

## **Jane VanBeek, 72, Teacher, Tutor, Volunteer, Traveler, Loved Beaches**

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**Date :** November 12, 2018

Jane VanBeek, formerly of Cold Spring, New York, passed peacefully from Glioblastoma Multiforme at her home in Darien on Saturday, Nov. 10, surrounded by her adoring family. She was just 72 years old.

She lived for her children, and she was extremely close to her small family. She exuded unconditional love that surpassed the imaginable. She incessantly sacrificed herself for the happiness of others, and on numerous occasions saved the day with her relentless determination. Her boundless energy motivated and inspired. Her passion for life and affection for all children captivated all those around her.

Jane's infectious laugh warmed our hearts, while her constant grace was always notable. She was a

spontaneous adventurer and traveled the world, most recently taking several trips with her daughter.

She loved socializing with people from all walks of life and enriched their lives with her humor, compassion, and love. Jane could be seen dancing to blasting 1950s doo-wop behind the wheel of her Volkswagen with the windows down and sunroof open. She loved burying her feet in beach sand and listening to ocean waves.

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— [an obituary](#) from *Edward Lawrence Funeral Home*

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Jane was a worshipped elementary school teacher in Ossining, New York for over 30 years. Her enthusiasm and genuine love for her school children left an indelible memory in their young minds, with many of them visiting her decades later.

She spent as much time in her classroom as out with her school children, even sledding with them on snow days and making cotton candy at recess.

During her retirement, she continued her commitment to educating children as a tutor and volunteer in schools and libraries. She was tirelessly committed to each child, to educate and love each one. She was known for her warm welcoming smile with her baby blue eyes, steadfast patience, and open arms.

Jane was the proud mother of Dr. Corinne VanBeek of Darien and Ryan VanBeek, and mother-in-law to Paul Ferrone and Donna Mastromonaco VanBeek.

Perhaps her most cherished role was that of grandma “Babi” to her beloved three granddaughters, Gianna, Michela, and Isabella Jane VanBeek. Jane was the matriarch to the VanBeek Family.

Jane was predeceased most recently by her 99-year-old father Andrew Pless, as well as her sister, Marion Burger, and mother, Marion Pless. She is survived by her former spouse Cornelius VanBeek and devoted children and grandchildren, who share her vivacity and zest for life.

A Jane VanBeek Fund has been established in her honor. All money raised will directly benefit children. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Jane’s [GoFundMe page](#) that directly funds the Jane VanBeek Fund.

On Thursday morning, an intimate graveside ceremony will be attended by her closest friends and family. A celebratory memorial will be held Thursday evening.