myself and thanking her for reaching out to me, we talked a bit. We each had lived just off Hillsborough Road, less than a mile away from each other. She had taught school in Hillsborough, but my daughter did not attend that elementary school. Our paths just never crossed.

As we finished our conversation, I asked her to repeat her name again. Something about it was familiar to me. Of course! I had seen that name in the church bulletin back in Hillsborough. So, I asked Jan if she attended Faith Lutheran Church, and she confirmed that, indeed, she did. Turns out, we were both members of the same church for a few years but had attended different services, so we had never met—until now. We lived in the same town over 200 miles away and attended the same church, but met only after fate (and kind, welcoming Jan) brought us both to Boalsburg, Pennsylvania.

The next week, Jan invited me to attend church in State College with her and her husband, Dan. They were members of Grace Lutheran Church, “on the corner of Beaver and Garner.” I went with them and am also now a member of Grace, where we have a Liberty Hill pew that we sit in on Sundays for the 10:30 a.m. service.

Thanks to sweet Jan, I felt less alone my first week. I found a new friend in my new community—just a block away this time. I found a new family to worship with, and a new lunch buddy to eat with at the Waffle Shop every now and then. God bless you, Jan!

KATE WALBERG, JANET’S SISTER-IN-LAW

## *A Visit at NeNe’s House*

Our NeNe, who was Jan’s mother, was a special person in all our lives. When they visited from New Jersey, we all gathered together at NeNe’s home to have good family fun. One day, we took the four children down the block for a sled ride. I was the nervous mother, while Jan just smiled and made the children comfortable and unafraid. What a great support she was! Always!

## *Pillows and Feathers*

While visiting our home, Jan and I were talking in the kitchen and heard lots of laughter and “oooohs!!” The four cousins were having a pillow fight on the second floor and down the stairs to the first floor, being pursued by pillows and, eventually, lots and lots of feathers. When we arrived, it looked like a feather storm. Jan quickly and quietly gathered the four children into clean-up mode and, before I knew it, not one feather was left!

## *Hawaii*

While in Hawaii, my husband, who is Jan’s brother, had a serious accident. He was hospitalized in ICU and CCU. Jan flew from New Jersey and stayed with me about five weeks. She was Len’s strong support, as



# Shared Memories

*well as mine. When we weren't at the hospital, we did many things to help heal our hearts. We cooked lots of fresh fish, peeled freshly picked pineapple, and enjoyed all the wonderful fresh produce. Then, off to the beach for a while, attend church, take an occasional tour, and sometimes we just rested.*

*I have always felt that Jan is my sister, and not my sister-in-law, and I am so lucky to have her in my life.*

## BERIT MATTSSON, JANET'S SWEDISH COUSIN

*Without Jan and Börje we probably would not have met at all. You have always been the anchor on the American side of our Swedish-American family relation.*

*In the early 1980s, I visited you and your family for the first time in New Jersey. I was included in your celebration of Danny's birthday, with birthday cake and a pool party, as well as in many other family things. Since then, I have always felt connected to you and your family, and it has been a privilege to have you and your family here on your visits to Sweden.*

## DEBORAH NORVILLE, JANET'S COUSIN

*I had seen princesses and queens on television. Lesley Ann Warren was my first princess...regal and elegant as she descended that grand staircase in Cinderella. And every September I would watch as a new queen was crowned on Miss America, her crown glittering atop her head. But that was TV.*

*Then I saw a real princess, or at least she was to me! It was my cousin Janet, who was about to be married to her dashing prince, Dan VanWinkle. The long car ride had me filled with anticipation: she was marrying someone called "VanWinkle." The only time I'd heard the name was in connection with the classic story. Did this guy sleep a lot, too?*

*And a wedding! Well, I'd never been to one of those before, but this one had to be special if we were going all the way up north to be there for it. I vaguely remember the church. I am sure there were bridesmaids. But what stands out was that princess! She was a vision in white with a huge bouquet of flowers—and she wore a crown! My cousin Janet was more beautiful than any of the Miss Americas and more regal than Cinderella. And she was real!*

*The wedding itself is hazy, but the tiered cake that followed still stands out. It was my first wedding cake, and that first taste confirmed my lifelong love affair with white buttercream frosting.*

