

**This Biography was written in 2002 with an addendum written in 2006**  
**Brafford, Jannis** "Each mind has its own method"



**Born: 20 November 1941**  
**Parents: John and Paula Vance Brafford**

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**Jan married a fellow classmate, David Bowen, in 1961. Dave was in the Air Force and was stationed at Dover, DE. Dave and Jannis have two daughters, Desiree' Lynne (1962) and Valoree' (1964). She has four grandchildren: Carrera (15), Nicholas (10), Amanada (15), and Erica (13). Dave and Jannis are divorced.**

**Jan married her present husband, Jack Orvis, in 1992.**

**In her early years, Jan worked at WT Grants, JC Penney, Electrolux, and a liquor store. Following her divorce, Jan ended up on welfare briefly and started working at Delaware State College as an A/P Clerk. While working at the college she received several promotions and was also able to complete her undergraduate degree in Accounting in three years with a 4.0 average.**

**The BA degree enabled her to move into a professional level job in the State of Delaware Auditor's office as a staff accountant. During her four years with the Auditor's office she worked both as a state and federal program auditor and finally as a supervisory auditor.**

**In 1979 she sat for and passed the three-day CPA (Certified Public Accountant) test on her first sitting. She entered a master's program and, in 1983 graduated from Southern Illinois with honors and an MBA. In 1985 she obtained her CPA certificate.**

**Following the receipt of her initial degree, she worked for a small CPA firm in Wilmington, DE as an operational auditor for two and one-half years. During the '70s and '80s she taught at both Delaware Tech and Wesley Colleges where, at the latter, she designed, staffed, and taught a CPA review course in 1981.**

**She then worked as an operational auditor for Chase Manhattan Bank. Her last position was as Controller for a 75 million dollar corporation, ILC, Dover, DE. ILC manufactures the NASA space suit and has manufactured one for every NASA astronaut who has ever been in space.**

**Jan retired in 1997, sold her house in Delaware, bought a 37' motor home, and began crisscrossing the United States. In the past four years Jan and Jack have visited every state, with the highlight being a drive to Alaska and back.**

**Her favorite pastime is taking off-road scenic drives and taking pictures of trips. In 1998, she and Jack decided to settle down and bought a doublewide in a retirement village in Casa Grande, AZ. There, they joined a local Baptist church.**

**Knowing that she was an adopted child, Jan finally traced her mother's roots to OR and NV. She located a cousin in OR and learned that she has three brothers and one sister. She obtained pictures of her brothers, but since her sister was adopted at birth, she may never learn her identity.**

**2006 ADENDUM:**

**Jannis contracted cervical cancer and moved back to DE where she died in early October 2005. She was a devout Christian and is now resting in a better place. She will be missed by her friends and classmates.**