



## Janet Eileen Sherwood Aguirre

Jan Aguirre was suddenly granted her angel wings on July 12th, 2013 at the young age of 60. No words can describe how much she loved her family and friends. She was the glue that held everyone together. Not only was she the best, wife, mom, grandma, aunt, sister and daughter, but she was also the best friend anyone could ever have, and would give a complete stranger the shirt off her back just to help someone in need. Daughter of Alyce and Roy Sherwood (predeceased) of Ithaca, NY on December 24, 1952. Jan is survived by her fiancé, Jim Manheim; her mother, Alyce; her three children, Jason (Lauren), Tara and Joey (Amy); two stepchildren, Brenda and Kevin (Maddie); six grandchildren, Jason, Josh, Taylor, Maya, Keegan and Leah; five siblings, Gary, Lynn (predeceased), Neil (Diane), Linda and Ed (Dawn); and numerous nieces and nephews. She was a fun loving, free spirit who loved riding her own Harley all over the US. Having her friends and family around her is what she lived for; there wasn't a moment that went by that Jan wasn't ready with some sort of practical joke that made everyone around her smile and laugh out loud. In her spare time, you could find her hiking for hours just to find the "the perfect waterfall or flower picture", dancing to her favorite bands, going on 18 hour shopping trips with her family or staying up all night with her daughter for scary movie marathons. Jan was known for her famous cookies, fudge, warm hugs, sense of humor and advocating for motorcycle rights all over NY State. She was an accomplished artist in both photography and jewelry making; with all of this she even managed to have a beautiful garden of flowers at home. For the last 26 years, she has worked for the Finger Lakes Library System; you could find her doing anything from teaching patrons how to use a computer to dressing up in various costumes for the Children's Reading Workshops. If you know Jan, you'd know that riding her Harley has always been her passion. She's been an active member in the Finger Lakes H.O.G Chapter and 28 years with A.B.A.T.E of Tompkins County, where she has helped organize rides, fashion shows and even a party or two. Jan's kindhearted and generous nature reminded everyone of the preciousness of life. She was loved by everyone, especially her family, friends and the hundreds she rode with during the summer months. Calling hours will be held on July 16th from 5-7 p.m. at Bangs Funeral Home in Ithaca, NY and a memorial service will be held at 11:00am on July 17th at the First Presbyterian Church in Ithaca, NY with reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Toys for Tots and/or Tompkins County Public Library. In her short life, she somehow mastered the art of living every single second of life to the fullest.



Jan with her 2004 Road King trike

Jan's first bike was a 2000 Sportster converted to a trike.



## Bikers revved up about parking issues

### City looking to get motorcycles safely into public garages

By Jennie Daley  
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Journal Staff

**ITHACA** — There may not be many of them but they don't feel they should be left out on the street.

That's the contention of motorcycle riders who are upset about the lack of motorcycle parking in city-owned garages.

Biker Jan Aguirre didn't realize the problem until she got her license early this year. As a passenger for 21 years, she had never needed to worry about bike parking until she started commuting from Enfield to her job downtown. She loves the thrill and the value of her motorcycle.

"I'm a new rider," Aguirre said. "I'm addicted. I want to ride every time I can. Plus, I get 50 miles to the gallon."

Yet, when she reached her job downtown and pulled into the Cayuga Street garage she realized the new gates prevent access to bikes, pedestrians and motorcycles.

"It's a common concern for motorcyclists nationwide," said Tim "Roadkill" Werder, president of the New York chapter of American Bikers Aimed Toward Education, or ABATE. "We encounter that kind of nonsense all over the place."

The nonsense, as Werder sees it, largely relates to the technology used to operate the gate. To get through the gate, a vehicle must have enough metal mass to be recognized by a magnetic loop in the ground and the driver must grab the ticket spit out by a machine. The problem for motorcycles, especially smaller ones or ones constructed without a lot of steel, is that they don't have enough metal to trigger the sensor underneath

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## BIKERS

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the pavement. As a result, no ticket is produced and the rider can't enter the garage.

"The whole system, there's a hole in it," Bill Gray, superintendent of public works, said of the gates.

Those that do enter encounter other problems. For one rider, it took too long for him to put his change away and get his gloves back on and, according to Aguirre, the gate ended up

dropping down on his bike right after he paid.

Gray said many garages simply maintain the ban on motorcycles. In Ithaca, city officials are looking for solutions and starting to test them out. After a meeting of the Board of Public Works last week, the Department of Public Works got the go-ahead to shorten the gates and work toward installing long-term metered parking at the Seneca Street garage.

The thinking is that bikes that don't set off the sensor to enter

could go around the gate, which is at about three-quarters length now. From there they could park at a meter, avoiding the issue of needing a ticket.

If the new set-up works, it will be carried over to the Cayuga Street garage.

On Friday afternoon, biker Terri Hoppenrath tested her yellow Harley Davidson on the shortened gates and was able to make it through, though she was maneuvering very gingerly to avoid scratching her ride or herself.

Aguirre was glad to see it could be done but was pretty sure the shortened gate wouldn't be short enough for her trike, a term that refers to a motorcycle with two rear wheels that increase the bikes' width. Nevertheless, she and Hoppenrath were glad to see there was progress being made on the issue.

After testing the gate, Hoppenrath planned to go to the Ithaca Festival and couldn't ignore the irony that after driving into the garage she had to drive right out and go find parking.