*Many years later another VanWinkle wedding was another family first. When Deanna and Ben were married, my daughter Mikaela was there. It was her first wedding. I wonder if she, too, has magical memories of her "first." I remember Jan and Dan's wedding as a special day filled with smiles. That good feeling is with me, still. And every time I pass a church as the bride is about to emerge, I stop. I wait. And I think about Jan and Dan. It makes me smile.*

# Shared Memories

## NICHOLAS REHBERG

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*When I think back to the times I visited your family in New Jersey, I seem to always remember eating on your back deck in perfect weather. Eating grilled hamburgers, watermelon, and right before I left for Argentina you served Tiramisu, which was delicious.*

*We also had a wonderful day at a sculpture park, Grounds for Sculpture, during one of my visits, as well. Seems like the weather was perfect that day, too, and we took all of Deanna and Ben's children and had a great time.*

*And of course, this past summer. We had a great BBQ experience with smoked wings at Hometeam BBQ and then a large sampling of brisket, ribs, sausage, and sides at Lewis BBQ. Ethan bought a Hometeam BBQ t-shirt, and I took the "adults" on a tour of Charleston, and you took some wonderful sunset pictures along the battery in downtown Charleston. I also took everyone on a quick tour of the officers' quarters on Sullivan's Island near Fort Moultrie, and the houses have such great front porches.*

## GUN KRISTIANSSON

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*One of my earliest memory of Janet goes back to the '60s, when I spent one year in Illinois, and I ended my American year with a trip to California, where I was hosted by Janet. Together we flew back to Chicago for your wedding to Dan. A memorable ending of my first longer trip to America.*

## GINNY PENCE

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*I always loved going to Camp-Watch-a-Patcher with Jan, because she and I had similar tastes in the classes we took. One of my favorite quilts we made together is still in my family room...it was supposed to be Asian fabrics, but I translated mine into paisleys. Jan came home with me after camp, and we sat at my dining room table with piles of scraps trying to match each paisley and coordinate our blocks. I miss going to quilt camp with Jan, whether it was in Williamsburg when we stayed in the cabins at Cheatham Annex, or at Camp-Watch-a-Patcher where we always shared a bedroom at Rachel's, a grown-up slumber party. We were always compatible roommates.*

## ROXY KENTISH MARSH

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*In the summer of 1956, I received a piece of mail saying I had been chosen to be a Delta Delta Delta sorority girl. In the middle of that summer I attended a bridal shower for an old grade school friend, Barbara Rahn. Also attending that party was a new pledge sister of mine, Janet Walberg. I was so excited and remember telling my mother later that evening that I knew I made a great choice, and Tri Delta made a great choice in allowing Janet and I to become instant friends. And here we are 63 years later, still sisters!*

# Shared Memories

## KAREN GODFREY

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*My best memory was of a friend who included me and gave me a nice friend to talk to. It was a little intimidating being at the university and all the changes in my life. So, your warmness was special to me. So, I say thank you, thank you.*

## JUDY ARCHDALE, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS FRIEND

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*I remember you being a happy caring sorority housemate. It was fun getting together for lunch in Sarasota with you and other Tri Deltas.*

## CHUCK KUTSCHER

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*Some memories of my association with the Walberg family and Rehberg family*

*As I look back over my life, I feel that I and my family have been so lucky in so many ways. My father was one of five boys in World War II. Four of them were in the military and all came back without a scratch. When I finished high school there was no war happening, and I was able to finish college and graduate school. During my youth, I was befriended by young people who helped me in so many ways, and on that list is my relationship with the Rehberg family and the Walberg family, and some of my fondest memories are vacations spent at Klinger Lake, Indiana.*

*My family moved quite often in my youth. In 1946, we moved to Paulina Street in Harvey, Illinois, and I loved*

*it there. Across the street from our house was a large open field, which was used for a garden, a baseball field, a path to shorten our walking trip, a place to bury dead animals, and then the city gave us a wonderful present. They made an ice-skating rink. I attended an excellent school. Then in 1949 we moved again to Marshfield Avenue soon after I started eighth grade. I did not appreciate the very long walk to get to school, but I made many friends and learned that another student, Gordon Rehberg, lived only a block from me. We found we enjoyed each other's company, and in years to come we became involved in so many activities. His family was one of the first to get a TV, and I remember one night he asked me to watch the Martin and Lewis comedy team and explained why they were genius. We attended the same high school and had some classes together.*

