



## Mrs. Barbara Jean Sobzak

January 20, 2022

“For we put the thought of all that we love into all that we make.” –Tolkien

Barbara Jean Sobzak was a creative, loving soul who lived a life full of adventure, joy, laughter, and love. On her own she was a powerful spirit, who sought to experience all life had to offer, but when she met her soulmate of 65 years, Raymond, while dancing the night away, the universe got a little brighter. Partners on the dance floor, and partners in life, their story was a shining example of a life well lived. But as with all such tales, we must begin at the beginning.

Barbara was an amazing woman, who was motivated from a young age and always striving to learn more. From telephone operator to pediatric nurse, to co-owner of her own printing business, she was always moving forward on her journey regardless of where she was in life, even going back to college in her 60's to get an accounting degree to help with the printing business finances. Nothing stood in her way. An active member of the Beta Sigma Phi sorority throughout her life, she attained the Order of the Rose, and held a Preceptor degree, continuing her work with her sisters even later in life.

Lest you think that such a radiant soul could be contained to such a singular focus, you need only look to her artistic abilities to fully understand the joy she brought to the world around her. A musician of note, mastering the lap steel

guitar and playing at the New York World's Fair, as well as becoming a skillful organist and leader of the choir, Barbara brought joy to her life and to the lives of others through her love of music. Sharing her gift with friends and family whenever the opportunity presented itself, but her art was not limited to just music. An amazing seamstress, stained glass artist and creative soul, Barbara sought to make the world a little brighter by sharing her passion and her art.

For most that would be a legacy worthy of song, but with Raymond at her side Barbara went even further, exploring all the corners of the globe, and embodying the phrase, "not all those who wander are lost". No matter where the road took them, they made life-long friends and had amazing adventures which she shared with her family, inspiring them to see and experience all that the world had to offer. Her spark shone ever brighter through the people she touched and those she inspired to live life to its fullest.

While she was many things, Barbara first and foremost was always there for family and friends, offering unconditional love and support whenever they needed it. She was proud to be a loving partner, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, inspiring her family through her actions and the example she set for those she touched. Barbara is survived by her loyal companion BeBe, sisters Jane Leary, Carol Heron, her brother Raymond Normandeau, her children Carol Velez (Lou) and Terry Sobzak (Lorrie); grandchildren Michelle Waldron (Aaron), Marco Diaz (Tammy), Jason Sobzak (Amy), Laci Hammond (Lyle), and Trey Sobzak; great-grandchildren Ava and Anna Sobzak, Melody (Matt) and Maximus Diaz; as well as many loving extended family and many friends around the globe. She will be sorely missed but she will continue to inspire those she touched to seek out all life has to offer.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, February 5 at 4:00 P.M. at Hopewell Funeral Home, 6005 South County Road 39, Plant City, where the family will receive friends beginning at 3:00 P.M. Graveside committal to follow at

Hopewell Memorial Gardens. For those unable to attend, the service will be live-streamed at [Facebook.com/HopewellFuneral](https://www.facebook.com/HopewellFuneral). Expressions of condolence at [HopewellFuneral.com](https://www.HopewellFuneral.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Hopewell Memorial Gardens

6005 County Road 39 South  
Plant City, FL 33567  
(813) 737-3128  
office@hopewellfuneral.com  
<https://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 5. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Hopewell Funeral Home  
6005 County Road 39 South  
Plant City, FL 33567  
(813) 737-3128  
office@hopewellfuneral.com  
<http://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

## Live-Streamed Service

FEB 5. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Facebook.com/HopewellFuneral  
facebook.com/hopewellfuneral  
<http://facebook.com/hopewellfuneral>

## Memorial Service

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FEB 5. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Hopewell Funeral Home  
6005 County Road 39 South  
Plant City, FL 33567  
(813) 737-3128  
[office@hopewellfuneral.com](mailto:office@hopewellfuneral.com)  
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# Tribute Wall



“ Hopewell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Barbara Jean Sobzak



