



Jenni B. Baker

February 15, 1984 - November 4, 2020

Jenni B. Baker Feb. 15, 1984-Nov. 4, 2020

Jenni Brianne Baker, age 36 of Pittsburgh, PA passed away at her home on November 4, 2020 after a long battle with Glioblastoma, a rare and incurable brain cancer.

Jenni was born February 15, 1984 in Wichita, KS to Clyde Jr. and Barbara (Hensley) Baker, both formerly of Harlan, KY.

Preceding her in death were her maternal grandfather Fielding Hensley, Smith, KY and her paternal grandparents Clyde (Buster) and Lena Baker, Harlan, KY.

She is survived by her parents, Clyde Jr. and Barbara (Hensley) Baker of Elizabethtown, KY, partner of 6 years, Douglas Luman of Pittsburgh, PA, grandmother Della Hensley of Smith, KY, and many aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and co-workers who loved her very much.

As an artist, Jenni found no higher joy than gathering like-minded creators. Her ability to inspire, teach, and lead others toward their own artistic talents touched lives world-wide. Her own award-winning writing and artwork, like her life, transformed the everyday into the extraordinary.

In death, Jenni selflessly donated her brain to the University of Maryland Brain and Tissue Bank for research into finding a cure for Glioblastoma.

The family would like to thank Bridges Hospice, especially Erin B., Nikki P., Bethany L., and Mindy O., for outstanding care and support during this trying time.

Per Jenni's wishes, a private viewing was held at D'Alessandro Funeral Home and Crematory Ltd., Pittsburgh, PA, followed by cremation.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in her honor to the Al Musella Foundation at virtualtrials.org/baker_jenni.cfm or to Jenni's last major poetry project, Poetry Daily, at poems.com/support/.

Tribute Wall



“ *Jenni B. Baker*

January 13, 2023 at 04:43 PM



“ *Arlene Jane Naganawa lit a candle in memory of Jenni B. Baker*



arlene jane naganawa - December 27, 2020 at 09:42 PM



“ *Jenni was such a light. I had the honor of collaborating on a piece of music with her a few years ago, and we shared a stage at the DFW Conference presenting on our work. It's one of my favorite artistic memories to date.*

Jenni was a kind person, a brilliant artist, and a gentle soul. I am so blessed to have known her. Sending love to Doug, her parents, and the rest of her family. She will be remembered.

Patrick Greene - December 18, 2020 at 11:10 AM



“ *I worked with Jenni while she was at Goodwill International, when I was with Goodwill Industries of the Redwood Empire here in Sonoma County. Even in our short time working online together, I found Jenni to be bright and engaging, and was further impressed by her creative output in poetry. I am shocked and very saddened by her passing at such a young age. May her memory be a blessing to everyone who knew her.*



Chris Alexander - December 16, 2020 at 12:54 PM

SW

Junior Baker im an so sorry for the lost of you belove daughter she was bless to have you as her dad from Hale family love and prayers sent your way

Susie H Weaver - December 31, 2021 at 05:43 PM

SW

I pray Baker family get this post

Susie H Weaver - December 31, 2021 at 06:12 PM

MB

“ One of the best months of my life was spent in National Poetry Month, April 2013, when Jenni and her cohorts pulled 85 poets from seven countries posting a found poem a day from Pulitzer Prize-winning fiction for "Pulitzer Remix," The Found Poetry Review's National Poetry Month initiative. I wish that web page were still viewable; Jenni's artistic vision and capabilities were awesome. Bright, inquisitive, talented, she also was the best at building community--we even shared photos of our cats "helping" us create found poetry--and I always think of Jenni and her cat Ulysses together. I've followed Jenni over the seven years since, including another Poetry Month group where I learned a whole lot more about found poetry. I'm so glad Jenni found Doug in her much-too-short life, and stayed close to her parents so I know she was--and is--surrounded by love.

Mary Bast - November 13, 2020 at 01:39 PM

NL

“ Jenni was remarkable. An inspiring writer and artist, she had a gift for building community and bringing out the creative best in people. She established a vibrant, online community through her ambitious, far-reaching, and engaging projects. Oh, her projects were magical. She was a bold, innovative, and tireless visionary. Knowing her made me a better person and poet. She touched so many of us, and is much loved. My deepest condolences to Doug and her family.

Nancy Chen Long - November 08, 2020 at 04:33 PM

ME

“ I was inspired by Jenni's ability to create. Whether it be community or art, Jenni was always putting something new into the world. My favorite memory was the Found Poetry Review gathering at AWP in Minnesota. Despite a fairly large group, we ended up with way too much wine, which ultimately resulted in passionate readings and a lot of laughter. I'm grateful to Jenni and Beth for making it possible. To Doug and Jenni's family, I am very sorry for your loss.

