



Marilyn Jane Fisher

January 18, 1931 - February 3, 2026

Marilyn Jane Fisher peacefully joined Walt, the love of her life, on February 3, 2026, following a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's dementia. The last year of her life she received excellent, loving care from the staff at Resthaven Care Center and Maple Woods sites, and Hospice of Holland.

Born on January 18, 1931 in Howell, Michigan to Cornell and Jeannette Dexter, Marilyn (known as Janie to family) grew up in the Fenton area. On September 11, 1948, she married Walter Acton Fisher, and together they built a loving family and life filled with creativity and teaching.

While raising four children with Walt, Marilyn earned her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Western Michigan University and devoted herself to inspiring others through the arts. She taught everything from home economics and arts and crafts to history and even chemistry in the Plainwell, Rose City and West Ottawa Public Schools in the 1960s and 70s. Many former students still cherish the projects they created in her classroom and fondly remember her warmth and encouragement. She also opened a ceramic studio in her home, teaching classes to the community. After leaving Holland, Marilyn and Walt owned "The Sewing Basket," a cherished fabric and sewing machine store in Coldwater, Michigan, specializing in quilting. There, and in many venues across the United States, she shared her passion for quilting. After Walt's passing in 1992, Marilyn returned to Holland, where she continued to

live independently, teaching quilting and for 25 years she hosted a quilting retreat at the Kettunen Center in northern Michigan.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her husband, Walter Acton Fisher; her parents, Cornell and Jeannette Dexter; and her siblings Harold (Kitty) Dexter, Larry (Mary Nell) Dexter, and Diane (Sam) Jackson.

She is survived by her four children: Diana D'Emeraude, Leah (RT) Williams, Dawn Fisher, and Jim (Michelle) Fisher; her grandchildren Karsten Sethre, Caitlin Ryan, Nick McAndrew, Brennan Fisher, and Emily Fisher; great-grandchildren James and Charlie; her sister Connie (Harry) Thomas; nieces, nephews, cousins and many cherished friends and former students whose lives she touched.

Marilyn's legacy is one of creativity, kindness, and quiet strength. She will be deeply missed and joyfully remembered.

There will be a celebration of life on Sunday, May 17, 2026 at the Holland Midtown Center, 96 W 15th St, Holland Michigan. Visitation with the family is from 2-3pm. There will be a brief service at 3pm followed by a light luncheon. After the luncheon, anyone may join the family for a short committal service at the cemetery.

In lieu of flowers you may send donations in her name to:

Alzheimer's Association (<https://donorservices.alz.org>)

Hospice of Holland (<https://www.hollandhospice.org>)

West Michigan Quilter's Guild (<https://www.wmqg.org>)

The Fisher family is being served by Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home. To leave condolences online, please visit www.langelandsterenbergh.com.

Cemetery Details

Graafschap Cemetery

32nd Steet at Graafschap Road
Holland, MI 49423

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Open House

MAY 17. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Holland Midtown Center
96 West 15th Street
Holland, MI 49423

Tribute Wall

CN

“Marilyn was a wonderful friend who will be greatly missed by her fellow quilting friends. She taught us so many wonderful things about our hobby, and shared so many fun stories of her life with Walt. We always teased her that she should write a book -- it would have been a best seller!!!! I just know Marilyn is up in heaven quilting with our other friend Barb, and they are making a ton of quilts!! I know she's at peace.

Carla Nienhuis - May 13 at 09:30 PM



“Anything for You was purchased for the family of Marilyn Jane Fisher.



May 13 at 04:26 PM

MK

“The Art Teacher of West Ottawa was a wonderful person. She always encouraged the creativity of her students. I was lucky enough to have her for a couple of classes and loved every moment of them. I'm from the class of '71. Your family are very blessed to have many cherished memories of a gifted soul. Prayers from Mary Ann Hart Koetje.

Mary Ann Koetje - February 13 at 11:07 AM

RF

“ Kindness exuded from Aunt Janie as if there was a natural fountain of it inside her. If she did something for her children, she did it for all of us cousins as well. I still cherish the ceramic piggy bank with my name on it and will remember her fondly. You will be missed by all the people who were touched by your presence.

Randy Fisher - February 13 at 06:39 AM

GR

“ Dear Jim & Michelle,
We send our sincere condolences for the loss of your mother, Marilyn. It is never easy to lose a parent, someone you love. We are praying that you find peace and comfort.
Gary and Shirley Rhody

Gary Rhody - February 11 at 08:02 PM

SB

“ Dear Leah and family,
I remember your Mom from Home Ec class. I remember the first dress she helped me sew: a light denim A line. She was patient and supportive.
What a wonderful Mom you had.

Shelly Blanski - February 11 at 04:45 PM

JS

My mother m was a quilter who would visit us in Coldwater but drove to the Sewing Basket before she came to our house! Marilyn was a wonderful presence.

John Shea - February 11 at 07:33 PM