



## Delphine L. Sanks

July 31, 1926 - June 4, 2020

Delphine L. Sanks, 93, of Kearney, passed away Thursday, June 4, 2020, at her home. A memorial service will be 10 a.m. Saturday at the First Presbyterian Church in Kearney. Memorials are suggested to Kearney Area Animal Shelter, Peterson Senior Center, First Presbyterian Church of Kearney, Rowe Sanctuary, and Salvation Army of Kearney. Please visit [www.hlmkfuneral.com](http://www.hlmkfuneral.com) to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney are in charge of arrangements.

Delphine was born on July 31, 1926, in Broken Bow, NE, to Earl Leonard and Dorothy Delphine (Faragher) Ayers. She spent her first 10 years in Broken Bow before moving with her family to Lexington, NE. She attended Lexington High School and graduated with the class of 1944. Delphine then attended the University of Nebraska on a merit scholarship where she received a bachelor's degree in English. She later attended Kearney State College where she earned a master's degree in educational media. Delphine married Lee Sanks on March 24, 1950, in Kansas City, MO. Delphine began her teaching career in 1972 at Kearney Catholic High School, first as a librarian and then as a teacher of junior high English. She held this position for 10 years. She continued her career as a Professor of English at Kearney State College until she retired in 1990.

Delphine was an active member in a number of state and community organizations. She was an elder at First Presbyterian Church of Lexington and a member of that church in Kearney and a lifelong member of PEO. She was an active member in the following organizations: Rowe Sanctuary, Nebraska Alumni Association, Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts, Kappa Alpha Theta, Black Masque Chapter of Mortar Board, and Nebraska Educational Television Commission – she was an early advocate of state-wide public radio. She was one of the first female members of the Cornhusker Marching Band.

Delphine is survived by her husband, Lee of Kearney; sons, John Sanks of Lincoln, NE, Joe Sanks of Anchorage, AK, James Sanks and Daniel Sanks of Kearney; grandchildren and spouses, Nathan Sanks and Chelsea Faulkner of Brooklyn, NY, and Phillip Sanks of

Chicago, IL; and sister-in-law Monna Ayers of Albion, MI.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Earl and Dorothy Ayers; and brother, John Ayers.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUL **24.** 10:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
4511 6th Ave.  
Kearney, NE 68845

# Tribute Wall



“ *Delphine L. Sanks*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *We were so blessed to have Delphine in our lives. She was always such a positive mentor to us and our children. Her impact will be a part of our family lives forever. Rich & Jackie BREDENKAMP & family*

**Rich & Jackie Bredekamp** - July 23, 2021 at 06:42 PM



“ *To the Sanks Family, Delphine has been a pillar in many organizations and a wealth of inspiration to so many over the years. She lived a full life.*

*Mary Ellen Lantis and girls  
Chapter 66 P.E.O.*



**Mary Ellen Lantis** - July 23, 2021 at 12:30 PM



“ *I LOVED and greatly admired Delphine. I knew her from Senior College where she always was attentive to learning something new and the Peterson Senior Center where her smiling face and eyes were pretty much a part of the wallpaper. She just made everyone feel comfortable with her presence. I loved her because of her upbeat nature in spite of problems of aging, always with something pleasant to say. I am going to miss her a whole bunch. as she was such a model for the spirit of her generation and our community. God keep you safe, Delphine. with His love.*

**Deborah Hahn** - June 11, 2020 at 08:22 PM

DA

“ I had Mrs. Sanks for 7th Grade English at Kearney Catholic back in 1981-82--still remember some of the short stories we read, including "Repeat Performance" about the man who could send himself back in time for exactly 57 seconds, and was in an airplane crash--he had to keep re-living his fall from plane or die in the ocean. God bless, Mrs. Sanks.

*David Amstutz*

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David Amstutz - June 10, 2020 at 11:31 PM

DW

“ What a fantastic Lady. I was fortunate enough to get to know Delphine and all of her accomplishments back in the late 70s and early 80s when Delphine spent a lot of time teaching me how to windsurf in the waters of Bass Bay, Johnson Lake. A special time I will never forget.

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Dennis Welliver - June 10, 2020 at 11:40 AM

SU

“ We have had the pleasure of knowing and enjoying the company of Delphine, and Lee her loving partner, since about 1995 when my wife and I joined the Kearney Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. We always looked up to Delphine as an inspiration on how to stay vital and continue to be active and engaged with life, no matter what your age. When most of us are slowing down and spending too much time in front of the TV, this pair was going to classes for seniors, grappling with and sharing their views on religious and moral questions, attending local sporting cultural events, and actively supporting various worthy causes. But, most importantly, Delphine was a genuine and wonderful mother figure who showed us how to treat others with love and kindness. We will miss her greatly.

*Mike and Susan VaughnWilliams*

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sue - June 09, 2020 at 07:59 PM

MV

“ We have had the pleasure of knowing and enjoying the company of Delphine, and her loving partner, Lee, since about 1995 when my wife and I joined the Kearney Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. We always looked up to Delphine as an inspiration on how to stay vital and continue to be active and engaged with life, no matter what your age. When most of us are slowing down and spending too much time in front of the TV, this pair was going to classes for seniors, grappling with and sharing their views on religious and moral questions, attending local sporting cultural events, and actively supporting various worthy causes. But, most importantly, Delphine was a genuine and wonderful mother figure who showed us how to treat others with love and kindness. We will miss her greatly.