Marty Elwell - November 08, 2020 at 04:22 PM

GG

“ I never met Jenni in person, but she always was a light of inspiration for a wide community of poets, writers, and artists, of which I was one. From the Pulitzer Remix project to PoMoSco a few years later, to having work published in Found Poetry Review, I considered myself lucky to have "met" Jenni online, not only for helping these incredible projects and Found Poetry Review, but in providing the pleasure to readers following her lovely work with found re-imaginings of Wallace's Infinite Jest, and with other projects that she and Doug served up to the world. Jenni was a catalyst, a leader, a joy of quiet intelligence and positivity. I can never watch Jeopardy without wanting Jenni to be one of that evening's trio - a wish she shared too. My condolences to her family, to Doug, to Beth, and to all who knew her. Her loss is a stunning shock to the core, but her memory and work shall be a blessing forevermore.

*Rest in Poetry and Peace,
Gary Glauber*

Gary Glauber - November 07, 2020 at 10:21 AM

BB

Thank you, Gary!

Barbara Baker - November 07, 2020 at 02:12 PM

BR

“ *Bonnie Ray lit a candle in memory of Jenni B. Baker*



Bonnie Ray - November 06, 2020 at 11:43 PM

CS

“ I met Jenni through the Pulitzer Remix Found Poetry project and was fortunate enough to meet her at AWP for a reading of the project. I was so impressed by her- her passion, positivity, creativity, ambition- and have been following her courageous fight with cancer since she was diagnosed. Her family and Doug are in my thoughts.

-Carrie Simpson

Carrie Simpson - November 06, 2020 at 08:44 PM

JC

“ I never met Jenni but got involved in the fascinating found poetry challenges she created with her partner Doug. They inspired my creativity and sense of fun with poetry. She was gifted and an inspiration. I am sorry for the family and especially Doug.

Jill Cournoyer - November 06, 2020 at 07:47 PM

WP

“ A part of me broke today and I am feeling sad. My creative friend Jenni B Baker has died from a rare form of brain cancer.
Dear Jenni, I was in school this morning for a 'meet the poet Q&A' and a pupil asked me who had inspired me the most and I told the class about you and that you died on Wednesday and there was a long silence. Heavy words for 10yr olds I know, but it helped us all talk about the importance of silence and the hospice near the school and how precious creativity can be. Thank you for everything you brought to the party, I have lots to remember you by. Satie's Gymnopédies is playing on the radio as I type and it sounds slower than ever)-:
Love Win X

Winston Harry Plowes - November 06, 2020 at 09:14 AM

AM

“ Jenni was a truly sweet and lovely person. She fought a valiant fight with this illness with courage and strength. She taught me a lot about life, and death. My deepest sympathy to Doug and her parents and family and friends. She will be missed. May you Rest In Peace Jenni and know you touched many lives while here in this world with us.

Aileen Meier - November 05, 2020 at 10:51 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jenni B. Baker.



November 05, 2020 at 10:08 PM

AC

“ Jenni and I were as different as two people could be. She was quiet and introverted, and I, well am not. We worked together at Goodwill and shared a love of Les Mis and Alfie Boe, and attended several events together. We were in touch through her illness and I was amazed by her strength and acceptance. Doug and her Mom and Dad, I pray for you at this time. She was a treasure and the Earth needed more time with her.

Andrea Cole - November 05, 2020 at 09:51 PM

JS

“ My prayers are with you Barb and Clyde.



Janie Scott - November 05, 2020 at 09:16 PM

TT

“ Tony & Barbara Tabor lit a candle in memory of Jenni B. Baker



Tony & Barbara Tabor - November 05, 2020 at 09:06 PM

ML

“ Jenni was the light in my son, Douglas' life, and his soul mate. I'm thankful for knowing her and her caring spirit with her lovely smile. We played many board games the week of Douglas' graduation reception from GMU and she did like to win...I definitely lost my share. Just knowing her was loving her.

Douglas' Mom, Marilyn Luman (Peoria,IL)

Marilyn Luman - November 05, 2020 at 08:36 PM

BB

Thank you, Marilyn!

Barbara Baker - November 06, 2020 at 09:55 PM

LB

“ *Liza Brooks lit a candle in memory of Jenni B. Baker*



Liza Brooks - November 05, 2020 at 08:30 PM

BM

“ *Bonnie Marcum lit a candle in memory of Jenni B. Baker*



Bonnie Marcum - November 05, 2020 at 07:08 PM

SH

“ *Barbara she is beautiful. Can't imagine how beautiful her glorified body with Jesus is. God bless and comfort you all. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*



Shirley Hawkins-Hill - November 05, 2020 at 06:47 PM

FM

“ *Oh my. Jenni you were a light every time I saw you and your beautiful face and smile was so light and made anyone feel like a friend . The time I go to spend with you and your mom and dad at the reunion one year was so much fun. Your now an angel with wings.*

Fielding Marcum - November 05, 2020 at 06:43 PM

MH

“ *Margaret Hoskins lit a candle in memory of Jenni B. Baker*



Margaret Hoskins - November 05, 2020 at 06:42 PM

MB

“ *MICHELLE BROWNING lit a candle in memory of Jenni B. Baker*



MICHELLE BROWNING - November 05, 2020 at 06:06 PM