



Renate Mehanna

October 18, 1944 - April 10, 2021

Renate Mehanna, 76, St. Augustine, died peacefully on April 10, 2021 with her family by her side. Born in Hirschau, Germany, daughter of the late Herbert and Ilse Haase, she first came to New York City in 1970 where she met her husband. John and Renate Mehanna established their family in Cumberland, MD. Later she moved to Charlottesville, VA for a few years and eventually retired to The Villages, FL. Renate led a very active life and lived every day to the fullest. Her life was always filled with family, friends, music, dancing, and travelling. She loved to walk on the beach to collect seashells or visit with the manatees. Renate also knew no strangers and would engage in conversation with anyone wherever she went. She loved children; they all called her Omi "Grandmother in German" and she spent her last years actively supporting the SoZo children of the Ocala forest. Most dear to her were her family and her grandchildren.

A visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. Friday April 16, 2021 at St. Johns Family Funeral Home.

Funeral services will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday April 17, 2021 at St. Johns Family Funeral Home.

Flowers are gratefully declined and those wishing may make a contribution in her memory to Friends of the Sozo Kids where a scholarship in her honor is

being established. (<https://www.FriendsOfSoZoKids.com>)

She is survived by her husband of 49 years, John N Mehanna, St. Augustine; children, Lara Mehanna (Jimmy Herrera), Jersey City, NJ, Vanessa Ward (Von), Ruckersville, VA, Tanya Sturtz (John), Keene, NH, Maya Mehanna (Albert Clearo), St. Augustine, John R Mehanna, Orlando; brother, Peter Haase, Busom, Germany; sister, Ursula Hermanussen, Hamburg, Germany; and 7 grandchildren, Lukas, Jackson, Kameron, Sullivan, Mariam, Kyle, and Matthew. Renate was preceded in death by her sister Inge Ohnesorge of Bad Bevensen, Germany.

St. Johns Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

For those not able to attend services will be live streamed. Click the link:
<https://iframe.dacast.com/b/156599/c/549019>

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 16. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

ST JOHNS FAMILY FUNERAL HOME
385 State Rd 207
St. Augustine, FL 32084

Funeral Service

APR 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Johns Family Funeral Home
385 SR 207
St. Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 824-1625
<https://www.stjohnsfamilyfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *St. Johns Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Renate Mehanna*



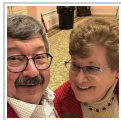
St. Johns Family Funeral Home - April 28, 2021 at 09:40 AM



“ *St. Johns Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Renate Mehanna*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - April 15, 2021 at 03:19 PM



Beautiful pictures and memories of a life well-lived.

Mary Russo - April 15, 2021 at 09:04 PM

BP

“ *Heaven is now an even happier place because our dear friend Renate’s spirit is there. She brought so much joy to so many of her friends. We have known John and Renate for about 10 years as friends and neighbors here in The Villages. We enjoyed parties, golf and celebrations of Oktoberfest and Christmas luncheons. There was never a time that was not filled with laughter. We shall always cherish these memories. Bless you and your beautiful family. With love,
M’Eve and Barry Passen*



Barry and M’Eve Passen - April 17, 2021 at 08:30 PM

SN

“ *Our deepest condolences go out to a remarkable family. "Omi" was a surrogate grandmother to my family, making moving to Charlottesville without any family feel less isolating. I truly do not have the words to express what a precious mother, grandmother, wife and woman she was. My family and I are truly lucky to have known her and will always be grateful for every memory. Love Shay, Carl and Victoria New*

Shay New - April 17, 2021 at 11:32 AM

PS

“ We have known Renate and John for about 10 years. It has been one of our biggest joys in moving to The Villages. We had many driveway conversations with Renate along with many invitations to their home. Always a great time. Her energy, infectious laugh, her love for family, friends and and those in need were number one in her life. No one lived life more than Renate and though she is gone much too soon she packed in a lot of living in her too short life. We love you Renate and you will be so missed.
Randy and Peggy Stertmeyer.



Peggy Stertmeyer - April 16, 2021 at 06:12 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Renate Mehanna.



April 16, 2021 at 03:16 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Renate Mehanna.*



April 16, 2021 at 03:10 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Renate Mehanna.*



April 16, 2021 at 11:09 AM



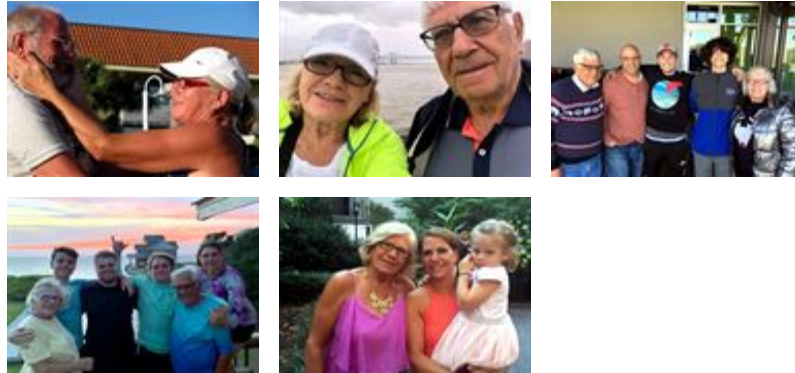
“ *Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Renate Mehanna.*



