



## Sondra Ellen Patchett

August 13, 1941 - November 2, 2021

Sondra Ellen Patchett, age 80, of Kankakee passed away peacefully Tuesday, November 2, 2021 in Plainfield at Lakewood Nursing & Rehab Center. She was born August 13, 1941 in Tamaroa, IL the daughter of Marion "Ken" & Hilda (Smith) Preston. She grew up in Gibson City and graduated from Illinois State University. Sondra married James "Jim" Patchett on June 6, 1964 at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Kankakee. He preceded her in death in 1994.

She moved to Kankakee to teach at West Junior High School where she met her husband. She later taught English and worked in the library at Bishop McNamara High School. Although she was known as a demanding and influential teacher, her real love was the library. When the family moved to Georgia, Sondra was the head librarian and taught English at two schools. After her husband's passing, she moved back to Kankakee, taught at Wilmington Middle School and finished her career at Kankakee High School. After retirement, she worked at the Limestone Library. Throughout her library and teaching careers, Sondra created long lasting relationships with her coworkers.

Sondra enjoyed time with friends playing Bridge, golfing, book clubs, movie club and hosting dinner parties. She was an avid traveler visiting over 20 countries. She also enjoyed attending her grandchildren's activities. She was extremely grateful for her family and the friends who were so generous with their time and attention helping her day to day especially as her health

declined.

Sondra was a former parishioner of St. Teresa Catholic Church in Kankakee and then later, St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church in Kankakee.

Surviving are one daughter and son-in-law, Jill & Jay Munce of Park Ridge; one son and daughter-in-law, James & Meredith Patchett of Plainfield; five grandchildren, Alec Munce, Maggi Munce, Evan Patchett, Mason Patchett, and Leah Patchett; as well as several dear nieces, nephews, and cousins. In addition to her husband, James Patchett, Sondra is preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Gene Preston and Jerry Preston; and one sister, Kay Marchiando.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A memorial visitation will be held from 11 a.m. until the 1 p.m. memorial service on Saturday, November 6, 2021 at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee.

Memorials may be made to the family wishes, which will be donated to the Kankakee Public Library made in Sondra's name.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

NOV 6. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Kankakee - Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home  
1480 W. Court St.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Memorial Service

NOV 6. 1:00 PM (CT)

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1480 W. Court St.  
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# Tribute Wall

OK

“ I am very sorry to hear of Sondra's passing. She was a wonderful and spunky woman to work with and she always gave the best advice. I always looked forward to working with her at Limestone Library. I feel blessed to have known her. You have my sincere condolences.



*Olivia Koerner*

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**Olivia Koerner** - November 08, 2021 at 04:45 PM

SG

“ Jill and James, My sincere condolences to you both. Sondra was a wonderful friend to my mom Lois Lane. They played bridge together. Sallie Gall

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**Sallie Gall** - November 07, 2021 at 05:47 PM

BG

“ Sincerest condolences to Sondra's family. Sondra's wit and humor will be sorely missed. She greatly encouraged and supported me in my transition from teacher to librarian. I will always have fond memories of her guidance and shared love of literature. Sondra supported me as my own mother's health declined. Sondra holds a special place in my heart.

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**Barbara Gabriel** - November 06, 2021 at 01:36 PM

JG

“ I met Sondra when I needed a golf partner for the Thursday league at Shamrock golf course. We were partners for several years and I was delighted and often surprised at her wit! Once I backed up my push cart and somehow came into contact with her, causing her to tumble down. I apologized profusely, she was not injured, but accused me of trying to kill her...which she reiterated to other golfers when she had the chance! She always appeared quite serious when telling the story...and likely stretched the truth a bit, but it always made us laugh afterward. Each year, at the start of the season, she'd ask me if I was going to kill her this year, and I'd say "probably not!" Oh, and she always brought a bag of Werther's butterscotch candies, which she would share after the first few holes. I could only imagine how she'd deal with students visiting the library at KHS. I bet many have fond memories, as I do. My condolences to the family.

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**Janet Glidden** - November 05, 2021 at 04:59 PM

BA

“ I taught with Sondra at McNamara High School for many years and admired her greatly. She was one of the wisest people I have known, and I feel honored to be able to say that she was my friend. She did everything with integrity, class, and excellence. She also had a great sense of humor and a warm, caring attitude for everyone. She faced life's challenges with courage and fortitude. I know that she was rightfully a role model for many people, including myself.

