



Barbara C. Ort

July 3, 1929 - March 1, 2015

Barbara C. Ort, 85, of Kankakee died March 1, 2015 at her home. Visitation will be from 10 AM until the time of services at 11AM on Friday, March 20, 2015 at St. John's United Church of Christ in Kankakee with the Rev. Barb Lohrbach officiating. A graveside service will be held in Morton, IL, as arranged by Knapp/Johnson Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of Kankakee Valley, the Kankakee Humane Society, or the Sun Foundation for the advancement in the environmental sciences and arts.

Barbara was born July 3, 1929, in Grand Forks, North Dakota to Isaac Solomon and Melora Katherine (Phelps) Corn. She married Henry J. Ort on July 27, 1952. He preceded her in death on Mary 30, 2014.

Surviving are daughters Nancy (Mike) Hogan and Holly (Ron) Bailey. Grandchildren Jennifer (Joe), Amy (Aaron), John, Heather (Scott), Jeremy (Juning), Timothy (Roxanna), and Stephen (Kristen) survive as do great-grandchildren, Josie, Julianne, and Joseph Henry Michael Korish; Hannah, Elizabeth and Claire Potacki; Maddy Hogan; Matt, Meagan, and Madison Parry; Max Bailey; Benjamin and Malena Swanson; Erik and Parker Swanson. Also surviving are daughters of the heart and husbands, Roberta (Phil) Duyff, Linda (Richard) Valiga and Lucimar (Tulio) Junquiera.

Growing up, Barbara enjoyed summers in church camps from DesPlaines, Illinois to Lake Winnepesaukee, New Hampshire and her grandparent's farm in Cedar Springs, Michigan. She graduated from University High School, Normal, Illinois. She continued her education receiving a BS degree from Illinois State Normal University, Normal, followed by an MS from the same university. She was a life-long learner with interest in education and the arts.

Barbara was a lifelong educator starting as teacher of the deaf in Pekin, Bartonville, and Morton, Illinois. She was an administrative with the Tazewell-Mason Counties Special Education Association. She taught first grade in Morton, Illinois. She was well-known for her creative teaching style and her work with children with learning challenges.

She participated and provided leadership in a variety of professional education organizations, including Delta Kappa Gamma and Morton AFS Youth exchange program.

In retirement, she continued to encourage lifelong learning. Focusing on the arts, she did programs on spinning, weaving, and candle making at local grade schools and at Bishop Hill. Barbara turned her goal of "cleaning the basement in retirement" into a CLUTTER program focusing on the joy and love of living. This was given hundreds of times with donations going to organizations in the local communities. She continued using her clowning to bring joy and love to those around her. She developed curriculum for and taught Senior Net Classes with Henry. She used her artistic creativity to support organizations fundraising efforts...such as decorating many trees for the Kankakee Historical Society Gallery of Trees. She had a YOU WORK, I WORRY service for young people going to school. They would tell her what challenges they had coming up. They did the work and she did the worrying.

Her hobbies and interests included travel, reading, environmental arts and sciences, volunteer work for many organizations and family adventures.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 20. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John United Church Of Christ
1045 W. River
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-3336
<http://www.stjohnucc-kan-il.org/>

Funeral Service

MAR 20. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John United Church Of Christ
1045 W. River
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-3336
<http://www.stjohnucc-kan-il.org/>

Tribute Wall

IA

“ I did not want to know this news. I have been stopping myself from looking Barbara's name up since 2014 when I left her from Home Helpers. I cried so hard when they let me go. I loved working for Barbara. She was such an inspiration. I will always remember her and the drives we took in the country of kankakee county. All the people she had me meet. I was so blessed to have spent a few months with her. Thank you Barbara.

Ivy Aldridge - November 21, 2018 at 03:00 PM



“ Beulah Pennell lit a candle in memory of Barbara C. Ort



Beulah Pennell - August 14, 2016 at 08:47 PM

CU

“ Mrs. Ort was my first grade teacher at Lincoln Grade School (1968-1969). She always made learning fun and made me feel important. She also had a genuine care and concern for students meeting their full potential. She played a large part in helping me further my education after high school because she believed in me. She was a GREAT person and teacher! Thank you Mrs. Ort for all you have given to me.

With love and prayers - Chris Ann Tucker Uribe

Chris Uribe - March 25, 2015 at 09:34 PM

JG

“ Mrs. Ort was my first grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School in Morton, Il. I recently found an assignment that she gave me to do while I was on vacation with my family. One of the assignments was to "Every day buy a picture post card and write one good sentence about your trip." That year was 1968. Today, I treasure those papers and pictures as my family still vacations in that very same place. She was one of my favorite teachers, and I will always remember her energy and creativity.

Jean Hunziker Greiner - March 22, 2015 at 07:53 AM

GA

“ How wonderful it was to share in so many ways your mother's life! She was always so upbeat and encouraging. May God give you strength in these days!
Gen Arnold

gen arnold - March 21, 2015 at 09:46 AM

SL

“ Our sympathy to all of you today as you lay to rest your mother, grandmother, great grandmother and friend. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Scott & RoaeAnn Linsley - March 20, 2015 at 04:05 PM

CT

“ To Barbara's Family:

I knew Barbara from Fox & Hounds in Bloomington. She has left a permanent happy spot on my heart. I'm sure that's the impact that all that met her felt. The world is a brighter place since Barbara blessed us with her presence!

