

Joyce Norlin

A Celebration of life will
take place at a later date.



Joyce Laurent Norlin, 78 of Janesville, died on Sunday, June 21, 2020, of complications from cancer. Joyce was born to Francis W. and Grace King Laurent on March 23, 1942, in Washington, D.C., where Francis was the Special Assistant to the Judge Advocate General of the Navy. She was baptized at Christ Episcopal Church in Alexandria, Va., went to school in Georgetown, and lived in the wartime capital. The Laurents moved to occupied Germany in 1946, where Francis helped the U.S. government reorganize German industry. Joyce attended British and American schools in Minden and Berlin, and saw the war's destruction. As the 1948 Berlin Blockade began, the family left the city, saw more of Europe, and returned stateside. Joyce's first Wisconsin address was a small stone house on a farm near Thorp in Clark County. She attended a one-room school, one of the state's few remaining. She developed curiosity, an organized determination, and a love of nature and its plan. She led her 4-H Club, won county fair competitions, and attended youth summer classes at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. The family moved to nearby Stanley in 1952. An excellent student, Joyce took part in forensics, art projects, athletics, and cheerleading. At Stanley High School, she edited the yearbook and wrote a city-newspaper column for two years each, attended Badger Girls State, and graduated in 1959. Joyce enrolled at UW-Eau Claire, where she was the yearbook art director and a campus-newspaper reporter. Sociable and vibrant, she was chosen for homecoming court and as vice president of the Delta Zeta sorority. Joyce transferred in 1962 to Indiana University-Bloomington and its School of Journalism. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1964 with majors in journalism and sociology. To share her writing and artistic talent, Joyce took a job in advertising and marketing at The West Bend Company. From 1965-75, she wrote, edited, and produced consumer instructional literature, recipe books, fact tags, labels, and sales aids. She said she enjoyed the creative process, but especially loved her fun coworkers. In West Bend, she met her husband Gordon, and they married there in 1974. Her new family lived in Mukwonago and Manitowoc, and she lived later in Wautoma and Janesville. Joyce was a member of the American Association of University Women Manitowoc-Two Rivers branch from 1986-2004, and served as president from 1992-94, then organizing a state convention. She also ran its Legal Advocacy Fund, which furthered equity for women and girls. An experienced traveler, Joyce planned her family's yearly campin trips across North America to see historical, cultural, and natural sites. In her neighborhood, she organized annual block parties. Her interest in people was lively and not contained. She engaged most anyone, and long, humorous chats made strangers and friends feel valued and at ease. Untold numbers got her letters, cards, and calls. Joyce enjoyed, among many things, reading, history, current events, interior design, sports, and helping her children and grandchildren. Her youthfulness remained. Joyce was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and brother, Dr. Jerome Laurent. Surviving are her sons, James (Monica) Norlin of Fulshear, Texas, and Paul; her grandchildren, Audrey, Matthew, and Daniel Norlin of Fulshear, Texas; and her stepsons Steven (Mary) Norlin of Houston, and Kevin (Wendy) Norlin of New Orleans. Surviving Laurent family members are her sister-in-law, Virginia Laurent of Whitewater, her niece, Katherine Laurent of Chicago, and her nephew, Thomas Laurent of Chicago.

A private funeral service for family will be held at
St. Katherine's Episcopal Church, Owen, with the Rev. Anthony R. Ring officiating.

Interment will follow at Riverside Cemetery, Withee.

A Celebration of Life will be held for Joyce after the pandemic is over.
The family will notify friends and the public then.

Memorials may be given to: St. Katherine's Episcopal Church, Owen,
the Stanley Area Historical Society,
the National Parks Conservation Association.