



Denise Sherman

December 24, 2021

Denise (Donnelly) Sherman, 72, passed away on December 24, 2021 at her home in Tenafly, NJ. She was born on February 6, 1949 in Jersey City to John and Marjorie Donnelly.

Denise grew up in Jersey City, NJ. She graduated from Academy of St. Aloysius in 1966. After high school, she attended Jersey City State College (now New Jersey City University) from 1966-1970, where she received her bachelor's degree in education. Denise began her teaching career in special education in Jersey City before moving to Tenafly, NJ in 1977 to raise her family. Later, a substitute teaching job would open into an impactful 28 year tenure in the Teaneck Public School District as a math and science educator and guidance counselor. She also received a masters degree in guidance and counseling from Jersey City State College. Denise retired in 2013.

Denise was married to Stan Sherman, who predeceased her on November 26, 2020. Denise and Stan were happily married for more than 30 years.

When not working, Denise was always at engaged in creative home craft and improvement projects; she was a voracious reader.

Denise is survived by her sons Daniel Catlaw and Thomas Catlaw; sister Joan Donnelly, brother-in-law, Thomas O'Leary, niece, Kelly Marshall, nephew John O'Leary, and grand-niece, Kayla Marshall; her brother John Donnelly; step-son Peter Sherman; daughters-in-law, Suzanne Fallender, Wendy Plaum-Sweet, and Paula Sherman; and grandchildren, Michael, Marissa, and Madeline Sherman. Her step-son Mark Sherman passed away in 2010.

A private memorial will be held. The family requests that condolences and remembrances of Denise be shared on the online Barrett Leber Funeral Home tribute page. Memorial donations be made to Friends of the Tenafly Public Library (www.tenaflylibrary.org).

Tribute Wall



“ *My 6th grade teacher Mrs. Catlaw is the reason that I am an accomplished science instructor today (doctorate in education)..my only regret is not reaching out to her sooner to tell her the impact that she made on my life! I tell my students, colleagues, and now my son about her and the fond memories that I have from her classroom.*



Renee Renee - July 25, 2024 at 07:59 PM

KB

“ *Denise and I were colleagues at Hawthorne School in Teaneck. She was a lovely person, who cared deeply for her students. She went out of her way to help and support each child as an individual. I remember her kindness towards me, as well. When I was torn about making a decision to purchase a new car, she gave me a lapel button that read, "Don't postpone joy!" I bought the car; she was right.*

My sincere condolences go out to her family and close friends. I know he loss will be felt deeply.

Ken Bratspies

Ken Bratspies - January 09, 2022 at 09:07 AM

CS

“ My deepest sympathy to the family of Denise. We were best friends in high school and I always remember having fun at Prep dances, walking down her block to get to the Montgomery St. bus. We had intentions to get together, but the distance was far and we never made a plan. Life gets in the way sometimes. Peace and prayers from Cheryl Ciotti Spillane

Cheryl Ciotti Spillane - January 05, 2022 at 11:22 PM

SM

“ Denise was an amazing friend and colleague. I will never forget how she spent hours helping me create BF's schedule when we converted from Sasi to Skyward. Anytime I needed help understanding an instructional process, she was there ready to assist. I could always count on her for anything. I will miss you dearly my friend. My condolences and deepest sympathy to her family.



Sandy Muro - January 05, 2022 at 08:45 AM

DS

“ Denise was a helpful colleague and team member at Ben Franklin Middle School for years. She took a lot of pride in her work and showed great care for students' well being. Very proud of her sons, she routinely shared their accomplishments with her coworkers. I am very sorry for your loss.

Diana Spain - December 30, 2021 at 11:20 AM

KY

“ Dear cousin hope you are at peace. You were a beautiful girl, you were my confirmation sponsor and I loved your dry sense of humor. Keep an eye on us all will you?

