

## An Obituary ~ Jan Kalb (Mary Jeanne Kalb)

Bedford, MA ~ January 28, 2019



*Mary Jeanne 'Jan' Kalb*

Jan Kalb (Mary Jeanne Kalb) passed away at home on January 28, 2019 at the age of 92.

Mother of Laura Kalb and Gene Kalb, both of Bedford MA. Mother-in-law of Linda Pollitz and Jerry Nathanson; grandmother of Mary Kalb and AJ Nathanson.

Often referred to as the patron saint of all things feathered and furry, Jan has saved countless cats (794), birds (234), dogs (6),

and even woodchucks (2) during her life.

When she was not saving cats, she was busy being a social worker, beginning in New York City in the 1950s. After raising a family she returned to social work in Massachusetts working in Child Protective Services and then at the Fernald School in Waltham until her retirement in the early 1990s.

Jan was married to the late Jonah Kalb for 57 years, both graduates of Oberlin College. She then went on to get her Masters in Social Work from Columbia University.

Jan was never a big fan of the word “can’t”. She was a strong advocate for children and helped draft Chapter 766, a landmark Massachusetts Special Education law in the 1970s. She also advocated for cats, fighting the MSCPA on how to best deal with feral cat colonies. Jan was a quiet but determined warrior in many causes, and always got more accomplished than most thought possible.

A memorial service will be held June 1, 2019 at 2 pm at the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, 75 The Great Road, Bedford MA.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations be made to [Animal Umbrella](#), P.O. Box 2675 - Acton, MA 01720-6675.