Hopewell Funeral Home - February 04, 2022 at 01:07 PM

CA

*Missing my amazing, super talented and loved women by her family friends. It is hard to not be waking you up each day or getting you in bed and kissing you goodnight each night. Love you Mom*

Carol - February 09, 2022 at 07:15 PM

CV

*Missing you mom everyday, I living with us was a blessing and also makes your passing harder. I still get up and look to your room to see if you are up or not. your touch light comes on in the rain and I go in and shut it off and I look at it as a sign. I come home and think in my head cant wait to tell you what is going on during the day like we use to. I know you are happier now with dad and family. hope at some point to see you again. Love you Mom. I found the flowers you like and are planting them in your butterflies garden. Love and Miss you and Dad*

Carol Velez - April 27, 2022 at 11:57 AM

CM

“ Carol & Lou - BeBe, Daisy and Marty purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mrs. Barbara Jean Sobzak.



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**Carol & Lou - BeBe, Daisy and Marty** - April 29, 2022 at 03:41 PM



“ Brad Normandeau purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Barbara Jean Sobzak.



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**Brad Normandeau** - February 04, 2022 at 07:44 PM



“ I have such fond memories of my time spent while on summer vacations as a kid, with Auntie Barb and Uncle Ray, at their place in Plant City, FL. You were always such a positive spirit Auntie Barb, you will indeed be missed by many. I remember when you and Uncle Ray came all the way up to Tyndall Air Force Base, must have been around 1992 or 1993, to watch me sing at an event held there, when I was just a young man. Reading through your bio, I can see that you made the very most out of life. It appears that you fully committed to all that you set your mind to. God will be glad to have you home, singing in the Angels choir. Love, Brad Normandeau & family



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**Brad Normandeau** - February 04, 2022 at 07:33 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mrs. Barbara Jean Sobzak.*



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February 04, 2022 at 03:10 PM

CA

“ I’m writing in Barb’s memory page to say when we were all growing up in Leeds, being my oldest sister by almost 9 years and a lot wiser than me, we were in very different places socially for sure. When she married Ray, I was 12. I do of course remember all the music in our home, and Barb teaching us how to dance, especially the jitterbug, but everything else also. When she got married, she lived in Holyoke and Springfield, we didn’t see much of them, being newlyweds and building their life together. However, when they were thinking of looking for a business in Florida, they invited myself and our brother Ray to go with them. I was 14 and Ray was 12 1/2 at the time. Of course we were thrilled and had a great trip. We stayed with our grandmother and aunt who lived on Davis Island in Florida, (but that’s another story). Lol. All in all we had a great time and although they didn’t find what they were looking for, they did eventually move there. They found good positions until they decided to start a printing business out of their garage until they bought a building. It was a very successful business until they retired . Even though they worked hard and together they raised their 2 children , she still did stained glass, worked with tiles and played music, they lived in a lovely home and still traveled. When we would go to visit, they always welcomed us all with open arms. Even though most of the time we brought if not all our kids, at least some of them. I believe Barb had a lot of talents that she never flaunted, but used to share with all around her. Unfortunately we didn’t see one another as often as we would have liked, but we all know, life gets in the way.

When her husband Ray passed, Barb still was on an adventure. She moved to Oregon to be close to her daughter, Carol Gay and her husband Lou. She adopted an adorable dog, BeBe, who Carol has agreed to love and keep. They all moved to North Carolina a few years ago and still did some serious traveling. They went back for a visit to Oregon, to Georgia and to Maine for this Christmas to be with Barbs granddaughter Michele and her husband Aaron. So as much as I’ll miss her, I know she made the most out of life and she was a force to be reckoned with.

