



Gordana Baic

January 25, 1936 - January 9, 2022

Gordana Baic of Traverse City, Michigan, passed on on January 9th, 2022, surrounded by loving family and friends. Born in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, on January 25th, 1936, she was the only child of Aleksandar and Ksenja Jankovich. In 1959, she married her true love, Proka Baic, and they welcomed their only child Olga in 1962.

Gordana came to the United States in 1966 to build a better life for her family and became a proud US citizen in 1973. Her determined nature helped her build an impactful career in child care. In 1972, just three years after becoming a teacher at Central Day Care center, Gordana was promoted to their Director. She served in this role for 30 years before retiring in 2002. She absolutely adored children, and the thousands who attended the daycare throughout her tenure were enriched by “Mrs. Baic’s” loving yet no-nonsense guidance.

Her gift for sage advice didn’t just stay at the office. Life’s secrets were passed on to her only granddaughter over egg salad sandwiches at Miliken’s tea room (advice Ashley always remembered but didn’t understand until much later.) Other guidance, while always from heart, wasn’t made to be understood. A favorite of her close family is when she reminded her granddaughter, “It’s important to have friends...” before pausing to think and adding, “...I don’t have any.”

The truth is, Gordana had many close friends all over the world. She and Proka traveled often and had a knack for making fast friends wherever they went, including Canada, Germany, and back home in Yugoslavia. Late in life, she found new close friends like Tammy and Linda, who kept her “lunching with the ladies.” Always a community fixture, even during her last lunch date, she was approached by someone who remembered her as “Mrs. Baic.”

Above all, Gordana was a beloved wife, mother, baka, and teta. She is survived by her daughter Olga Topash (James), granddaughter Ashley Dominici (Dru), and sister-in-law Maria Baic. She is preceded in death by her husband Proka, her sister-in-law Olga Champt (Marcel), and her brothers-in-law Nikola Baic and Vojin Baic (Pat). Gordana is

fondly remembered by her entire extended Baic family, including many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews.

Tribute Wall



“ Send *BEAUTIFUL Flowers Locally* to the family of Gordana Baic. Express your condolences, giving comfort and support. [Click here to view selections on our website](#)

Send Flowers - January 12 at 02:47 PM

LB

“ Olga, We just learned about the death of your mom and send our sincere condolences. We always enjoyed talking with your parents in the neighborhood.

Liz and Peter Bruning

Liz Bruning - February 23 at 11:42 AM

DM

“ Dear Olga and family,
May our loving Lord put His arms of comfort, strength, love and peace around you. I am so sorry for the loss of your beautiful Mother. She was so wonderful w/children, so much so, I'm sure today their parents are grateful for all she did to help build their foundation in their lives. I met your Mom through Carol Gardner when Carol had a shop in the Arcade-- I worked next to her (Record Hut) they were such good friends. So today I also feel for Carol's loss. The picture you have of her is just the way I remember your Mom, for she always had a beautiful smile.



Darlene Miller

Darlene Miller - January 15 at 08:55 PM

DC

Dear Olga and family I just learned of your mothers passing through my dear friend Barbara Iverdier Muratzki just last week I'm so sorry for your loss may the LORS hold you all in his loving arms and Peace be with You all!,I have so many fond memories of working w your mom at central day care center!;. Her example helped me so much in my early days working there as a preschool teacher I enjoyed collaborating w her on new ventures as we expanded the center to include older children and later infants she cared greatly for "our",,children there as well as the staff I appreciated her no nonsense approach knowing she had a kind heart! As well !:)... 🙏❤️

deborah Slepicka Commins - June 20 at 02:15 AM

CG

“ Dear Olga and Family,

I first met your mother when I took my son to his first day at Central Day Care Center in 1972. We became good friends almost immediately, and I have such fond memories of our times together with your family. When your grandfather died, I accompanied your mom back to Yugoslavia, and she and your grandmother spent so much time showing me the areas where they had lived, and what life was like there during World War II. It was an experience I shall never forget. When I moved away from Traverse City, we saw each other only occasionally, but I shall always remember her as a “best friend”. I am so very sorry for your loss. She was an exceptional woman.

Carol Gardner

Carol Gardner - January 14 at 11:15 AM

OT

“ 14 files added to the tribute wall



Olga Topash - January 13 at 01:28 PM

MS

“ Maria B Stevenson is following this tribute.

Maria Stevenson - January 12 at 03:34 PM