Karen yates - December 29, 2021 at 09:12 AM

TW

“ I have been hearing so many great things about Denise Sherman. Our colleagues at Benjamin Franklin Middle School love her and I feel their love, admiration, and respect for her. I am sorry for this loss and pray her family, friends, students, and colleagues find the necessary strength to align the great times, lessons, examples, and memories to cement her legacy. May she rest in peace.

Terrence Williams - December 28, 2021 at 09:03 PM

VL

“ Denise was a great counselor and colleague. She was a fashionista who lit up any room she walked in. She will be missed. My condolences and deepest sympathy to her family.
-Vanessa

Vanessa Lospalluto - December 28, 2021 at 04:36 PM

TM

“ I'm very sorry to hear of Denise's passing and send prayers of comfort to her family.

Tim McGovern

Tim McGovern - December 28, 2021 at 02:27 PM

ST

“ Denise had the best sense of humor! She will always make me laugh at work. She was a wonderful co-worker at BF. She was actually apart of the interview committee when I was hired at Teaneck. I'll never forget her charm, wit and fashionable style. She will always be remembered. Thoughts and prayers for her family and friends during this difficult time. ❤️🙏
-Shena

Shena Thomas - December 28, 2021 at 12:50 PM

AG

“ Denise was a wonderful teacher and mentor. I remember that she was the teacher everyone wanted and hoped to get growing up. She not only had such a great rapport with students, but she was incredibly vivacious and drew others to her. Fast forward 12 years and I had the pleasure to work with her as a colleague while at BFMS. I remember her being still as fashionable and personable as ever. When I think back to those days I can clearly recall the huge smile that lit up her face and her incredible sense of humor. Her love for her sons and her husband Stan was ever present and she always spoke of them so highly. Denise was a wonderful teacher and an even more incredible person. She will truly be missed and my thoughts and prayers go out to her family during this truly difficult time.

Anitha Giannikos - December 28, 2021 at 12:48 PM

CG

“ I am so sad to hear about Denise’s passing. Denise was such a wonderful mentor to me during the beginning of my teaching career at BFMS. She welcomed me with open arms and made me feel like BF was home. She guided me through the best and toughest times not only with teaching but also throughout life. I will miss her dearly.

Concetta Gonzalez - December 28, 2021 at 12:09 PM

KM

“ Heartbroken for this loss to our BFMS Family. Denise you will always be dear to my heart. She was on the panel for my hiring committee for a career that changed me and my family’s life. She saw something in me before I could see it for myself in the classroom. She was extremely inspiring to my colleagues, students, and me personally in daily lessons, care for all students, and in her incredible fashion approach! Planning her retirement party was a special memory where we saw how much she loved and was loved, especially by Stan and her sons. (((Hugs))) and prayers to all.

Kelly Misol-Kulig - December 28, 2021 at 08:53 AM

CC

“ I’m so sad to hear that Denise passed. When I first started teaching at BFMS 22 years ago, she welcomed me with open arms. She was always there whenever needed and always had the right things to say. I always remembered complimenting her on her shoes, bags, clothes, and all of her beautiful jewelry. She will be missed. My prayers and condolences to her beautiful family. Rest In Peace Denise... 💔

Claudia Califano - December 27, 2021 at 08:18 PM

DC

“ I am so sorry to hear about Denise’s passing. When I started as a teacher 17 years ago, she was one of the first people to welcome me to Benjamin Franklin Middle School. Denise was an excellent guidance counselor to our students and always had a great time with every one at our annual holiday party. I truly looked up to her as a mentor and will always remember talking to her about shopping and our families. Denise loved her sons and Stan so much. I will always hold a special place for her in my heart! Sending my deepest condolences to her family.

-Danielle Cata

Danielle Cata - December 27, 2021 at 06:52 PM

JG

“ Denise was so helpful to me when I started teaching in Teaneck. She was a wonderful mentor and supportive friend. She loved teaching and was well loved by so many students. She loved her sons beyond measure and always shared stories of their accomplishments with such pride. She had a great impact on many people. Denise was one of a kind, and I am so sorry to hear she has passed away.