*Mike and Susan VaughnWilliams*

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**Mike VaughnWilliams** - June 09, 2020 at 07:36 PM

ML

“ *Lee and Family-*  
*With love and sympathy in the passing of Delphine, a dear sister in PEO and Kappa Alpha Theta.*  
*Sincerely, Mary Ellen Lantis and Family*



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**Mary Ellen Lantis** - June 09, 2020 at 05:40 PM

TP

“ *Sorry to hear about Delphine's passing. My thoughts and prayers to Lee and family. I think about the Ayers and Sanks family often, since both Lee, and John Ayers shaped much of my early life in Kearney and shared valuable information on business - and life! Since Ayers Clothing was a family business, Delphine and her mother were also part of my life, in addition to Lee and the boys. I fondly remember my time at in Kearney at Ayers Clothing, it was a boy's dream come true.*

*Terry Peterson*  
*Omaha, NE*

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**Terry Peterson** - June 09, 2020 at 02:04 PM

MH

“ Lee:

*I am very sorry to hear of Delphine's passing. Hope you are doing well during tough times like this. I was going to send a card but didn't know for sure where you are currently living. Thanks for the help and friendship you have given me over the years. Our prayers will be directed towards Delphine.*

*M.Haberlan.*

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**Mike Haberlan** - June 09, 2020 at 01:29 PM

MH

“ *My deepest sympathy to Lee and family at your loss of this remarkable woman. Delphine was a member of my book club for many years and I learned so much from her and shared so many laughs. She was a true treasure and inspiration to all who called her their friend. So sorry for you all and I wish you the peace and comfort of many beautiful memories.*



*Marlene Hansen*

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**Marlene Hansen** - June 09, 2020 at 01:06 PM

RB

“ *Delphine was a very good friend of Barb Beechner. We would like to express our sympathy to you and your family. Delphine had a very illustrious career that spanned many years being an asset to all groups. She will be missed by all.*

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**Richard A Beechner** - June 09, 2020 at 11:41 AM

BT

“ *Lee and Family,,*

*I am sorry to hear of Delphine's passing and want you to know you are in our hearts and in our thoughts. Delphine was one of the first Big Bend members that I met when I started with Audubon over 20 years ago. As a new person here she was welcoming and always there for support and advice when asked. I recall her helping on prescribed fires and then eventually making sandwiches for the burns as well as for field trips at the Crane Festival. She is a special person and Rowe Sanctuary and all of us benefited greatly from being associated with her. Please take care of each other right now.*

*Bill Taddicken*

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**Bill Taddicken** - June 09, 2020 at 09:53 AM

GC

“ Lee and family, Please accept our sincere condolences on the loss of your wife and mother. We miss seeing you at Burger King for coffee in the mornings, Lee. Hopefully things will get better soon!! Linda and Gary Chramosta

Gary Chramosta - June 08, 2020 at 08:24 PM

MI

“ Lee and Delphine were some of the first people I met when I moved to Kearney in 1977. She was a gentle and kind soul.. Sail away Delphine, you will be missed

Mary Iten - June 08, 2020 at 04:20 PM

SK

“ Mrs. Sanks taught my 8th grade English class and was our librarian...I remember how we enjoyed it when she read 'The Legend of Sleepy Hollow' to us for a unit. She attended my Gold Award ceremony when I received it my freshman year..I will say she did tolerate a bit of extra talking by myself and my friend Molly when we were whispering behind the book stacks!! When I was engaged, we discovered she was in the same sorority as my mother-in-law, Jeanne. I always enjoyed her knowledge of books and 'English facts' and was happy to know her as an adult. I have been a teacher now 30 years myself and appreciate all she did for us at KCHS. Thank you Mrs Sanks...may you rest in peace.  
(Susie Kurtenbach Kelly)

Susan Kelly - June 08, 2020 at 02:35 PM

DI

“ Delphine was/is one of my role-models. This classy lady loaned me many books, gave me the benefit of the doubt if she disagreed with me about something, and invited my introverted self to participate more socially in doing good works in the world. Now, we all find ourselves having to make a new beginning without her. I, for one, am grateful for having known her and will try to live up to her example. She was truly an inspiration. May shared memories be a comfort in this time of sorrow.



Deb Iwan - June 08, 2020 at 12:38 PM

LB

What an adventuresome dear couple. Dephine's smile lit up the room. We loved their company when they did B & B with us in Linc on football weekends. Great conversations at the breakfast table.

Leona & Brice Braziel - June 08, 2020 at 03:41 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Delphine L. Sanks.



June 08, 2020 at 09:55 AM

TA

“ Delphine was the school librarian at Kearney Catholic when I was there and was always so nice. Later on I got reacquainted with her and Lee through Big Bend Audobon. Always enjoyed spending time with them at meetings and outings. Lee and family- may wonderful memories bring you peace. \*\* Tammey Frick



Tammey - June 08, 2020 at 12:20 AM

DB

“ So sorry to hear the sad news. Delphine was such a special person. Gentle, kind and always with her beautiful smile. I never saw her angry with a person or a situation. She always was the level headed one in the group and she was right 99.99% of the time. My wife and I first became close friend with Delphine and Lee when, in 1982, we four, along with Bob and Rene Baker and Tom and Carol Draper started the Kearney Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. She would be Proud that it still continue in 2020. She gave the students at Kearney Catholic the gift of books and literature and she will be forever in those students minds, whether they know it or not. May Her memory Be A Blessing. יהי זכרו ברכה



Dr. Steve Bennett - June 06, 2020 at 05:48 PM