



Jo D. Ayers

December 19, 1936 - November 8, 2023

News has been received on the death of Jo D. Ayers, age 86, a resident of Chestnut Hill Rehab. & Seniors Home in East Longmeadow since 2020. Jo D., or many knew her as "J.D.", died on November 8, 2023 from debilitating health over recent months. She had been residing for many years here in the Pioneer Valley and Greater Springfield since moving to Wilbraham in 1978. Born on December 19, 1936 in St. Lawrence County, her hometown was Norfolk in northern New York State up near the Canada border. Joan Doran (today known as J.D) was the eldest of eight children born to Annie & Jack Doran. After high school, she attended nearby SUNY Potsdam State College graduating in 1958 with a B.A. degree in elementary education. Upon marriage that same year to a handsome Clarkson University engineering grad named Stephen Ayers, she began raising their family together. Thereafter, she would state affirmatively that her occupation was housewife and mother (nowadays called being a "stay-at-home mom") in addition to free-lance artist. She was proud of their five children (Dovima, Sean, Leigh, Celeste, & Noel) who they raised together with immersion in outdoor recreation, health food, arts & cultural experiences. Throughout her journey, she was a lifelong supporter & advocate of fine arts, artists, performing arts, writers & cultural events as well as being an artist herself. Mainly doing watercolor & oil painting, she dabbled in all mediums including printmaking, sculpture, & photography. She liked poetry & had special interest in storytelling and theatre art. She enjoyed participating in group reading of new play scripts. Endearing

to her were classrooms of 'tweens school students who she helped as substitute teacher occasionally for decades in Springfield Public Schools. J.D. Ayers was a longtime member and resident artist of Indian Orchard Mills Artist Studios. She certainly will be missed by many friends in the arts circles, not to mention the world at large as well as nearby family & relatives far and wide. Many of us will remember her sarcastic humor and clever witticisms with her sharing of wisdom & practical insights. The family extends condolences and kind sympathy to all who knew our mom, a unique artist friend. New England Funeral & Cremation Center of Springfield has assisted her family during this difficult time. You may visit their internet website for additional information at www.nefcc.net.

Tribute Wall

MI

“ JD was one of a kind! She was a very smart, funny and thoughtful. Her wisdom was greatly appreciated and I will miss her.

Michelle - December 11, 2023 at 01:44 PM

KG

“ JD was a neighbor who was kind, caring and very loving. So sad to hear of her passing. She had a true love of life and she will be missed. May she Rest in Peace. Fondly, Karen Granfield

Karen Granfield - November 29, 2023 at 07:17 PM

SH

“ I was saddened to learn about JD's passing. She was a unique presence in our community and I knew her through my work at StageWest and the Drama Studio. I can recall many strike nights at StageWest when JD and Steve would bring the entire family to help us take down the set and make way for the new one! She was also involved at the Drama Studio. I especially remember her performance as a 19th century Irish mother in THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL.

My love to the Ayers family.

Steve Hays

Steve Hays - November 27, 2023 at 12:18 PM

ME

“ *What a loss for everyone who crossed paths in this life with J.D. She was a Substitute Teacher in my school often. Her energy and enthusiasm was apparent every day she showed up for duty! Her wisdom and Joie de vivre was gift to both staff and children. May she rest peacefully with the angels.*

mary elkas - November 27, 2023 at 09:27 AM