April 15, 2021 at 08:32 PM



“ 44 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - April 15, 2021 at 03:16 PM

LD

Prayers and heartfelt condolences to you all. ❤️ Larry Dickerson

Larry Dickerson - April 16, 2021 at 08:30 AM

TN

“ *Tania, Roberto, Sonia & Nik purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Renate Mehanna.*



Tania, Roberto, Sonia & Nik - April 15, 2021 at 02:29 PM

TR

“ *Tania, and Roberto purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Renate Mehanna.*



Tania, and Roberto - April 15, 2021 at 02:29 PM

LN

“ Love, Tania, Roberto, Sonia & Nik purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Renate Mehanna.



Love, Tania, Roberto, Sonia & Nik - April 15, 2021 at 02:29 PM

PB

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Pirkko Brusi-Lehtonen - April 15, 2021 at 01:16 PM

PB

“ I will always remember Renate's wonderful gentle soul. She will forever remain in our hearts. May she rest in peace.

We met in 1963 in Hamburg at her home and she came with me to Finland to visit mine. We became very close friends over the time like sisters. We stayed in touch until her death. We had plenty of adventures together in Germany, Finland, Lapland and the USA. I will cherish these memories as long as I shall live.

She was radiant, energetic and compassionate. Our friendship carried through the years of separation on two continents and busy family lives. It was always so easy to be together whenever we had a chance to meet.

We want to express our gratitude to John and the family for the kindest hospitality and warmth you shared with us during our visits at your home.

We wish you strength and courage to carry you through this time of sorrow. May the happy memories of Renate's natural charm be of help. ❤️

*Pirkko and Pekka Brusi-Lehtonen
Tampere, Finland*

P.S. I attach here two photos from the year 1963. The first is of Renate and her mother Ilse in Hamburg and the second is of us "sisters" behind a rhubarb leaf in my garden in Tampere.



Pirkko Brusi-Lehtonen - April 15, 2021 at 01:11 PM

CV

“ We mourn the loss of a very dear friend over the past 40 plus years. We shared many many happy times and warm memories of fun together with she and John while living in Cumberland and visiting each other when they moved away. Renate was a very warm, hospitable and loving woman whose door and arms were always open to friends and family. She will be sadly missed, but never forgotten! Our thoughts and prayers go out to John, Lara, Vanessa, Tanya, Maya, Jonathan and families.

Lovingly,

Clarence and Barbara Vincent

Clarence Vincent - April 15, 2021 at 12:29 PM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Renate Mehanna.



April 14, 2021 at 07:17 PM

“ Stell dir vor, du würdest am Ende auf all die Sekunden, Minuten, Stunden, Tage, Wochen, Monate und Jahre zurückblicken, all diese würden Bilder darstellen, ein ganzes Museum füllen. Wie würde es dort aussehen?

Wenn ich an Renate, für meine Familie und mich einfach liebevoll „Tante Renate“, denke, bin ich mir sicher, dass es vor allem gefüllt wäre mit Bildern voller Licht, Wärme, Liebe, Freundlichkeit, Herzlichkeit, tiefer Empathie, Mitmenschlichkeit, Großzügigkeit, unendlicher Gastfreundschaft, Neugier, tiefem Interesse an anderen Menschen, Einsatz für Menschen, die eher auf der Schatten als auf der Sonnenseite des Lebens stehen. Ich sehe einen Menschen, für den das Glas stets halb voll ist. Eine mutige junge Frau, die raus in die Welt zieht. Einen Menschen, der das Licht am Ende des Tunnels schon sieht, wenn du es noch nicht mal erahnst.