Keep up the good work in Heaven Barb, and say Hi to Ray, Steve

*and Mom and Dad for us.  
Love you,  
Carol*

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**Carol** - February 04, 2022 at 10:26 AM

**BN**

*Very sorry for your loss Aunt Carol, hugs from South Texas.*

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**Brad Normandeau** - February 05, 2022 at 08:58 AM



“ *Touching Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Barbara Jean Sobzak.*



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February 03, 2022 at 01:50 PM

**TF**

“ *The Heon family and Leary family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mrs. Barbara Jean Sobzak.*



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**The Heon family and Leary family** - February 02, 2022 at 02:37 PM

JL

“ Hi I am Barb's sister Jane,  
I remember Barb teaching me how to dance especially the jitterbug..  
On Sunday morning after church we would put on some records  
and dance. We had a lot of fun. She loved to dance and she and  
Ray enjoyed dancing together and were very good at it and  
enjoyable to watch. I am told when I was little I played pranks on her  
which she didn't like very much!! I remember her playing the electric  
guitar and her singing in the choir at the church in Leeds and at  
home. She had a beautiful voice. I especially loved hearing her sing  
Oh Holy Night at Christmastime. I and my family enjoyed our trips to  
Florida , at their house, in their pool and with them at Cocoa Beach.  
Barb I will miss you but know you  
are with Ray again and at peace with God. Love you Janie

*To the Family, I am so sorry for your loss. I send my deepest  
sympathy to all of you and may her soul rest in peace. Love Jane*

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**Jane Leary** - February 01, 2022 at 02:20 PM

BN

*Very sorry for your loss Auntie Jane. Sending hugs from San Antonio,  
TX.*

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**Brad Normandeau** - February 05, 2022 at 09:01 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of  
Mrs. Barbara Jean Sobzak.*

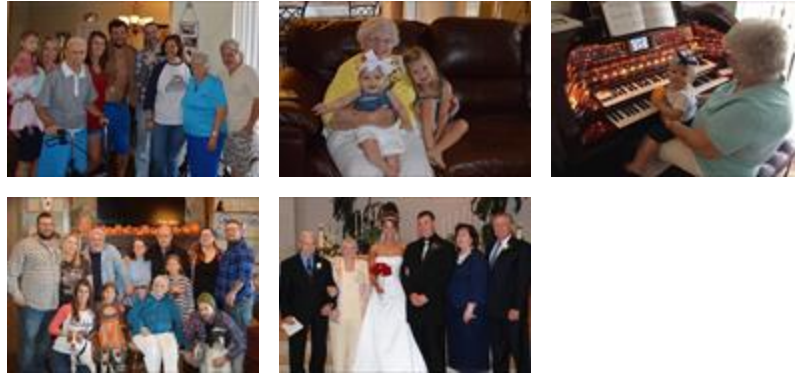


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February 01, 2022 at 01:24 PM

AS

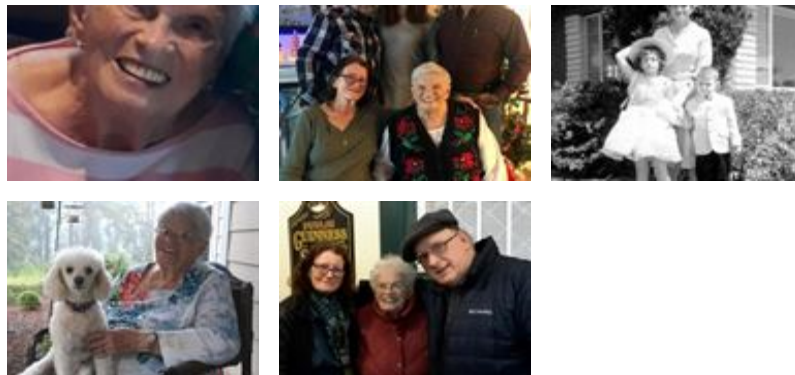
“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Amy Sobzak - January 31, 2022 at 05:29 PM



“ 45 files added to the album Life Tributes



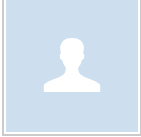
Hopewell Funeral Home - January 31, 2022 at 01:38 PM



“ Sunset Wreath was purchased for the family of Mrs. Barbara Jean Sobzak.



January 30, 2022 at 03:38 PM



“ *Ringed by Love was purchased for the family of Mrs. Barbara Jean Sobzak.*



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January 30, 2022 at 03:36 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mrs. Barbara Jean Sobzak.*



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January 30, 2022 at 03:32 PM