



Betty Jane Jehle

July 1, 1929 - January 23, 2022

Betty Jane Jehle (nee Lovell) July 1, 1929, to January 23, 2022. Betty Jane grew up in Webster Groves, Mo. with her Mother Rita, her loving Grandparents, Meemaw and Grandpa, and Aunt Jane. Betty attended Webster Groves High School, where she met Robert Jehle. Both attended Washington University. Bob and Betty married in May of 1950 before Bob went off to war. Betty graduated in 1951 with a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts in 1951.

In 1955, Betty had the opportunity to take ballet lessons from Alexandra Zaharias. The love of ballet developed into a lifelong passion. Betty went on to form the Missouri Concert Ballet, 1973-1983, utilizing dancers from the ballet company and bringing in others to fill the roles and performing At Keil Opera House and Powell Hall.

In 1983, Betty Jehle founded the St. Louis Ballet Company, and expanded a new Board of Directors, focusing on fund-raising and diversity. After a brief trip to New York, Betty Jehle and two other board members chose a new Choreographer, Mr. Zalewski, and his wife, Ms. Duodukovsky, Artistic Director. Performances were at Edison Theater and Powell Hall.

The Nutcracker Suite was a special time for the St. Louis Ballet with family and friends completely immersed in the world of ballet. Several out-of-state dancers, including Renouard Gee, stayed at the Jehle house during the 2 weeks of performances coming back year after year. Betty would be the first to admit it was a lot of work, but so much fun. Happily, this past year, Betty

was fortunate to see her beloved Nutcracker performance twice.

Betty Jane Jehle, often heralded as “Betty Ballerina” in St. Louis, was a passionate supporter of the visual and performing arts. She was a member of the Regional Arts Commission, Arts and Education Council of Greater St. Louis, the Missouri Arts Council, and Dance St. Louis.

After retirement from St Louis Ballet in 1993, Betty Jane returned to her artwork, learned lithography and spent her last years creating beautiful flower masterpiece prints. Her constant sources of inspiration were the lilies at the Botanical Garden and all other beautiful flowers.

Betty is survived by her three children, Joanne Jehle Byrd, Geoff, and Michael Jehle, four grandchildren, Erin Byrd, Kamran Jehle, Ian Jehle, and Adam Jehle, and a great-grandson Peyton Eyster. She was pre-deceased by her husband Robert Jehle and grandson Kristofer Byrd.

Everyone in our family and all our friends will miss this beautiful, vivacious, energetic, brilliant, and artistic star forever.

The family will plan a memorial service later this summer.

Cemetery Details

Valhalla Cemetery

7600 St Charles Rock Road
St Louis, MO 63133

Tribute Wall



“ I thank the Lord, Betty Jane crossed my path and has been a shining light in my life. Her heart was always full of goodness to everyone and she is the kindest person that I ever met.. Betty gave me the opportunity to do what I love and I will be ever so grateful to her. She carried herself with elegance and confidence while being so warm, welcoming, down to earth, and funny at the same time.

Betty and Bob welcomed me warmly into their home every Christmas holiday which I will never forget. She was known as Mom #2 to me and I'll never forget Betty's delicious homecooked meals which she could whip up in minutes. I will never forget Betty's festive Portofino Jello Mold and her delicious Rakott Spenot. She taught me that I don't need a old salad spinner to dry lettuce leaves.

Betty was always in for a good joke or prank. Once she covered her front tooth at dinner with a piece of spinach and we laughed so hard as she spoke like granny from "The Beverly Hillbillies". There was also a heartfelt, serious, artistic side of Betty which came thru in her beautiful print work. I will miss you, Betty Jane, but I will never forget all the good times you shared with me. ♥ Renouard



Renouard Gee - February 14, 2022 at 06:43 PM

JB

“ *The year before last, we had a wonderful two weeks on Sanibel Island. We have travelled there many times with Mom, sometimes with children and sometimes just by ourselves...she had a great time and that was what it was all about...*



Joanne Byrd - February 09, 2022 at 11:07 AM