



Lonna Lou Israel

August 21, 1950 - December 2, 2013

Lonna Israel

Died Monday, December 2, 2013

PHOTO

Traverse City - Lonna Lou Israel, 63, of Traverse City went home to be with her Lord and Savior, who she loved with all of her heart, on Monday, December 2, 2013 at her home in Traverse City.

Lonna was born on Monday, August 21, 1950 to the late Jack and Ethel (Leo) Benzenberg in Saginaw and moved to Traverse City with her family when she was 9. She attended Traverse City Schools and following graduation attended Patricia Stevens Career College. She married Robert L. Israel on May 1, 1971 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Traverse City. Prior to her marriage, she had been an assistant buyer at Milliken's Department store, but then committed to being a supportive wife and stay at home Mom.

Lonna was an active member of the Stephen Ministry while she was a member at Bethlehem Lutheran. She had a spirit of helping others and did so by working with adolescents with chemical dependencies as well as speaking to groups around the area on the subject. She was drawn to young people with her wit, humor and charm and her concern for them, as well as mentoring many. Lonna was funny and caring, and had the gift of kindness. She would find some way to complement each person she came in contact with and she was so giving. If you complimented her on something she had, she would immediately give it to you.

For many years Lonna and Bob were members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church where Lonna served as a kindergarten and senior high Sunday School Teacher. In 2004, she and Bob became charter members of Redeemer Presbyterian Church. She was a super Mom to her daughter Nikki and was very supportive of her endeavors. She loved helping with her grandsons Noah and Isaiah. Lonna was so supportive of Bob, and was his rock,

standing by him in all situations life took them through. Together they enjoyed traveling in their motorhome, as well as riding with Bob on his motorcycle as they traveled with friends. Always classy and dressing with bling, Lonna loved going to the beauty shop each week, loved family gatherings and enjoyed hosting the family for the holidays. Through all the difficult times, Lonna never lost her faith, loving Jesus through it all.

Lonna is survived by her husband Bob; daughter Nikki (Chris) Millward of Traverse City; her grandsons, Noah and Isaiah, sisters, Sandy (Dennie) Merrifield and Jackie (Art) Cole, all of Traverse City, Uncle George (Karen) Leo of Traverse City and her nieces and nephews, Adam (Inger) Cole, Ashly (Jared) Howton, Derek (Jana) Morton and Natalee (Knute) Zehner. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Visitation will begin at 11 A.M. Saturday, Dec. 7 at Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 402 West Ninth St., Traverse City. The service celebrating Lonna's life will begin at 12 noon with Pastors Scott Korljan and Dan Millward officiating. Burial will take place at Oakwood Cemetery.

For a more lasting memorial, please consider a memorial gift in Lonna's name to the Traverse Health Clinic, 3147 Logan Valley Rd., Traverse City, MI 49684 (<http://www.traversehealthclinic.org>)

You may share your memories and thoughts of Lonna with her family by way of her online guest book at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>.

The family is being served by Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Cemetery

Oakwood Cemetery

1325 East Eighth Street
Traverse City, MI, 49686

Events

DEC **Visitation** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

7

Redeemer Presbyterian Church
402 W. Ninth Street, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

DEC **Celebration of Life** 12:00PM

7

Redeemer Presbyterian Church
402 W. Ninth Street, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

Comments



“ I love my Crazy Funny Aunt Lonnie. From Wigs & Hats to Eyebrows & Rings, you always brought the 'bling' & the entertainment. Love you & give hugs to Grandpa & Grandma for me.

Derek Morton

derek morton - December 09, 2013 at 09:57 AM



“ I remember Lonna as a giving person. She and Bob opened her home to myself and many friends. My high school memories are of going to their home on Friday nights for pizza and a sleepover. Lonna trusted me (a sixteen year old girl) with her little red sports car. She allowed me, the "oldest" :) to drive all of us girls to whatever fun activity we had planned. My sympathy to Nikki and Bob. May Gods love comfort you this holiday season and beyond.

Becky (McLeish) Hummel

Rebecca - December 09, 2013 at 06:26 AM



“ Dear Bob, Nikki and family, We were so sorry to hear of Lonna's passing. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this time. Roger & Allene Rouse

Allene Rouse - December 08, 2013 at 01:22 PM



“ Thank you for your prayers Allene! We can truly feel them! -Nikki

Nikki - December 13, 2013 at 12:50 PM



“ Dear Sandy and Family, We were so sorry to read of Lonna's passing. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Paul and Connie Unkefer

connie unkefer - December 08, 2013 at 06:08 AM



“ I have many, many fond memories of Lonna. She was so sweet to me and all of the girls that spent time at her home when we were growing up. A few things will always remind me of her; high school football games (she never missed one), her little sports car (she always looked so cute driving it) and caramel apples (she always had the best ones). She was one of a kind and I am truly sorry for your loss. - Nadine (Rousse) Dorrington

Nadine Dorrington - December 07, 2013 at 07:50 PM



“ Thanks Nadine!! We had a lot of fun times back then. Thank you for your kind words!