*Barbara (Marshall) Arseneau*

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**Barbara Arseneau** - November 05, 2021 at 02:53 PM

PS

“ sorry to hear of "Miss" Sondras passing . she was a great friend for many years as was her husband Jim. Prayers go out to her children James and Jill.

*Paul and Marie Schmidt Tucson Arizona*

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**Paul Schmidt** - November 05, 2021 at 09:28 AM

SR

“ I admired Sondra’s dedication to educate teens. As a colleague she encouraged many of us to examine new perspectives as we faced challenges. She gave to all, now it’s her time for rest.

*Thank you, Sondra,  
Suzy Ruder*

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**Suzy Ruder** - November 04, 2021 at 05:42 PM

CR

“ I am so sorry for your loss and I send my condolences to your family. Mrs. Patchett let me live in the library when I was a student at KHS and even let me work in there with her when I had a free hour. I've never met another person who helped cultivate my love of reading and the importance of libraries like she did. Mrs. Patchett was a force to be reckoned with, had a great wit, and a dry humor that caught me off guard in the best way. As an employee of Kankakee Public Library, I am so touched that she thought of us as well. She will be so missed and may she Rest in Peace.

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**Corine Rose** - November 04, 2021 at 05:10 PM

TP

“ Dear Jill, Jay, James and Meredith (and your families),

*I am so sorry to hear about Aunt Sondra's passing. My deepest condolences go out to all of you. Aunt Sondra was great person, great Mom and Grandmother. I always enjoyed Aunt Sondra's company and will always have fond memories of her going back to when I was a very young child. I hope that all of your good memories will soon ease your sorrow. I believe she is reunited again with Uncle Jim in heaven after all these years. May Aunt Sondra Rest in Peace and God bless her!*

*Sincerely and with sympathy,*

*Tim Patchett Family (Dawn and Carson)*

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**Tim Patchett** - November 04, 2021 at 02:53 PM

SM

“ Dear Jill and James and your families,

*Please accept my condolences on the death of your mother and grandmother. I met Sondra when I accepted a post-retirement position at Limestone Township Library. We shared similar careers as English teachers and school librarians, as well as a love of books, bridge, and clever phrases.*

*Sondra has been a dear friend. She holds a special place in my heart and mind. You have my prayers to comfort you.*

*With deepest sympathy,  
Steve Moore*

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**Stephen Moore** - November 04, 2021 at 02:11 PM

TK

“ Mrs Patchett was my English teacher In high school and I loved her! How lucky so many students were to have her as an influence in their lives. May she Rest In Peace 🙏

Tricia Kohan - November 04, 2021 at 11:51 AM

TD

“ Jill and James,  
A lot of Kankakee memories from Jill and Amanda in grade school and middle school. May her memory be a blessing.  
Terry and Toni Diel

Toni Diel - November 04, 2021 at 11:36 AM

LC

“ Sondra encouraged me to transition from the English classroom to the library. Her support of me was unwavering, and I have her to thank for a decade of meaningful librarianship. May her family feel the grace and peace of the Lord during this time.

Lynda Cohagan - November 04, 2021 at 10:07 AM

CR

“ Candy Ray lit a candle in memory of Sondra Ellen Patchett



Candy ray - November 04, 2021 at 08:16 AM

CR

May she rip

Candy ray - November 04, 2021 at 08:17 AM

CW

“ My condolences to the family. Sondra was my neighbor for 4years. She hosted a Dinner Party to welcome me to the Complex. May she RIP.



Cheryl Wilson - November 04, 2021 at 07:30 AM

KC

“ I’m so sorry for your loss. An amazing teacher!!! It was maybe not realized by my 14 year old self, 😞 but her dedication to making sure her students had understanding and were working to their potential was an example I took forward in my career. She always seemed to have time for any extra help that was needed... especially a little extra practice memorizing Romeo and Juliet. I did not realize she was in Plainfield. I hope she knew what a positive impact she had on many of her past students.  
Kristin Cousins

Kristin Cousins - November 03, 2021 at 10:14 PM

LP

“ Jill and James I am so very sorry! Your mother was a wonderful and caring person! Many memories of how wonderful she was! Bless you all as your grieve and remember her! She is with your Dad now!

Laurie Pombert - November 03, 2021 at 09:36 PM