



Diantha L. Naftali

October 9, 1937 - September 20, 2015

Diantha L. Naftali, 77, of Traverse City passed away peacefully on September 20, 2015 at Munson Hospice House.

Diantha was born and raised in White Plains, NY, the daughter of Earl and Constance Lundin. Upon graduating from the University of Michigan, she worked as part of the wait staff of Watervale Inn, a place which would become and remain deep within her heart and the heart of her family. Diantha became a permanently adopted Michigander when she married and became the mother of three children. She was a resident of Lansing, E. Lansing, Kalamazoo, St. Johns, and finally northwest-lower Michigan in 1992, where she lived in both Suttons Bay and Traverse City.

From the age of three, music played a major part in her life when she became part of a choir; began to study the piano at age five; and became an accompanist at age ten. While living downstate she earned certification to teach piano from the Michigan Music Teachers Association, and she taught students for more than 20 years.

Volunteering and being involved in both church and community were always a part of Diantha's life, a trait that she successfully passed on to her family, as well as the love of food and of hosting family, friends, and even strangers around her table. These things form her legacy. Once she settled into retirement, she again served as a church musician – this time at Suttons Bay Congregational Church where she also served for three terms as a deacon. She was the accompanist for Leelanau Children's Choir and Youth Ensemble for 17 years; a duo pianist with Liz Bannister of Traverse City; a Hospice Volunteer for many years; and member of P.E.O.

A memorial service will take place on Sunday, September 27, 2015 at 1:00 pm at the Suttons Bay Congregational Church. Visitation will be on Saturday, September 26, 2015 from 3 -5 and 7 -9 at Cedar Creek Senior Apartments, 12047 S. Elk Run, Traverse City. Because choral music was part of Diantha's life for 75 years, her family encourages those who knew her through choral groups, to join in the singing of two anthems by John Rutter: "The Lord is My Shepherd," and "The Lord Bless You and Keep You." Rehearsal promptly at 12 noon prior to the service. Copies of the music will be provided.

Diantha is survived by husband Robert; son G. Peter Witteveen (Lesley); daughters Ellen Teisman (William); Sarah Boynton (David); and grandchildren Phillip and Ana Witteveen;

Ben, Emily, and John Teisman; and Justin, Mason, and Evan Rohrback; brother Howard Lundin (Lorraine) of Mercer, PA, and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents and her brother Earl Lundin, Jr.

In lieu of flowers, the family would suggest that Diantha be remembered by contributions to Leelanau Children's Choir and Youth Ensemble (P.O. Box 688, Suttons Bay 49682); Munson Hospice House (401 Brook St, Traverse City 49684); or the Michael J. Rolfe Pancreatic Cancer Foundation (17 North State St., Suite 1550, Chicago, IL 60602).

Please visit <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com> to sign Diantha's online guestbook and to share your condolences with the family.

Cemetery

Kensico Cemetery
273 Lakeview Avenue
Valhalla, NY, 10595

Events

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| SEP | Memorial Service | 01:00PM |
| 27 | <hr/> | |
| | Suttons Bay Congregational Church 218 W. Madison Street, Suttons Bay, MI, US, 49682 | |

Comments



“ Ariana Curiel lit a candle in memory of Diantha L. Naftali



Ariana Curiel - April 12, 2020 at 10:43 AM



“ I did not have the privilege of knowing Dianita. Her mother was my Aunt Connie. I would love to connect to other family members.

Ariana Curiel - April 12, 2020 at 10:45 AM



“ Hello, dear Sarah, Ellen and Peter (who I will call Peter for Diantha's sake just now), grandchildren, too,

It's your mom's/grandma's birthday, and I imagine this might be a more difficult day for you. I put her CD on a little while ago. I really have loved listening to it, knowing how she so carefully would have chosen each particular song or hymn to speak a message to us that she wanted to continue to convey to us every time we listen to it. It reminds me about that strongest characteristic of her -- determination to trust herself, to express her mind, to really BE in charge of her choices and words, not to wilt under negative opinions or switch gears to please someone else. I admired that so much in Diantha because I have always been so much a "pleaser", ready to compromise or behave according to the expectations of the strongest person in the room! Diantha always seemed to be telling me to believe in myself, either with her words, her actions or her faithful cards and gifts, letting me know that I was more than worthy, by her many acts of friendship.

