



Judith Lee Garchow

February 25, 1936 - March 8, 2024

Judith Lee (Bartels) Garchow of Grand Ledge, MI passed away peacefully with her daughters by her side on March 8th, 2024. (International Women's Day). Judy was born February 25th, 1936 In Saginaw, MI to the late Wesley and Ruth (Crandall) Bartels, Marion Sadenwater, stepmother.

She graduated with honors from Saginaw High Class of 1954, where she excelled in academics, played first chair clarinet and met her husband, Wayne. Together they shared 64 years of love and sincere devotion to family. Judy attended Michigan State University, and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from University of Michigan.

Judy went on to teach upper elementary at Waverly Schools for nearly 30 years. Her love and dedication positively impacted many generations of students. She also had a strong passion for learning and sharing about Women's History.

In her younger years, Judy enjoyed entertaining at their cottage on Burt Lake, playing golf and tennis, photography, crocheting, dancing, planting flowers and antiquing. She was a creative writer who wrote many sentimental cards and poems for loved ones. Judy was a loyal friend, and maintained many lifelong relationships.

Judy will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, and grandma who immensely enjoyed family gatherings, birthdays and holidays.

Her precious six grandchildren share fond memories of piano playing, singing songs, reading books, visiting the Apple Orchard, and exploring the GL Island Fair.

Judy is survived by her daughters, Ann (John) Pohl and Karen (Rich) Friberg, daughter-in-law Laurene Garchow (Tom) Packer, grandchildren, Lyndsey Pohl, Emily (Jacob) Sommers, Kelsey (Paul) Hines, Kyle (Camille) Friberg, Garrett (Sarah) Garchow, and Lauren Garchow; great grandchildren, Owen and Oliver Garchow, Henry and Sophie Sommers, with one more arriving July 2024. Judy was preceded in death by her husband, Wayne and son, Mark.

A celebration of Judy's life will be held at a later date with family and friends.

Memorial contributions in Judy's name may be given to the Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1712 E. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48912 (<https://lansingwomen.org/donations/>).

Arrangements by the Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home, Grand Ledge.
Please share your memories and condolences online at www.holihanatkin.com

The family wishes to express sincere appreciation to the amazing staff at Fairview Adult Foster Care for the compassionate care they provided for both Judy and Wayne.

Tribute Wall

LH

“ I had the privilege of being in Mrs. Garchow’s class in her very first year of teaching at Stoner Elementary. She was definitely one of my all time favorite teachers. I remember her kindness and ability to make every student feel special. A wonderful lady!

Lynn Havitz-Hansen - April 04, 2024 at 09:32 AM

PO

“ I have many fond memories of Judy. Back in 1975 Waverly district asked if any teachers would like to trade classrooms for day. I took over her 5th grade classroom at Colt Elementary for the day and she took over my 6th grade classes at Waverly East. I still have the letter she wrote me about that day. In that letter she thanked me for the opportunity for a new experience and said “Isn’t that what teaching and life is so much about...growing and broadening ourselves to new experiences, new ideas, new people? I think we both grew a little because of yesterday.”

Pam Ogle - March 20, 2024 at 09:00 AM

TT

“ *The Garchow home was my second home. Judy and Wayne were always at the door with a cheerful smile or loving embrace. My fondest memories were when our two families would get together, be it up North at our cottage or going out to dinner. I loved reading her sentimental writing she always had on display, on Christmas Day, in honor of each of her children. Judy and Wayne will always hold the fondest memories for me and those memories will remain in my heart forever.*



Tamara Tobin - March 15, 2024 at 02:54 AM

JF

“ Sending heartfelt sympathies to Karen, Ann, the grandchildren and her other family members and friends who lost such a wonderful woman who was so close to them all. My only personal interactions with Judy came from meeting her once at their home and through multiple occasions with her answering their “family phone” and kindly passing the phone to Mr. Garchow (Wayne).

My other interactions with her came through my interactions with Wayne, Karen and Ann. She definitely placed the gift of her essence on them all. You can tell, see, hear and feel the love that people have been blessed with receiving from others. They were all highly loved by Judy ... just as I know that Judy was incredibly loved by her family that meant so much to her.

Judy lived a blessed life that blessed many others and will continue to touch many others through the lives she touched along the way.

She lived a life that mattered both through her works, other efforts and just by being her.

I'm grateful for how our lives have intersected ... in a myriad of most beautiful ways!

Love.

Jeffery Ford - March 13, 2024 at 03:40 AM

JC

“ I remember so many fond memories with the Garchow family. Judy always treated us like we were a part of the family. Her smile followed her everywhere and something I will never forget. I know you are singing with Wayne and Mark right now. Rest in peace special lady.
We love you,
The Carpenter Family.

Jeff Carpenter - March 10, 2024 at 07:54 PM

MT

“ We had a cute little A-frame cottage in the woods just a few blocks up from Higgins Lake. Karen, Ann, and Judy would come up to our cottage during summer vacations. In fact, Karen and Rich loved the cottage so much that they later purchased it from my mom to enjoy with their own young family.
At night, when we all went to bed, it became pitch black in our A-frame and it took time for your eyes to adjust to the seemingly absolute darkness. Our family was completely used to this darkness even when navigating the treacherous ladder which descended from the loft to the main floor below. On Judy's first night in our cottage, we were all in bed and my mom turned the final light off. All of a sudden, Judy cried out with nervous, tense laughter saying that she had never been in such absolute darkness. We all laughed and I was impressed that an adult could actually voice such innocent fear of the dark. It was hilarious and I can still hear her nervous laughter to this day. My mom went out the next day and bought a night light to guide our way up and down those deadly stairs. I look forward to hearing Judy's laughter again and I hope, for her sake, there is a night light in heaven.

Michelle Tobin - March 09, 2024 at 01:47 PM