# Meet the Members

## JAN AGUIRRE

1. *When and how were you introduced to Harley-Davidson Motorcycles?* I became involved with motorcycling in 1977. I had recently gotten married and my husband was a biker. All it took was one ride and I was hooked. We both joined the local chapter of ABATE and I became actively involved with the organization. I became involved on a state level in 1988 and was elected to the office of State Recoding Secretary, State Membership and Newsletter Editor. I held this office for 7 years. The position was split into 3 separate positions in 1991 and I handled just the newsletter part of it, so I can sympathize with Nick's frustrations. I produced a 32 page bi monthly publication and this was before the time of desktop publishing. Every aspect was done by hand. I remember laying out one April issue entirely backwards and not realizing it until it came back from the printers. What do I do now? Thank God it was April and I could pass it off as an "April Fool's" issue with none the wiser...until now. I have to commend anyone who has held an officer's position; it's a commitment and an incredible amount of work and time.

2. *What model bike do you ride now?* Well, presently I do not ride myself. I grew up here in Ithaca and believe it or not never learned how to ride a bicycle. I decided to take the Rider Ed course when the Tompkins County chapter of Abate started it back in the early 90's. I couldn't pass it. Without the basic skills and concepts of balance learned through riding a bicycle, I was lost. Ask Doug Wheeler how many times he pushed me to help me learn how to balance the bike; he was so patient with me. I gave up. I have been content to ride behind sharing the experience with my partner. That all changed when I met Jim.

I bought me a bicycle, taught me how to ride it, found a Honda 175 for me to learn on and I am on my way. Thanks Jim. I think I will practice this summer and take the Rider Ed course next summer. When I am confident in my riding experience, a Harley of course, is the next step. Maybe Jim can help me out on that, too???

3. *Do you have a Harley-Davidson experience to share?* I have had so many exciting, adventurous and fun rides, which one do I pick? I think our most recent trip to Sturgis rates right up there. I have never seen such beautiful country. Climbing those mountains, higher and higher, seeing snow on the tops of the mountains in the distance and then realizing there is snow all around you. Breaking through the cloud cover and seeing only sunny skies ahead. So cold, warming our hands on the exhaust pipes, and so unprepared to ride from 90 degree weather to 30 degrees and snowing. Riding through Yellowstone Park, caught in a freak blizzard/hailstorm, the back tire sliding, snow so thick you couldn't see a thing! Now, I look back and think what an adventure, but at the time I was plagued with visions of my life flashing before my eyes. I have never been so scared.

4. *What is your H-D dream?* That's really two fold. I would like to be able to ride to Sturgis on my own bike, maybe a Road King???? I also would like to see the HOG chapter strong, productive and successful. The members have to realize that the chapter is only as good as its members. The officers can lead, and they are doing that very well, but it's the individual member who are the core of the chapter. The officers can not do their jobs without the support and participation of all its members.

5. *What is your occupation, and besides motorcycles, what are your hobbies?* I work for the Finger Lakes Library System. I support 32 public libraries in 5 counties. We are located in the same building as the Tompkins County Library. I am responsible for all the computer training, database maintenance and statistical reports. I love to read, enjoy getting my hands dirty in the garden and with our recent Jitterbug lessons, I love to dance!

6. *How long have you been a HOG member?* I am on my second year as a member. What a great club! Thank you for making me feel welcome.



### ABATE of NY Newsletter:

### Janet Eileen Sherwood Aguirre

December 24, 1952-July 12, 2013

Jan joined NY ABATE in 1985. One of her priorities was volunteering as State Newsletter Editor producing the first newsletters mailed through The Mailbox of Ithaca, permit #5. The current newsletter format was adopted from her format. She held ABATE of Tompkins County officer positions throughout her 28 years of lifetime membership: President, Secretary, Webster, Public Relations, and sold state products. Jan was known for her famous cookies, fudge, warm hugs, sense of humor and advocating for motorcycle rights all over NYS. In 2007, Jan was instrumental in influencing the Ithaca City parking garages ability to provide motorcycle parking. Although she is probably best known for coordinating ABATE and HOG get-togethers and camaraderie.



Jan and Diana Kelsey, both granted their wings and riding in heaven



It was very common for Jan to have a camera in her hand.

## Springtime means it's time to share the road

Jan Aguirre / Guest Columnist

Over two-thirds of car-motorcycle accidents are caused by drivers and not by the motorcyclists.

Due to their smaller size, motorists need to be especially alert for motorcycles .... Motorists also need to share the road and remember that a motorcycle is entitled to a full lane.

quicker."

These are excuses, not facts.

We ride with our headlight on all the time; some riders even install multiple lights to improve visibility. We install louder exhaust pipes to improve the chance that if you don't see us, you will at least hear us. We ride in groups to increase our safety zone. We wear leather for protection. We use the entire lane assigned to us, moving from the center of the lane, to the inner edge, to the outer edge of the lane to improve our visibility.

There is however nothing we can do when a motorist decides to turn left in front of us; there is simply no where to go.

Over two-thirds of car-motorcycle accidents are caused by drivers and not by the motorcyclists. Motorists need to be especially alert for motorcycles at intersections, in heavy traffic and when making a left-hand turn. Motorists also need to share the road and remember that a motorcycle is entitled to a full lane.

While motorcycles may be

slightly more dangerous than a car, at 35-48 miles per gallon, you will begin to see more on the road.

Please be more aware, motorcycles are everywhere! Look twice before turning, before pulling out into an intersection, if you only see one headlight coming, don't just discount it, it's probably a motorcycle! Your family, friends and coworkers will be on the road not just for the enjoyment of riding a motorcycle but as transportation as well. Pay attention, the life you save may be your son, your daughter, your neighbor, your friend.

Jan Aguirre lives in Enfield. American Bikers Aimed Toward Education. Also known as ABATE, is an organization designed to promote motorcycle safety. For more information on motorcycle safety and related issues, go to [www.abateny.org](http://www.abateny.org) or phone 1-888-344-4400.