*Ich denke voller Dankbarkeit an jedes einzelne Wiedersehen hier in Norddeutschland zurück: an Peters 60. Geburtstag an der Nordsee, wo du deinen Enkeln Ebbe und Flut zeigen wolltest. An eine Hafensrundfahrt in Hamburg. An eine damals für mich völlig neue kulinarische Welt in einem libanesischen Restaurant an den Alsterarkaden in Hamburg. An schöne Nachmittage im Garten auf dem Eickhof, wo wir auf mein Abi angestoßen haben. Einen Nachmittag im Strandkorb auf Opas und Omas Terrasse. An „Opa Haases“ 100. Geburtstag, an welchem du ganz am Ende die wunderbare Idee hattest, noch ein Familienbild mit allen Kindern, Enkel*innen und Urenkel*innen zu machen. An einen Besuch bei „Uschi“ in Hamburg und ein dortiges intensives Gespräch mit dir und deiner Schwester, wofür ich unendlich dankbar bin. An die ausgelassenen Stunden zusammen, aber auch an das Teilen schwerer Stunden, die durch die heller und klarer wurden. An das gemeinsame Pflanzen einer Rose auf dem Grab unserer „Oma Inge“, deiner Schwester. An die gemeinsame Leidenschaft für Skandinavien (mit seinen „roten Schwedenhäusern“), die dich ganz besonders mit deinem Patenkind, meinem Vater, verband. Und an deine Liebe zu Hunden, welche ich mit dir teilte. Leider sind uns viel zu wenig gemeinsame Stunden vergönnt gewesen. So gern hätte ich dich einmal „auf der anderen Seite der Welt“ besucht. Aber wie*

*sagt man so schön: Es ist nicht wichtig, wie viel Zeit wir miteinander verbringen, sondern wie intensiv die Momente des Zusammenseins sind. Dafür bin ich dir, Renate, unendlich dankbar!!! Du hat mich in all deinem Tun, deinem Sein tief beeindruckt und mit geprägt, mich die Leichtigkeit und den Optimismus, die Offenheit und Zuversicht, die Neugier, das Zugehen auf Neues und Unbekanntes, die Hoffnung auf Friede und Liebe gelehrt, die uns hier im „alten Deutschland“ doch manchmal so verloren gegangen bzw. unbekannt zu sein scheint. Du warst mir eine gute Vertraute, ja, manchmal wie eine Wunschoma, ein Schutzengel – in Emails, Briefen, Karten und Chats. Durch dich habe ich so viel mehr über unsere Familie erfahren und verstehen dürfen. Wo auch immer ich dich erlebt habe, wie schwierig sich die Situation anfühlte, mit welchen Gedanken und Gefühlen man sich vor dem Wiedersehen mit dir auch herumgetragen hatte, am Ende vermochtest du es immer, wie von Zauberhand, etwas von deiner beeindruckenden weiten Seele und Gabe zu hinterlassen, selbst wenn du physisch nicht mehr anwesend warst: Ein Auge, ja Achtsamkeit und Wertschätzung für die kleinen, doch so großen Dinge des Lebens. Dankbarkeit, dir begegnet zu sein - einfach ein Gefühl von Friede, Unbeschwertheit, pure Lebensfreude, ein Glücksgefühl!
Danke liebe Renate, für alles, was du mich gelehrt hast, für dein Tun und Sein, dass du diese Welt ein Stück bunter, hoffnungs-, liebe- und friedvoller gemacht hast und hinterlässt! Danke für alles!!!
In meinem Herzen wirst du immer einen ganz besonderen Platz haben!
Ruhein Frieden! Unsere Gedanken sind auch bei deiner Familie!
Deine Esther mit den Ohnesorges (ganz besonders deinem Patenkind Martin mit Hanna sowie Hans-Walter/ „Hansi“ mit Elke)*

Esther - April 14, 2021 at 06:32 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Renate Mehanna.*



April 14, 2021 at 06:16 PM



“ *4 files added to the album Life Tributes*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - April 14, 2021 at 05:51 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Renate Mehanna.*



April 14, 2021 at 05:17 AM

LD

“ For those of us lucky enough to call Renate our friend, the world feels a little less bright right now without her in it. She lit up any room, made friends where ever she looked and turned any situation into a party! Open arms, an open heart, boundless energy and generosity - Renate has left us all a little better than she found us.

She loved her family and lit up at their very mention.

She loved her husband and best friend, John with full devotion and appreciation.

She cherished her friends inviting us into her home on so many fun occasions.

And more than anything, Renate loved life and this was her most contagious gift to us. Every day was special and nothing was to be taken for granted.

I will miss most seeing that big, beautiful smile awaiting us golfing girls in her bright yellow cart and knowing she would get more joy from finding a free ball someone had lost than she would making a hole-in-one.

Let's hope there is plenty of birdie-juice in heaven and that they're prepared to party!

*with love,
Lynn DeCaterina*

Lynn DeCaterina - April 13, 2021 at 08:30 PM

JW

“ She was a wonderful friend and neighbour from the time she moved in across the street from us in the Villages. So full of joy and life and always happy. Was so looking forward to her coming to Canada this past Summer of 2020 but alas Covid put an end to those plans. Will miss you very much
Larry and Jackie Wark, Brockville, Ontario, Canada

jwark - April 13, 2021 at 06:42 PM

AH

I have very fond memories of Renate, whom I met in the Villages along with her husband, whom I called Dr. John. Renate was full of life and a joyous friend. I recall doing " the bump " to music with her at one of the lovely parties they hosted. My son, John, recalls several fun golfing outings with her and Jackie. We three enjoyed having lunch together on several occasions at country clubs in the Villages. We will miss her and her spirit.