Casey Tilton-Pirtle

Casey Tilton-Pirtle - March 20, 2015 at 12:57 PM

DG

“ To Barbara Ort's family, I remember Barbara's kindness. I met Barbara and Henry at a computer class for seniors.. Barbara must have overheard that my husband and I were newcomers to Kankakee from Wisconsin. Thanksgiving Day was coming up-my husband was in a nursing home. She invited us to their home for that day. He was not well enough to go out-I had to decline. I will never forget those beautiful dark eyes and her smile. I've remembered it all these years. Sincerely, Dorothy Green, from WWO.

Dorothy Green - March 20, 2015 at 09:07 AM

LB

“ My condolences to dear Nancy and Michael with heartfelt sympathy at such a difficult loss of such a beautiful mother and mother-in-law.. May the comfort of memory and her magnificent legacy bring you and your beautiful family---strength and serenity. May the embrace of God's Presence be with you every step of the journey ahead and may the wonderful of her----be with you now and always.

Lana Brown

Lana Brown - March 20, 2015 at 08:36 AM

JH

“ *What a great loss of such a wonderful Lady! Barbara was the first to welcome me into Delta Kapa Gama! We had such a connection since we both were teachers for the Hearing Impaired. I enjoyed our talk time and she was thrilled to show me her cochlear implant when she got it. Barbara attended a few sessions of my sign language class at Frost School. She was absolutely a life long learner and such a joy to be around! I will truly miss her! Please know that I am sending thoughts and prayers to the family. I am sad that will not be able to attend her visitation or service because of teaching that morning.*

Jackie Hernandez - March 18, 2015 at 10:00 PM

BS

“ *Ort family, I am so sorry for your loss. Your mom and dad were wonderful people! They touched a lot of young people's lives. Your mom was always very welcoming when I would come to your house to play with Nancy. May the Lord comfort your hearts!*

Barb (Landes) Schwind

Barb Schwind - March 18, 2015 at 09:40 PM

RB

“ *Barbara hired me for my very first professional job out of college, as an SLP for the Pekin Public Schools through TMCSEA. That turned out to be the beginning of a lifelong career in several school districts until my retirement in 2009, and I was grateful for the start she gave me.*

Sincere condolences on your loss, as she was a gift to many. May memories of her continue to inspire.

Rita Buczyna

Rita Buczyna - March 18, 2015 at 06:23 PM

BG

“ I have never met anyone so upbeat in my life and don't believe I will ever meet another. Barbara was one of a kind--the best kind! I remember how she prayed for others at challenging times in their lives and at the exact time they would experience it. Barbara would say "and what time is that appointment?" and then write it down on her calendar so she could offer a prayer. I now try to do the same. She worked with us briefly at the Agency on Aging and brightened those days for all of us. Barbara, I will be wearing green on Friday in your honor!

Barb Goodrich (one of the Barbs at St. John)

Barb Goodrich - March 15, 2015 at 04:29 PM

KS

“ The first time i really was able to spend some time with Barb was at Tim's wedding. I had just married into the family a few months before and so I hadn't yet had the chance to really get to know many of you to that point. As Steve was in the wedding party, I was on my own during the ceremony. I remember Barb made a point of sitting by me and talking me up before the wedding began. She had a way about her that made me feel so comfortable and at ease. It was a wonderful memory I've carried with me.

Kristen Swanson - March 06, 2015 at 09:04 AM

EM

“ I only met Mom Ort once in my life. She came to my art studio with Holly. She asked if she could have the doodles that I was making from throughout our conversation, which, of course, I agreed to. She said that she wanted to remember the day, and the doodles would remind her of it. Holly spoke of her mother nearly every time we talked. She will be greatly missed by many -- those that shared many beautiful, personal moments, and those of us who knew her from a distance. Blessings to you and your family... Lots of love, Ellie

Ellie Marshall - March 06, 2015 at 06:17 AM

LV

“ "Mom" Ort was a very special person to me. Throughout my life, she cherry smile, and loving kind words of encouragement were always there. She and Henry filled in so many places in my life. Her kind words, her listening ears, honest compliments, and her caring spirit had the power to turn lives around. God Bless you for being you!! Go party now with Henry, and my mom and dad. You will live forever in my heart. When I make Oatmeal white chocolate chip and craisin cookies, I will think of you!! Daughter Linda

Linda Valiga - March 05, 2015 at 09:31 PM

CD

“ Barbara used to live down the road from me, when I was in school she would always buy from my fundraiser. Barbara always used to call me her apples because I always wore my apple scrub top! she was truly a blessing and will be missed! <3 thank you for all the wonderful laughs and smiles we had!<3 -Christa Deatherage

Christa Deatherage - March 05, 2015 at 12:50 AM



“ 100 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - March 03, 2015 at 01:28 PM