*Gordon's mother was Elsa, and his father was known as Irv. I felt like his family had adopted me, and I spent many happy days at their home. They had a basketball hoop on the garage, and we played many games in the alley. Harvey was a very pleasant place to live back then. The Walbergs and Rehbergs did many social things together, and I remember some good times and good parties. Janet's parents were Esther and Len, and her brother was Lennie. I recall some good parties there also. The family was so friendly, and Lennie could entertain with his great musical ability and knowledge of so many important pieces of music. Janet always seemed happy and added to*



# Shared Memories

*the good times just by being there. It is true that Gordon liked to tease her and play some tricks on her, but she didn't seem to mind.*

*I recall some good evenings at the Walbergs'. As time went on, Gordon and I realized that we needed to raise some money for college and to buy our own cars. We were both totally enamored by cars, and we read about them endlessly. We thought of starting the K and R Roofing Company but couldn't find any customers. We did put a roof on the Walberg house. After a few hours of hard work, we entered the kitchen to look for a snack. Esther worked during the day, so we looked for snack-like materials, but ended up with a glass of water. Apparently, Esther had her own ideas about snacks. Looking back, I felt lucky, since at every house but one that my family lived in I had to walk a mile or more four times a day to get to school. We then took up work, such as roofing and painting houses to earn money, and that was a hard activity. I had a paper route for five years and delivered by bicycle. One year I estimated that I rode 10,000 miles. That was great for my heart.*

*At one time my family rented a cottage near Cedar Lake, Indiana, and we kids did find some fun things to do. The cottages weren't fancy. There were no refrigerators, but only ice boxes. Fortunately, someone came around delivering ice. There was a small lake, swimming was good, and we could boat if we wished, but it was a religious place, and my family accepted that we would*

*attend many church services while there. We did some hiking also, but for my brother and me, our favorite hike was to a small village a couple of miles away, but to get there we had to walk along a railroad track. I'm not sure my mother really understood this. We did look for trains, and we did survive.*

*Then the Rehbergs invited me along to Klinger Lake, Michigan, and what a wonderful experience that was! The small lake was surrounded by cottages, and the environment suggested that here is a place where people can really relax and rest. They went in June, when it seems the water was not very warm yet, but we still did a lot of swimming. The first floor of the cottage contained an entryway with a bench. I often encountered their elderly grandpa Axelson, and I would sit down as he spun some very interesting stories. There was a rather large kitchen, which served as our social center during our vacation. Elsa made some wonderful recipes and entertained us with her view of the world. We could look out the window at a stream, which ran in back of the house and worked its way to a pond area. To get to the lake, we had to walk out the front door and cross the street, and there was this small lake. Someone had built a platform in five or six feet of water. That kitchen has so many fond memories for me. So much conversation was done, so many stories were told. I can still remember Irv Rehberg working hard with lots of papers at table there. He worked hard at his job, but he volunteered for jobs*

# Shared Memories

*like a church job, which required lots of record keeping. In spite of his hard work and long hours, he was always so friendly to me and always seemed so glad that I had come. I liked him. In the summer of 1952, I worked on a farm in downstate Illinois, and while having lunch I received a call on one farmer's party line. It was Gordon telling me that his father had died. Gordon seemed in control, but that phone call made me very sad.*

*That kitchen had an unusual feature. A small bathroom adjoined the kitchen. I suppose the owner worried about enough air flow to keep odors away, but didn't want to wire up a fan, so he cut off a section on the bottom of the door. I always worried about disturbing people with sounds while doing my business. Well, we see many things in life which are not perfect.*

*Klinger Lake was ideal for swimming. We could reach the platform quickly, since the lake deepened so quickly. One could practice swimming and diving, off the platform, as much as you please, and Gordon pleased. He swam for many hours each week, and that paid off. He joined the swimming team in high school and performed very well. When the high school celebrated some date with a special celebration about 40 years after we graduated, I toured the school and saw that in the pool area Gordon's name was still listed for some record that he held.*

*The lake held some other delights. On Sundays, local people gathered with their power boats to have a race. Now that was fun. There is hiking, swimming, playing catch, and various kinds of lawn games. How we enjoyed*

*playing those games in the evening. I remember those evenings when the sun was setting, we still had not found all the people hiding behind the trees. Janet always seemed to enjoy those games, and she always seemed so happy. When she came, she often brought another young lady with her, and they would often spend hours in or near the water. Some years ago, Gordon's sister, Sue, gave me lots of pictures of the Rehberg family. I copied many of them and took them to a Rehberg reunion at Janet's house. Janet always seemed to be enjoying the party. Was she one of those young ladies a neighbor of the Rehberg family on Marshfield Avenue?*