Arja Hamalainen - April 13, 2021 at 07:07 PM

LD

The words LIVE, LAUGH & LOVE had to be Renate. Wherever she went she spread happiness. When Tim and I met her you would have thought we were lifelong friends. We will miss her smile her love for life and those eyes that told you she loved all of her friends. Rest In Peace our beautiful spirit. ❤️

Lucy & Tim Davey - April 13, 2021 at 10:10 PM

KK

Renate was a very special soul. Her personality would light up an entire room. If you ever needed anything Renate would be there to help triplefold. She loved her German heritage. She would go on and on about all the special foods she loved to cook or bake. She was a master of parties pulling them off like it was no big deal. Her love of family was evident whenever you talked to her.

I got to know Renate through the volunteer SoZo program in the Ocala Forest. Every child she came into contact with she would offer them a smile and encouragement. She had wonderful ideas and couldn't wait to teach the kids some of her German songs. We would drive out together in her SUV brimming with food for the kids and stuff that she wanted to share with them. Renate was an inspiration to all. She had the energy to jumprope with the kids, teach them how to hula hoop, play catch, shoot baskets, and offer everyone a huge smile.

Renate will be missed but I was the fortunate one because I got to be her friend.

Karen Kretschmann

Karen Kretschmann - April 14, 2021 at 01:32 AM

RB

We too were blessed to have Renate and John in our lives. All the wonderful tributes written about Renate are so true. Life is all about relationships, and Renate knew that so well. Her kindness made so many feel valued. She had a passion to make the world a better place and definitely achieved that goal in her lifetime. Thank you, Renate, for your friendship and love.

We are so grateful to have you on our train ride through life. God Bless you and your family, Rosemary and Roger

R. Beales - April 14, 2021 at 10:50 PM

KS

John and Renate's lanai was catty-corner to ours and we often would greet each other in the morning over an outdoor breakfast. She was very spontaneous and would often invite us over for a glass of wine and a political discussion. 😊

She was such a kind, fun loving, and happy person. We would hear her laughter across a crowded restaurant and say, "Renate's here!"

Renate loved life, she loved everyone she knew, but she loved her family- especially her grandchildren- most of all and she was very proud of them.

We will miss her and John and so much! Our hearts are breaking for John and the family and for the new bright star that is shining down on us from heaven.

We love you Renate. Sue and Chuck

Katherine Strickland - April 15, 2021 at 03:14 PM

NG

Lara (and Family), I was saddened to hear of the passing of your mom. I will always remember her cheering you on at swim meets and know that she will just have to yell louder to you now (be sure to listen for it!) but I am sure she will be there. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Nicole Gray, Cumberland, MD

Nicole Gray - April 15, 2021 at 06:09 PM

BF

I have never met a person who exuded more of a love for life than Renate did. Her genuine enthusiasm was infectious. Her sparkling eyes and hearty laugh made every stranger a friend. She was kind, generous, and always willing to help, but most of all, Renate was loving. Her love and dedication to her family, her friends and the SoZo kids was inspiring. Renate was truly one of a kind, and I will cherish her friendship forever.

Barb Filipiak

Barbara Filipiak - April 16, 2021 at 10:26 AM

BF

Renate, a wonderful, true and cherished friend will always be in our hearts. Detlev and I met her at Winn Dixie. We were talking in German and there she was, with her cheesy smile and her bright eyes all lit up. Pleased as punch to learn we were from Germany and more than a coincidence we learned both Renate and Detlev were brought up in the same city and lived a hop, step and jump away from each other. Her spontaneous invitation to celebrate Oktoberfest at her home that evening was brilliant. What a party. We met John, her husband, who is just as great as she is. Since then, we have been really close friends.

We returned to The Villages the following year and experienced the impeccable kindness, hospitality and fathomless care from both Renate and John. Her authenticity, down to earth attitude, energetic way of life, filled to the brim that she genuinely shared with us and others, filled our hearts with warmth and love towards her. We are ever so thankful and filled with gratitude for this priceless and privilege knowing her and her lovely family, which we will treasure forever.

Renate, our loving and precious friend, thank you for sharing and caring and you will always be remembered not only by us but family, friends and your SoZo kids. We miss you tremendously and are deeply saddened. Rest in Peace.

We are saying goodbye to you in German!

Liebste Freundin!

Wir danken dir liebevoll für alles, dass Du immer bei Seite war insb. während meiner Krankheit. Wir lieben dich sehr und Du wirst immer in unserem Herzen bleiben.

In tiefster Trauer

Deine

Heather und Detlev Huene

Barbara Filipiak - April 16, 2021 at 10:33 AM