



Jane Bruss

January 7, 1941 - April 14, 2026

Jane A. Bruss was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on January 7, 1941, to Richard W. Norton and Grace (Hemsteger) Norton. She was an honor student at Mother of Mercy High School and graduated cum laude from the University of Cincinnati with a B.A. in English.

After graduation, she married Howard George Bruss Jr. They moved to Toledo where she taught English at the University of Toledo while working towards a Master's degree. Jane and Howard raised three children - Karen Bruss Carle, Neil Robert Bruss, and Howard Charles Bruss, in a family life focused on personal values and fun with a home setting that was active and welcoming. Family celebrations, holidays, summer gatherings at the lake, parties with lifelong friends, and time spent with their nine grandchildren filled their years and set the stage for generations to come.

Jane was a happy loving mother, caring sister and sister-in-law, and proud grandmother, and she was known for her kindness, genuine interest in others, and her ability to make everyone feel valued. She enjoyed entertaining, cooking, gardening, the arts, playing golf and tennis, and was a role model for her children and grandchildren. Jane was always guided by optimism, creativity, and a desire to leave things better than she found them.

Jane was active in the field of communications and established a career later in life with the Toledo Public Schools System as Communications Director for several years. Throughout her career she was known for crafting, directing, and producing communications to convey the intended message with clarity

and substance.

Jane was active in community service and organizations, including the Salvation Army, Catholic Social Services, the League of Women Voters, the American Association of University Women, and the Advertising Club of Toledo. She was a founding volunteer for the LPGA Jamie Farr Toledo Classic golf tournament. In every role, Jane gave freely of her time, creativity, and heart, especially in support of charitable and community causes.

Jane is survived by her beloved husband, Howard; her children; her nine grandchildren; her brothers, Charles Norton (Kathy) and Michael Norton (Patti); her brothers-in-law, Michael Bruss and Mark Bruss; her sisters-in-law, Jane Bruss Gulotte and Kitsie Bruss (James) Valiton; and her many nieces and nephews.

She peacefully passed away April 14th from complications from Alzheimer's surrounded by her family.

Friends may visit at Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd., Toledo, OH 43614 on Monday, April 20 from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. with a Scripture Service at 6:30 p.m. Additional visitation will begin be held at Gesu Catholic Church, 2049 Parkside Blvd., Toledo, OH 43607 on Tuesday, April 21 from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the Funeral Mass at 10:00 a.m. Burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

2224 Dorr St.
Toledo, OH 43607

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 20. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614

Scripture Service

APR 20. 6:30 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614

Visitation

APR 21. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Gesu Church
2049 Parkside Blvd
Toledo, OH 43607

Funeral Mass

APR **21**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Gesu Church
2049 Parkside Blvd
Toledo, OH 43607

Tribute Wall

CN

“ *My family moved to Old Orchard in the summer of 1973 and I quickly became fast friends with the boy across the street. From age 8 to age 18, I was a fixture at his home, and his parents, Jane and Howard, welcomed me unequivocally. Whether playing at their house, going to movies, staying for dinner, going out to the park, a trip up north to the lake, or countless other activities, Jane and Howard welcomed me into their home and family without reservation. And Jane was truly a second mother to me during that time.*

Years later, my mother suffered a stroke, and I spent my weekends back at her home in Old Orchard, cleaning the family home and preparing it for sale. In those years, Jane stopped by regularly to check in on me, and she also made the journey to the nursing home to see my mother, to bring her little gifts, and share some time to brighten her day.

To Howard, Karen, Neil, and Howie – and your families – my deepest condolences go out to you. My heart weeps for your loss. I am so very sad to learn of your loss, of this woman who was so instrumental in my life.

-Clay Niemeyer

Clay Niemeyer - May 02 at 09:35 PM

MB

“ 1 file added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



Marilyn Brady - April 21 at 11:58 AM

MB

I found some photos (thanks to Ann Hemsteger Martin Closterman) from the happy occasion of my mom's 90'th birthday party in 2001. Jane with me, with the birthday girl and my sister Susan, and with Janet and Judy Neyer.

Marilyn Brady - April 21 at 11:59 AM

LB

“ Little Mike Bruss planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jane Bruss.

Little Mike Bruss - April 20 at 10:46 PM

LB

“ Little Mike Bruss purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Jane Bruss.



Little Mike Bruss - April 20 at 10:46 PM

MB

“ I'd like to let Jane's family know that we have been praying for her peaceful repose at our Orthodox Church. On the Orthodox church calendar, Jane died on Bright Tuesday, two days after Pascha, or Orthodox Easter. The whole "Bright Week" is a celebration of Christ's resurrection, so we're constantly singing "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and on those in the tombs bestowing life!"

I'm sorry I won't be able to attend the funeral, but wish you comfort in knowing that Jane lived a beautiful life and has now entered into her rest.

*Love,
Marilyn Neyer Brady*

Marilyn Neyer Brady - April 20 at 09:37 PM

AS

“ Aunt Jane was a shining light in my life. She always was so warm and happy, and she was known to tell a great story. I loved her spirit and admired your determination to do the things that mattered to her... especially her dedication to public education. She was a genuine lady who has touched so many people's lives. She will be missed.



Audrey Sunday - April 20 at 01:42 PM

SR

Lovely Ladies 💜

Susan Reddish - April 22 at 02:44 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jane Bruss.*



April 20 at 12:26 PM



“ *1 file added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE*



Karen Carle - April 20 at 10:33 AM



“ *Tim and Liz Reese planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jane Bruss.*

Tim and Liz Reese - April 20 at 09:05 AM



“ *Tim and Liz Reese purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of Jane Bruss.*



Tim and Liz Reese - April 20 at 09:05 AM

MD

“ *Much Love, Peggy Davis purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Jane Bruss.*



Much Love, Peggy Davis - April 19 at 05:08 PM

CV

“ *1 file added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE*



COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - April 18 at 08:16 PM

SR

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Susan Reddish - April 18 at 05:12 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jane Bruss.*

April 18 at 03:37 PM



“ *Loving Grace was purchased for the family of Jane Bruss.*



April 18 at 03:37 PM



“ *The Gulotte Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Jane Bruss.*



The Gulotte Family - April 18 at 12:57 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jane Bruss.*



April 17 at 01:48 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jane Bruss.*

April 17 at 01:48 PM

CM

“ As a neighbor, Jane was terrific! Always polite and supportive. She will be missed. Godspeed Jane!

Chris and Jean Maloney

Chris Maloney - April 17 at 10:47 AM

AC

“ I am sure you will miss her but she can rest now. Sorry I was not aware of Jane's situation but I will miss her too. She was a very special lady and a special cousin. I will keep all of you in my prayers.

Cousin Ann Hemsteger Martin Closterman

Ann Martin Closterman - April 17 at 09:00 AM

PA

“ Jane and I connected through membership in the Junior League of Toledo. Whenever she was in the room everyone smiled! I was always glad to see her. Many years ago, as I recall, we also shared the experience of living in Old Orchard.

Pat Appold

Patricia Appold - April 16 at 03:00 PM

JA

“ Sincere condolences from over here.
Love to you all.
Joe

Joseph Areddy - April 16 at 10:48 AM

MB

“ Jane always had a great upbeat welcoming smile. I never heard her say a discouraging word about any situation or a person. Indeed, a real breath of positive energy. The world is a little lesser place now.
Mark Bruss

Mark Bruss - April 15 at 11:48 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jane Bruss.



April 15 at 09:51 PM