



## John Wanner

April 26, 1941 - December 18, 2024

John Edgar Wanner, 83, retired social worker, of Chicago, Beverly Shores, Indiana and Edgewater, Maryland, passed away December 18, 2024 at Northwest Health - Porter hospital in Valparaiso, Indiana.

Born and raised on a farm outside of Almena, Wisconsin, John graduated from Cumberland High School and was the first born of four children. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Social Work from Augsburg University in Minneapolis, MN and his Master's in Social Work from the University of Chicago.

It was while at the University of Chicago that he fell in love with the city and never left. John spent the majority of his career in mental health providing support and education to youth and teens at Riveredge Hospital in Forest Park. It was there that he met his core group of lifelong friends and a beautiful occupational therapist named Jean, who he married in 1980.

Family and friends were the focus of John's life. He was the supportive and loving father of Jason Brent (Melissa) and the late Mark John Wanner. "Papa John" was a devoted and proud grandpa to his three grandchildren, Blake John, Katherine Ann, and Grant Jason, who worshiped and adored him. He was a dedicated friend, an engaging conversationalist, an avid reader (he joined a five-year course on the Great Classics at the University of Chicago),

and never missed his news shows.

Over the past eighteen years, John enjoyed splitting his time between his home in Beverly Shores and his home two blocks from his son's family in Edgewater, Maryland. John immersed himself in book studies and mens' groups at his churches in Indiana and Maryland. Fellow church members cherished his friendship and admired how he lived out his many values: compassion for others, love of family, friends, and country, and his utmost integrity.

Loving and devoted husband and life partner of 44 years to Jean Wanner (nee Nosker).

Brother of George (Connie) and Jim (Louise) Wanner and the late Jeanne (Dennis) Morreim. Son of the late Edgar J. and Irene M. (nee Neby) Wanner.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his honor to support the training of mental health professionals at the University of Chicago-Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice (School Scholarship and Student Support Fund) (<https://alumniandfriends.uchicago.edu/s/giving>)

Memorial gathering and visitation with family and friends will be held on Monday, December 30, from 10-11am with a memorial service to follow at 11am at First Unitarian Church of NW Indiana, 497 Main St, Hobart, IN 46342. Luncheon at the church will follow services.

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-318-1305 or [www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com](http://www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

DEC 30. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

First Unitarian Church of Northwest Indiana  
497 Main Street  
Hobart, IN 46342

*Memorial gathering and visitation with family and friends will be held on Monday, December 30, from 10-11am with a memorial service to follow at 11am.*

# Tribute Wall

HA

“ *My deepest condolences to John's family on the loss of John. I had the great gift of John and Jean's friendship as their neighbor for many years in Beverly Shores. He was an enormously kind and wonderful friend, and I am so grateful for the honor of knowing him.*

heather aranyi - July 16, 2025 at 12:25 AM

JJ

“ *John & I became friends at Brightview in Edgewater, MD. My folks were there so I'd go daily. Loved my time w John & Jean. John seemed to be warning me of his final struggle last I saw him. I will miss you so my friend.*

jeff Johnson - January 15, 2025 at 05:31 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Diane Yost - December 23, 2024 at 07:03 PM



*One of many Thanksvings we shared together. John was a good and loyal friend with heaps of integrity. I cannot imagine that holiday without him.*

Diane Yost - December 23, 2024 at 07:06 PM

RL

*I learned to know John when he and his family lived in Oak Park and attended United Lutheran Church. Among the things I appreciated about John was that he was the best listener I had ever encountered. He did not interrupt, something rare nowadays when it seems that everyone is way too eager to get his or her comments out there for all to hear.*

*After John left Oak Park he still saw a dentist nearby, and when he came into town for the dentist he would usually stop by for lunch or just some good catching up.*

*He would tell me what his son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren were up, and it was clear he thought the world of them.*

*--Rich Liefer*

---

**Rich Liefer** - December 24, 2024 at 01:03 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



---

**Team Inclusive Funeral Care** - December 21, 2024 at 09:36 PM

WK

*I first met John 45 years ago, when he was the director of the social work department. At that time, the department consisted of a number of disparate views. But John's strength has always been in bringing people together. Since then, we developed a close relationship. With his course in the great books, we got involved in heated discussions on how many angels could fit on the head of a pin. We were there in good and difficult times in our lives. We shared times at the art institute and walks on the beach. Through his friends and his work, John impacted positively the lives of so many people. John, you will be missed. I am a better person because of our friendship. Werner Kiuntke*

---

**Werner Kiuntke** - December 26, 2024 at 09:12 PM



*We just heard about John's passing today. John and Jean were our neighbors in Beverly Shores for a decade. They were like grandparents to our daughter Alicia. This is a very sad day in our household. John was such a wonderful person and like an older brother. We were hoping to visit him today in Beverly Shores when we saw this online. Heather and I will miss you very much! He was such a wonderful soul. We were lucky to know him.*

---

**Bob Aranyi** - July 15, 2025 at 11:46 PM