



Susan Jane Clifton

APR 5, 1942 - DEC 27, 2025



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Susan Jane Clifton

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Susan Jane Clifton (Jane), age 83, of Lewes and Seaford, Delaware, died on December 27, 2025, in Lewes. She was born on April 5, 1942, in Milford, Delaware, and was known for her dedication to education, her love of animals, and her active, curious nature. As a girl Jane attended drama school in New York City before graduating from Seaford High School, where she first discovered her interest in learning and teaching. She earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware, completed a Master's degree at Harvard, and finished additional graduate work at Salisbury State Teachers' College. Her own education was important to her throughout her life.

Jane worked for many years as a middle school teacher at The Country School in Easton, Maryland, helping students learn and grow. She also tutored students one-on-one, sharing her knowledge and providing encouragement.

Outside of her work, Jane enjoyed being active and spending time with animals. She was an avid tennis player, rode her bicycle often, and especially loved riding horses in her younger years. In addition, she was a voracious reader, especially of non-fiction, poetry and drama. She loved attending professional theatrical productions as well as the ballet. She cared deeply for her pets: dogs, cats, and even a blind chicken when she was a girl.

Jane is survived by her loving husband Kurt Andress Winkler, and her cherished animal companions — her two Maltese dogs, Wistin and Issa, and her beloved cat, Ariadne. These companions were a special part of her everyday life and brought her joy, comfort, and loyal friendship.

She was predeceased by her parents, Jim and Louise Wiley Clifton.



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Her commitment to her students, her interests, and the people and animals she loved will be remembered by all who knew her. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in her memory to Save the Manatee Club or another wildlife preservation organization of your choice.

A Funeral Service will be held on Monday, January 12, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. at Parsell Funeral Homes and Crematorium, Atkins-Lodge Chapel, 16961 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE. A viewing will take place from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. prior to the service.

Interment will be on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 11:00 at Odd Fellows Cemetery, 513 3rd Street, Seaford, DE 19973.

Please sign the tribute wall located on this website.

FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE HAVE ALL FLOWERS DELIVERED ON MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026 BY 10AM TO OUR LEWES LOCATION.



Events

Susan Jane Clifton

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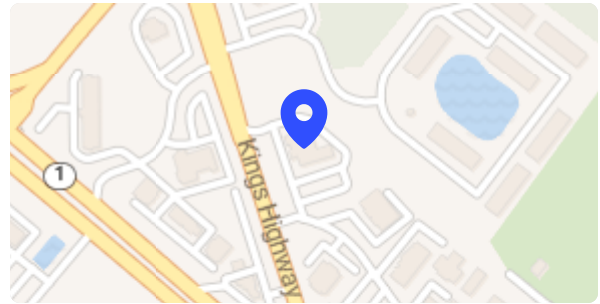
Visitation

Monday, January 12, 2026

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-Atkins-Lodge Chapel

16961 Kings Highway, Lewes DE 19958



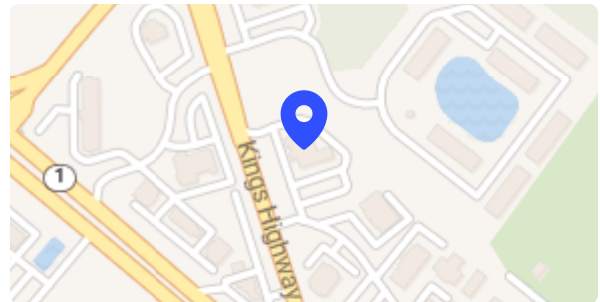
Funeral Service

Monday, January 12, 2026

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM ET

Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-Atkins-Lodge Chapel

16961 Kings Highway, Lewes DE 19958



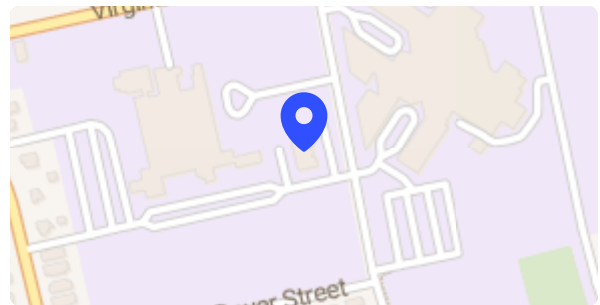
Interment

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM ET

Odd Fellows Cemetery, Seaford

Stein Highway & Market Street, Seaford DE





Tribute Wall

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Bill Carroll posted:

I am so very sorry for your loss. Ms. Clifton had an unforgettable impact on my life. She was my English teacher from sixth through eighth grade, and I can still hear her voice calling my name when it was my turn to read aloud: "All right, Bill!" She was, without question, the most influential teacher I ever had. What other sixth grader was learning the six elements of classical tragedy or reading *The Crucible*? We were—because she knew what we were capable of. I struggled endlessly with diagramming sentences, but her patience never wavered. She taught me how to do it, and in the process she pulled out the creative writer inside me. Nearly fifty years later, her words of wisdom still echo in my mind. Her flair for the dramatic held me in awe, and her honesty—telling me when my work was great and when it was, quite frankly, junk—made me better. I credit every success I have had as a writer directly to her. Ms. Clifton shaped who I became, and her influence remains one of the greatest gifts of my life.

April 8 at 3:47 PM



Kurt Winkler shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



January 22 at 7:07 PM



Kurt Winkler posted:

Ms. Clifton taught English and directed class plays at The Country School for many years. She taught her 7th and 8th graders to 'punch above their weight class,' with students reading books such as "*The Crucible*," "*One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*," and "*An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge*." She taught the complete method for writing a 30-page research paper—from the outline, research notes, and box of index cards to the drafts and revisions. In this photo from 1977, Ms. Clifton conducts the start of a Pinewood Derby event, where students made and raced their own wooden cars. R.I.P. to a stellar woman, teacher, and director. Submitted to The Country School (Easton, MD) Facebook page by Holly Thompson, an early student of Miss Clifton

January 22 at 6:55 PM



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Kurt Winkler posted:

My fondest memory of Jane is our conversation with her cuddled up on our couch talking about her dogs and cat and how much she enjoyed them. She was so happy when she was talking to fellow animal lovers. At that point we had an old dog and she understood just what that was all about. When we finished talking she invited us to come visit with Kurt and her in Seaford and Lewes... but she did love that sweet spot in Lewes! ❤️ I wish that I had experienced her in the classroom teaching because she was passionate about the written and spoken word and theatre. Passion makes that love contagious. Through my eyes, Jane was a tough gal. She enjoyed the outdoors, and cycled more than I would even dream of doing. She fought like a trooper to get back on that bike, or any bike that would have wheels going round. I also remember how often she welcomed us to visit again, and checked to make sure that Kurt was close by or would be right back. Jane loved her people and collected people and animals as family. Kurt, like his Dad, Virgil, was very dedicated to her care and comfort for the last years. Jane was fortunate to have a lot of awesome caregivers that gave her love and good care. One of my last fun memories was Jane and Kurt, Joe and I all crammed in the tiny camper eating take out, because that was all we could figure out under the circumstances. She was smiling, upbeat, warmed with a knit cap, and was a trooper once again. ❤️ Submitted by Annie Winkler Beauchemin

January 22 at 6:50 PM



Cathy Mccallister posted:

Kurt, we are so sorry for Jane's passing. She was a kind soul and an intricate part of 33130 Village Loop; every one knew & loved her. Your care & devotion to her the past 3 years clearly demonstrates the love you two shared. We are sorry we could not be there for the services today but please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.

January 12 at 4:41 PM



Donna Hugues posted:

Jane was an Amazing and intelligent woman. I will forever cherish the memories of our talks when we visited each other. Your kindness will be missed by everyone who knew you. Dochas and I will miss you greatly! Rest in peace, knowing you were so deeply loved.

January 11 at 11:36 AM



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Cindy Orban posted:

Jane Clifton was simply brilliant! A conversation with her was an education in itself. Her unbounded and enthusiastic love for teaching, theatre, reading, and learning, was only surpassed by her devotion to her students. I treasure the lunches, dinners, and conversations we shared in Lewes as she and Kurt welcomed us to their home. Whatever Jane did, she gave herself 110%, sharing her travel experiences, showering her animals with attention, or riding her bike. A bright light is no longer with us, but she and her friendship will always have a place in my heart. Cindy Orban

December 31 at 4:01 PM



Lynn Amaty lit a candle in honor of Susan.

Dear Kurt -I am so sorry for your loss. Jane was such a dear, sweet soul. No doubt she has already earned her wings! You are in my prayers. Lynn Amaty, Seaford

December 31 at 10:09 AM



Anonymous sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Clifton family.

December 30 at 9:09 PM





Media

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Kurt Winkler shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 22 at 7:07 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Susan by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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