



Remembering Renee Pagel, her way

Updated: Oct 3, 2006 07:46 AM EDT



By Dan Bewley

GAINES TOWNSHIP - Family and friends gathered Sunday to remember a Kent County woman who was stabbed to death two months ago. The body of 41-year old Renee Pagel was found in her Courtland Township home in early August.

Police have ruled it a homicide. Sunday's service was more of a celebration...called the "Renee Way", complete with her favorite songs, even snacks. More than a dozen of her closest friends took time to share stories. They toasted with her favorite drink, a can of Diet Coke, and snacked on her favorite candy bar.

"We needed to do some healing ourselves, the "Renee" way," said Lori Schaaf, Renee's friend and co-worker.

Renee Pagel's life ended in tragedy. She was stabbed to death, according to Kent County investigators. Her body was discovered by a family member. Her funeral, so close to her death, was too hard to bear for her friends. Sunday's service was more relaxed, more like Pagel would have wanted and yet another chance to remember someone who touched so many.

"The funeral served its purpose but we really felt the need to show what a beautiful person she was...to laugh and to cry together," said Renee's friend Christine Crandle.

Renee's friends have established a fund for her three children. Donations can be made at any 5/3 bank. If you'd like to pay tribute to Renee Pagel, you can send an email to

rememberrenee@gmail.com



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