I truly meant to write something to you last week after her memorial service. All day Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Diantha was SO fully in my thoughts. I kept remembering the beautiful service, every part. It was just so powerful to be there and experience this last expression of Diantha's spirit penetrating the moment and loudly proclaiming her faith and love for God. The Rutter music, esp. the benediction, just kept running through my head, blessing me. I listened to the CD and knew it would always remain a true comfort and favorite go-to CD to me, not just because it's Diantha playing the piano, but because her strength somehow permeates and urges me to be strong in the Lord and have a positive attitude about the ways God keeps calling me to be faithful to serve in his strength, not my own. Diantha kept showing us how to be overcomers.

Bill and I send more hugs and thoughts and sympathy to you on this special day of remembering all your mom meant to so many people, and the shining mark she has left on her corner of the world. Bill will always especially remember their church music clarinet-piano duos over the years.

Love,
Joi

Joi Tennant - October 09, 2015 at 10:15 AM



“

Hi folks,

Just wanted to tell you again how much I enjoyed Diantha over the years, musically and personally. I loved that she wore those little white button earrings all the time and I drew one in my journal to remember her by. It was fun going to her house last year for "sleepovers", we chatted about everything under the sun, she always remembered WAY more than I did about anything. I would bring a bunch of DVDs to watch and she'd flip through them and say, "no, no, seen this, don't care about this, heard this was stupid, geez Jan, how hard can it be to find a good movie?" It was great the way she did not beat around the bush about anything. She'd say, "I'll probably fall asleep", but she never did. I watched out of the corner of my eye to see if she'd smile at some of the jokes since I mostly brought comedies. I'll miss her!

Jan Ostrowski

Jan Ostrowski - October 05, 2015 at 12:09 PM



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To Diantha's family,

How fortunate Diantha lived in St. Johns for a while! She shared her musical talent through her lessons, her volunteerism in accompanying hundreds of young musicians, not to mention playing hundreds and hundreds of preludes at First Congo Church in St. Johns....giving me goose bumps many times from her selections.

I WILL NEVER FORGET during one of these beautiful preludes... the congregation's voices continued to grow and grow and grow in volume becoming nearly impossible to hear her play....she used both of her arms and slammed them down on the organ keyboard making this very loud unrecognizable sound for about 5 seconds! Instant quiet! She finished it with the peace and quiet of attentive parishioners.....she had grit!

To G. Peter, Ellen and Sarah, and your children, my thoughts go out to you all.

I give thanks for the many ways Diantha touched me through her talents and friendship.....Mary Ellen Darnell

Mary Ellen Darnell - September 27, 2015 at 03:07 PM



“ Dear Guven, Ellen and Sarah,
You already know what an amazing and thoughtful person your mother was, as well as her willingness to share her musical talents so beautifully. She did a lot of things for Gary and me, as well as for many other people, but the most generous thing she did for us was to offer to keep our three children at your house so we could go to a Marriage Encounter weekend, as your parents had recently done. It was the first time we had been away from our kids overnight since our oldest, Jason, was born about 7 years earlier, and we felt nervous about leaving them. Our kids had a grand time! The story I remember most is your mom saying that the 3 of them took off running naked through your upstairs halls after their bath; at the time we lived in the very small house with a very small yard next door to the Martis' garage (which was possibly bigger than our house). She told us that story with her great sense of humor!

We are sorry for your loss, but are thankful that you could be with her at the end. You had all done such a loving job of helping her through this final transition.

With thoughts and prayers for all of you,
Jenny and Gary McCampbell

Jenny McCampbell - September 26, 2015 at 02:23 PM



“ Diane was a wonderful lady. Calm, thoughtful, caring, spiritual, and with an abundance of musical talent. I recall as a young teen she would accompany me on my music recitals. Diane had a sweet tooth for red licorice as I recall. She will be missed by many.

Bob Sanderson - September 24, 2015 at 11:31 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you, her family, in the loss of a Beautiful Lady. I came to know Diantha when we both were volunteering at Hospice House. She will be missed by many of us.

Wilma Blood - September 22, 2015 at 05:55 PM