*For me, there are two memories of especially good times at Klinger. For a few evenings we went out for dinner at either White Pigeon or Sturgis. On one of those trips, Irv surprised us when on the way home he stopped the car and said, "Now, I want Gordon to drive us part of the way home." We were all surprised, but Gordon didn't hesitate, even though he had no license and was too young to get one, he sure wanted to drive. He did well. Then, Irv asked me to drive the rest of the way, and boy, was I happy to do that. I arrived home with my heart pounding. If law enforcement had become involved the party would have been not so happy. Then there is the story of the man who ran a boat repair. He asked Gordon and I to "help" him do a job, and we quickly volunteered. The man did almost all of the work as he ran his boat motor at high speed to clear out a channel near someone's pier. Gordon complained that we should have been paid, but I was happy.*

# Shared Memories

*I enjoyed my Klinger Lake visits, but in 1952 there was another opportunity. Although only half-way through high school, I took a job on a farm in downstate Illinois and earned the fantastic sum of \$100 per month, plus room and board. The board was terrible, but I had a relative down the road and went to see them as often as I could. I did have my own room, but I had to share the outhouse with everyone. Norman Brown took my place at Klinger Lake, and I heard that Gordon and Norman did much work (caddying) during that summer. Well, I missed that.*

*I wish I had thanked all the people who played such an important role in my life. Special thanks to you, Janet. I know we did get together a few times since Klinger. I appreciate how much you have accomplished and your wonderful friendly manner with all people.*

## BENJAMIN DEFOREST LOCKE, SON-IN-LAW

*I have so many joyful memories of you and Dan that it is really hard to pick just one. I think one of my favorites is the joy, care, and generosity you invest in your gifts to others. In particular, I've deeply enjoyed both receiving and witnessing your gifts of quilts and other hand-crafted gifts. I have a sense of how much time and thought goes into each one (fabric selection, cutting, designing, and planning ahead!) and it is truly a joy to see both the person receiving the gift and the look of happiness on yours that your efforts are so well received. I grew up in a family that prized hand-made gifts over those which are bought because they carry so much more meaning, and they represent your investment in the other person. So, in a*

*way - my memory of you over the years is your deep and abiding investment in those around you - family, friends, and even those who just need a helping hand.*

## DEANNA LYNN (VANWINKLE) LOCKE

*My childhood was shaped by having loving and involved parents. My mom was always there when we needed her. She put my brother and I first and was our biggest cheerleader, as well as our taxi cab driver. She drove us everywhere without complaint—horseback riding lessons, ice skating lessons, swim team, friend's houses, and more. Her willingness to transport us isn't something that you appreciate until you are a parent faced with transporting your own kids! As I grew up, she continued to support me through the good and bad times, even driving up to Vermont (six-plus hours away) to be with me as I struggled with my first seriously broken heart. She has always been a good listener, provided advice when it was asked for, and been available with arms open for big hugs. Favorite mom quotes include: "You should take tennis lessons in case you are ever asked out on a tennis date." "Life isn't fair." "Put it on a shelf." "I'm saving for Sweden." "When it's gone, it's gone."*

*Mom taught me through her actions about how to be a good mom. Now, I get the joy of seeing her be a great NeNe to my kids. She has always been the grandma to help with all things house and kid, to get down on the floor to play what they wanted to play (no matter how much crazy imagining and bossing was involved), to attend all sports and music events she can, and to ask*



# Shared Memories

*about their lives. She has also been extremely generous to all of us, and we really appreciate it. I'm so glad she has been the keeper of the genealogy on her side. It's*

*special to know where you have come from and to have so many Swedish relative connections. I love you, mom!*



The Locke Family  
Ben, Ethan, Brendan, Deanna and Anya

# Final Thoughts

Looking back on her life, Janet said that she wants to be remembered as a kind, loving, and helpful person. It seems she could scarcely be remembered otherwise. These words repeat again and again in the recollections and fond memories of friends and family who have known Janet at

varying stages of her life. For her family, she hopes they will “have a loving life like I’ve had.” The hardships will inevitably come, but she hopes the lessons she has taught them about prayer and love will sustain them long after she is gone.



Janet and Dan VanWinkle, 1970









Created by the professionals at  
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Greg Kratz, *Editor*

Jasmine Vasquez, *Writer*

Sandy McDougle, *Senior Graphic Designer*

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