

Sandra (Sandy) Muurahainen

Sandy Muurahainen graduated from Kings Park High School in 1962. Her class recently celebrated their 50th high school reunion. Although Sandy passed away in 1985, her classmates thought enough of their former classmate to pay tribute to her at their reunion.

Sandy was a bright, creative student, who excelled in writing. In high school she won both Senior awards for English composition and Creative writing. She was a member of the Kings Herald, the school paper and a Thespian. In her Senior year she was also a winner of the Tri State Contest sponsored by ABC-TV. To accept her award she traveled into the city and shared the spotlight with the then famous actress, Olivia DeHaviland.

After high school, Sandy attended Hofstra University's New College Program. She completed the program amazingly in three years, and received a degree in Fine Arts and Education. After her graduation she entered the Peace Corps. She trained in Puerto Rico, and then went on to Peru, where her assignment took her to small Andean mountain villages. On her return from the Peace Corp. she secured a teaching position in Elwood Schools. She married Bob Johnson ,a PhD. in Physics, in 1971 and moved to California. She and Bob had a daughter, Sonja.

In California, Sandy developed a passion for pottery. She not only taught pottery but formed cooperatives. She also excelled in weaving, textiles, mixed media and design. She was a liberal feminist, an activist devoted to peace. She volunteered in poor school systems as an art teacher and ran a pottery studio complete with apprentices. She also found time to take foreign exchange students and enroll in a Masters Program in Psychology.

Sandy Muurahainen has been selected to be in the Kings Park Arts and Letters Hall of Fame not only for her artistic abilities, but because in her short life she touched so many other lives.