



CELEBRATION *of Life*

Rayola Brandt

October 12, 1929—November 16, 2023

Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. a Celebration of Life will be held in the Sanctuary at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tippecanoe County at 333 Meridian St., West Lafayette, IN. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Rayola Brandt, 94, of West Lafayette, Indiana, passed away Thursday, November 16, 2023, at her home in the arms of her son.

She was born October 12, 1929, in Marshfield, Wisconsin to the late Royal and Henrietta (Kalsched) Brandt. She was a graduate of Ladysmith High School, earned her Bachelor Degree from University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI. She received her Masters of Education from George Peabody College for Teachers (now Vanderbilt University). Rayola was a school teacher with Longcliff School System in Logansport where she helped State Hospital patients earn their GED.

Ray married Robert Jacques Currie (decorated veteran of World War II and the Korean War) on June 18, 1955. Rae and Bob had four children: Cynthia, born in 1958, married to William L. Sherman, (but retaining her maiden name of Currie), one child, a son, Spencer Brandt Sherman; Carletta Ann, born in 1964, married to Alan Barfield, one child, a daughter, Bridgette Ann Barfield; Mary Elizabeth, born in 1965, passed in 1965 at two weeks of age; and a son, Robert Jacques Currie, Jr., born in 1967. Rae and Bob divorced in 1977. In October 2002, Rae married David Shelton who preceded her in death in January 2015.

She was a devoted member of our church and was outstandingly active with the Church Alumni Group and the UU Book Group. She was also deeply involved with CASA, receiving CASA Volunteer of the Year Award for Indiana. Rae was also a Gold Medalist with Senior Olympics in several sport categories for over fifteen years. Rayola enjoyed playing golf, line dancing, and watching the TV show "Finding Your Roots."

She is survived by her three children, Cynthia C. Currie of Spencer, IN, Carletta A. Barfield of Oakland, CA, and Robert Currie of West Lafayette, IN; 2 grandchildren, Bridgette Barfield and Spencer Sherman; and three siblings, Carletta of Tucson, AZ, Royal of TN, and Betty of AZ. She is also survived by two step-children, Scott Shelton and Cathy Joann Shelton, Cathy's son Anthony David Shelton, born in 1990, and Anthony and Harley Sheltons' two children (step-great-grandchildren to Rae), Jaxon David Shelton, born 2015, and Ivvy Viola Shelton, born 2018.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Mary Elizabeth, and her parents, Royal and Henrietta, her ex-husband Robert Currie in March 1993, and her spouse David Shelton in January 2015.

Memorial contributions in Rayola's name may be given to the [World Wildlife Fund](http://www.worldwildlifefund.org), 1250 Twenty-Fourth Street, N.W, P.O. Box 97180, Washington, DC 20090-7180 or to [Wildcat Creek Wildlife Center, Inc.](http://www.wildcatwildlifecenter.org), 4709 N. 400 W., Delphi, IN 46923. <http://www.wildcatwildlifecenter.org>

Rayola Brandt
(October 12, 1929 – November 16, 2023)

Memorial Service and Celebration of Her Life

**Unitarian Universalist Church
Of Tippecanoe County
West Lafayette, Indiana**

And Via Zoom at www.uuctc.org/sunday

**Saturday, February 10, 2024
One O’Clock in the Afternoon**

**The Rev. Jennie Ann Barrington, Minister
Bridgette Barfield, Soloist
Technical Support: Noemi Ybarra
and Gary Fowler**



Gathering Music

Welcome and Opening Words

Call to Worship “Salutation to the Dawn” (Attributed to Kalidasa)

*“Look to this day! For it is life, the very life of life.
In its brief course lie all the verities and realities of your existence:
The bliss of growth;
The glory of action;
The splendor of achievement;
For yesterday is but a dream,
And tomorrow is only a vision;
But today, well lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness,
And every tomorrow a vision of hope.
Look well, therefore, to this day.”*

Lighting of the Chalice

Meditation or Prayer

First Reading [Author Unknown]

“Let us remember gratefully the courage, faith, and love which she manifested to the end. Neither infirmity nor age availed to break her spirit... She has taught us that, in the midst of trouble and pain, one can yet smile, [and] that the abundant life is not of possession of things, but of the full spirit, the cheerful fulfillment of duty, and the maintenance of faith and love and self-forgetting service. And she taught us that we should seek our happiness not in what we may get for ourselves, but in the spirit we may share with our fellow men and women, and in the fellowship of that spirit as we find it, whether in the congregation which she loved, the neighborhoods which were warmed by her greatness of heart, or the community of all great souls. Love can never be defeated. She whose life is lived in love has an immortal character and a transcendent joy that defy pain and triumph over death.”

Second Reading Adapted from, “i carry your heart with me,” by e.e. cummings

**Special Music “Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again” from [Bridgette Barfield]
The Phantom of the Opera by Andrew Lloyd Webber**

Remembrances by Family, Friends and other Loved-ones

Eulogy [Rev. Jennie Barrington]

Closing words and Benediction [Adapted from the words of Alfred S. Cole]

Parting Music Meditation on “The Feather Theme,” composed by Alan Silvestri

Please join us after the service for a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

We thank everyone who helped make this occasion so gracious.

Memorial contributions may be made in Rae’s name to:

*World Wildlife Fund,
1250 Twenty-Fourth Street, N.W,
P.O. Box 97180, Washington, DC 20090-7180*

or to

*Wildcat Creek Wildlife Center, Inc.,
4709 N. 400 W., Delphi, IN 46923.
<http://www.wildcatwildlifecenter.org>*

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And now we [say farewell to] our beloved. We are glad that she lived, that we saw her face, knew her friendship, and walked the way of life with her. We deeply cherish the memory of her words and deeds and character. We leave her in peace. With respect we bid her farewell. In love we remember her companionship, her kindly ways. And thinking of her in this manner, let us go in quietness of spirit and live in charity, one with the other.” - Alfred S. Cole

