

Janet Cook

JANET D. COOK of Austin, TX, died June 19, 2002, in Austin. Daughter of the late Anne Butler Cook and Gordon Goudey Cook, she was also pre-deceased by a brother, Douglas Ross Cook. She is survived by four first cousins and their families.

Janet was born in Boston, MA on September 16, 1941, a direct descendant of 1620 Mayflower passenger Francis Cooke. She spent her childhood years in Marblehead, MA and San Antonio, TX, where the family moved after WWII. Following her secondary education in San Antonio, she entered UT Medical School in Galveston where she earned her MS in Nursing. She pioneered research in the field of music therapy, and her published journal articles continue to be cited in current publications. Janet's belief in the healing power of music continued throughout her life. At the time of her death she worked in the Department of Infection Control at South Austin Medical Center.

Outside of healthcare, Janet's primary passions were Russian folk music and folk dancing, which she pursued with equal enthusiasm. Janet was a regular performer in the Gypsy Camp at the Texas Renaissance Festival and was particularly adept at promoting audience participation. In the late 70's, she joined the Houston Balalaika Society, playing in its' orchestra, serving as a board member, and securing grants to further its' recognition. In 1993, as a member of the Balalaika and Domra Assn of America, she participated in the first international balalaika convention ever held in Russia. Held aboard a ship traveling the waters of the Volga River, the group participated in major concerts in Moscow and St. Petersburg. Janet's ultimate dream was to see the formation of a balalaika orchestra in Austin.

Janet was an enthusiastic supporter of Austin International Folk Dancers (AIFD) for a number of years. She held a number of "after parties" at her home, where AIFD members gathered to share food and dance in her living room to the accompaniment of live music provided by local folk dance musicians.

Janet embraced life with joy and courage. We will miss her enthusiasm, tenderness, zany sense of humor, and infectious laugh. She never met a stranger; thus, her network of friends and admirers literally encircles the globe. Her family wishes to express their deep appreciation for the many kindnesses of those friends. A memorial service is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Saturday, July 27th, at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, 4700 Grover Avenue. Interment will follow at 3:30 p.m. at Sunset Memorial Park in San Antonio, Texas. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the charity of your choice. Arrangements by Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home, 3125 North Lamar, Austin, TX 78705 (512) 452-8811.