



## Sandra L. Czarnowski

January 16, 1944 - February 10, 2026

Sandra L. Czarnowski, 82, of Rockford left this earth on February 10, 2026, reuniting with all of her beloved pets who passed before her at the Rainbow Bridge. Born January 16, 1944 in Philadelphia, PA; daughter of Paul and Wilma Jean (Schreiner) Unzicker. Graduate of Rockford East High School. Sandra obtained her Bachelor Degree and Masters Degrees from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, and attended the Doctorate of Education Program at Northern. She was a special education teacher at Rock River Elementary School, retiring in 1999. She was united in marriage to Robert Czarnowski on April 17th , 1982. Together they raised two sons, and Sandra was a true "Sports Mom" She attended innumerable soccer games, swim meets, basketball games, gymnastics and cross country meets. She was a loving and devoted mother. She loved relaxing and curling up with a book. Sandra and Robert participated in dog training events together. She absolutely loved dogs, especially Jake, the family yellow Labrador and her Boykin Spaniel, Banjo. She was a skilled dog trainer and enjoyed teaching others training skills in weekly classes and weekend seminars. Locally, she was involved with the Forest City Dog Training Club and the Hunting Retriever Club. She was a volunteer for the Rockford Special Olympics, participating in events and activities with her oldest son. Sandra was a former member of LLL Society. One of Sandra's other joys was traveling in her RV to Wisconsin and Lone Oak, Texas. She had a warm, affable personality and made connections and new friends wherever she went. Her family was her world, she made

many memories throughout the years on cruise ships, travelling to Hawaii, the Caribbean, Alaska and Jamaica. Survived by her husband of 43 years, Robert; children, Simody Czarnowski, Matthew Czarnowski; grandchildren, Seth Czarnowski, Katie Czarnowski; cousin, Reynolds (Linda) Smith; and a circle of friends, near and far. Preceded in death by her parents and brothers, Harry Unzicker and Kevin Unzicker. Visitation on Saturday, February 14, 2026 from 5 pm to 7 pm at Grace Funeral & Cremation Services, 4301 N. Main St. Rockford. Funeral Service on Sunday, February 15, 2026 12:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Jennifer Thompson, Funeral Celebrant will officiate. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to L.E.A.R.N., the Labrador Rescue of Wisconsin and Rockford Special Olympics. [https://www.paypal.com/donate?to ken=mZbsAI-pmwM7jPrwRXNJZ\\_UcGSrG7GlwoJDloqRHVFNACVmFCEgEf0ILtz0JKhiYNatf5VloN5PVkCdm](https://www.paypal.com/donate?to ken=mZbsAI-pmwM7jPrwRXNJZ_UcGSrG7GlwoJDloqRHVFNACVmFCEgEf0ILtz0JKhiYNatf5VloN5PVkCdm) or 140 Simmons Avenue, Box 323; Pewaukee, WI 53072. Share a memory or condolence at [www.graceFH.com](http://www.graceFH.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **14.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Grace Funeral & Cremation Services  
4301 N. Main St.  
Rockford, IL 61103

## Funeral Service

FEB **15.** 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Grace Funeral & Cremation Services  
4301 N. Main St.  
Rockford, IL 61103

# Tribute Wall

VW

“ So sorry to learn about Sandy passing. We met many years ago dog training at Forest City Dog Training Club. What a wonderful lady! Our condolences to Bob and her family. Curt and Vivian White

Vivian R White - March 26 at 09:42 AM

DJ

“ Danette and Joseph purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Sandra L. Czarnowski.



Danette and Joseph - February 13 at 09:32 AM

PN

“ Sandy and I met in college in 1963. We were both in the marching band, we both played trombone, we double dated, she was in my wedding, I was in hers. Our lives crossed again at FCDTC in 1971. She was also my oldest daughter's God Mother. So, you see Sandy has always been a huge part of my life. I loved her and will miss her so much. My heart breaks for Bob and his family.

Pat Nordenberg - February 12 at 10:03 PM

BM

“ I'll always remember one of my first times competing in the rally ring, nervously standing ringside, waiting my turn, a quiet voice said behind me, "Breathe Brenda." It was Sandy, noticing my nerves and quietly encouraging me. She was always kind and loving. My grandson enjoyed the outdoor playset she passed on to me. She will be missed.

Brenda J Moore - February 12 at 06:34 PM