Jessie Gorant

Jessie Gorant - December 27, 2021 at 06:26 PM

DC

I am so sorry to hear about Denise's passing. When I started as a teacher 17 years ago, she was one of the first people to welcome me to Benjamin Franklin Middle School. Denise was an excellent guidance counselor to our students and always had a great time with every one at our annual holiday party. I truly looked up to her as a mentor and will always remember talking to her about shopping and our families. Denise loved her sons and Stan so much. I will always hold a special place for her in my heart! Sending my deepest condolences to her family.

-Danielle Cata

Danielle Cata - December 27, 2021 at 06:47 PM

BP

I first met Denise when I began teaching at BF 22 years ago. She was a great source of support during those early years. Often her advice was short, simple and to the point. The type of advice that makes you wonder why you didn't think of it before. She always made time for a quick chat to just catch up and was always available to support students and teachers. I mentioned this before when her husband Stan passed away, but I will mention it again- they were a beautiful couple to watch on the dance floor. To her family, children and grandchildren, my deepest sympathy on such a profound loss. Denise loved talking about all of you and she did so with such pride. May you have fond memories of her and may the memories give you comfort now and always.

Bel Petrus - December 27, 2021 at 07:34 PM

BP

Denise and I were teacher colleagues in Teaneck and I always admired her for her skill and ability in reaching students. When I arrived at BF, Denise was one of the first to welcome me. I like to think that we formed a partnership to advocate for the students there. There was nothing too much to ask of Denise for the good of the BF students or staff. She was a fierce advocate for our kids and an amazing resource for the school district. Her retirement, although well deserved, was a loss. Sometimes positions can be filled but the people who had them cannot be replaced. That was true in Denise's case. Sincere condolences to her beloved family.

Barbara Pinsak - December 27, 2021 at 08:42 PM

BC

I am so sorry to hear of Denise's passing. She was my mentor during my first few years of being a school counselor when I transitioned from the college environment. She was an integral part of a two person guiding force for me during those early years when I wasn't always sure of myself. She believed in me and that meant a lot to me. She was professional and patient and such a strong advocate for her students. Until this day, when I am working with a particularly tough situation, I sometimes think back on how Denise might have handled the situation. I moved on from our district about 6 years ago, but used to email her on her birthday in the years following her retirement and was actually thinking about her a few days ago as I reflected on how I am now in the same mentoring role for my younger colleagues. It is my way of paying forward what Denise and others provided for me. I know how much Denise loved her family and I extend my sincerest condolences to them.

Brian Clyburn - December 27, 2021 at 11:46 PM

HM

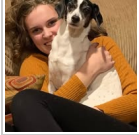
Denise was a great advocate for her students at BF. My experiences of working with her at Bf doing community service, book club, etc. showed me her sincerity and her focus for the well being of her students and their families. She would attend many school events with Stan to support her colleagues and students. I feel lucky to be her colleague and learn things from her. My deepest condolences for her family and prayers for her soul to be at peace.
Hina Mehta

Hina Mehta - December 28, 2021 at 09:32 AM

SD

Both of my children were so fortunate to have Denise as their sixth grade teacher. They have wonderful memories of the kindness she showed them and the creative and exciting lessons she taught. As a BF colleague, she became an invaluable support to me with daily check-ins and chats. I hope your memories give you strength. She will always live in your hearts.

Susan Daniels - December 28, 2021 at 12:22 PM



“ *Denise was such an amazing teacher, counselor, and friend. I worked with her in Teaneck for many years and will miss her terribly. My condolences to her family for this great loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.*

Kathy Crimmins

Katherine Crimmins - December 27, 2021 at 06:22 PM

JD

“ *I recall Denice as a sweet and beautiful teenager and young adult. Thereafter, we lost contact with each other. But my memory of that beautiful young lady remains.*

Uncle Joe Dowd

Joe Dowd - December 27, 2021 at 06:09 PM