

Sandra Rixen, 43

Nov. 29, 1950 - Oct. 31, 2006

HUDSON, WI — Sandy was born Nov. 29, 1950, in Atlantic, to Alvin L. and Ruby M. (Carlson) Christensen of Elk Horn where she attended the Elk Horn Community Schools graduating in 1969. She had three older sisters, Carolyn, who died in infancy; Ruthie (Frank) Secord of Fort Madison; and Rosalie (Jack) Petersen of Avoca (deceased); nieces and a nephew. She went on to attend the University of Northern Iowa; Cedar Falls graduating from the Home Economics Department in 1973 with a B.A. in Interior Design.

While at UNI Sandy married Steven C. Rixen of Harlan Jan. 23, 1971. After graduation she was employed in her chosen field of Interior Design at various locations in the Twin Cities area of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Unfortunately she became allergically sensitized to the chemicals used in processing the materials used in furniture, floor and wall coverings and had to withdraw from working in the field. She started S. Rixen Designs and produced hand-painted china until becoming sensitized to the paint thinners and oils, then produced wooden toys and jewelry boxes with natural finishes, and later had an E-Bay store, Primrose Cottage Collectibles, specializing in Antique and Unique glassware, pottery and china, pursuing this endeavor until just shortly before her death. Sandy and Steve moved to the Hudson, WI area in late 1984. Sandy and Steve had two sons, Matthew in 1975 and Kristofor in 1977, both born in St. Paul. Matthew and his wife Laura J. (Miller) live in Ridgeland, WI and had a daughter Elena July 30, 2006. Grandma Sandy had been awaiting the birth and enjoyed many visits during the three months they had together. She died from complications of a six-year struggle with cancer after a short admittance to the Hudson Community Hospital at age 43.

A private family gathering will be held this month to celebrate Sandy's life and work. A Memorial Tea for friends and family is being planned for next Spring, her favorite time of the year, when the wildflowers will be in bloom and the birds will return to the meadow surrounding the house she and Steve designed and built in the town of Hudson. Memorial date and time will be announced.