Nikki - December 13, 2013 at 12:49 PM



“ Dear Nikki and Bob,

I'm terribly sorry to hear the news of Lonna's passing. She was very special to me. We started out thru Bethlehem Lutheran back in 1988 (Stephen's Ministry). We became friends and enjoyed lunches in each other's homes. I can't tell you how much my heart is broken. I found out at an AA meeting where her obituary is on the board. Needless to say I wish I would've known at the time. I left Bethlehem Lutheran and joined East Bay Calvary Church back in 1997. We lost contact at that time with the exception of a couple if "bump intos" over the years. Please call me.

Jeannette Tuck
231-499-2044

Jeannette Tuck - February 20, 2015 at 10:15 AM



“ I enjoyed Lona's warmth and sense of spirit. Prayers and blessings to you Lona and family - may you find peace at last. God bless you all. Maggie Hartmann

Margaret Hartmann - December 07, 2013 at 05:10 PM



“ I was fortunate to be able to frequent the Israel's home after my high school days. I have fond memories of Lonna and visiting with her. Nikki, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Melissa Donick-Rousse - December 07, 2013 at 12:38 PM



“ Thanks Melissa! It was great seeing you today! The prayers are truly appreciated and we can feel them! -Nikki

Nikki - December 13, 2013 at 12:52 PM



“ I only knew her briefly but she's stayed in my heart. She was a warm intelligent woman who will be missed.

Mike Morey - December 06, 2013 at 12:50 PM



“ Dear Friends,
We are deeply saddened by the loss of Lonna. What a warm, kind, fun-loving neighbor and friend she was. We have wonderful memories of her laugh and goodness. She opened her heart and home with warmth, humor and a helping hand. She truly was a gifted, beautiful woman. We are so sorry for your loss. Please know we will keep you all in our prayers.
Hogg Hugs,
Cindy and Ed

Ed and Cindy Hogg - December 06, 2013 at 06:58 AM



“ Dear Bob, Nikki, Chris, Noah, Isaiah, and Family,
We can't even begin to tell you how our hearts ache for the loss you are suffering but we rejoice in the fact that Lonna is with her Heavenly Father. Lonna was such a special person, as you all know better than we do, she always had a beautiful smile on her face and a compliment or encouragement to give. She always remembered and sent cards on the days that involved our sweet angel little Joey - Days that not even most family members would remember. And I will never forget how she helped me to not be scared of seeing Joey on a ventilator after his big surgery in Chicago. She told me, "Just picture it as a big gift wrapped in shiny paper with a big bow on it. Because that is what it is - It is giving little Joey the gift of life." And from that moment on I wasn't nervous about it anymore. Our children loved her dearly. They were always eager to see her at family gatherings and church. And she was the one who took care of sweet little Isabelle only 8 days old while we had Joey's funeral. She was silly, fun, caring, and stylish and that is how we will always remember her. Please know are prayers are with you all.

Love,
Joe, Emily, "Joey" , Isabelle, Josh, and Eli

Joe and Emily Millward - December 05, 2013 at 08:54 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers go out to Lonna's family. She was such a wonderful, sweet and kind person. It was always a true pleasure to have her in my cab, we would always talk about family and how much she reminded me of my grandma. I will miss her

Nick Hawkins - December 05, 2013 at 05:35 PM



“ Our condolences to the family. We are saddened by your loss. Lonna was always showing kindness to the drivers and dispatchers at Cherry Capital Cab, quite often giving the drivers baked goods to take back to the office to share with the others. She'll be missed here.

Doug Dornbos - December 05, 2013 at 03:47 PM



“ Lonna you came into my life in 1955 and o how I loved visiting you in Saginaw where I loved playing with you and Sandy and rocking your newborn sister, Jackie. I remember the Christmas at your Grandmother's home at Central Lake. You kept climbing over my bed to see if Santa had arrived and I remember one Christmas eve in Traverse City where it was my job to drive the three of you around town while Santa visited your home. Loved you dearly and now it is time to rest in peace with the Lord that you loved. Will miss you. Aunt Phyl

Phyllis Leo - December 05, 2013 at 12:34 PM



“ I will miss my dear cousin's sense of humor, her kind and caring ways, making sure everyone felt included, and her testimony to her love for the Lord. "Rest eternal grant her O God, and may your light perpetual shine upon her."
Kathie Bender Schwich

Kathie Bender Schwich - December 05, 2013 at 11:35 AM



“ Thoughts and prayers are with the whole family in this time of sadness. I have so many happy memories from childhood on--remember the days of cleaning the motel rooms at City Center together and then the fun on the paddleboards in the bay? May God grant you His peace!

cousin Diane Oberlin



Diane Oberlin - December 04, 2013 at 04:01 PM



“ OH Lonna you will be so missed. Garry and I will never enjoy pies with anyone else like we enjoyed them with you. You always made sure we had fresh whip cream and as many pies as you and Garry thought you could eat. You brought so much joy and laughter to all of our Harley events and gatherings with friends. Our prayers go out to your family in this time of sorrow. Lonna you will always be in our hearts and we will never forget you.

Love alway Garry and Marlene Plane

Marlene Plane - December 04, 2013 at 03:35 PM



“ My heart is with Bob and Nikki, and Noah and Isaiah. This picture of Lonna so reflects the joy she spread. We are praying for you. May God hold you all close. With Love, William and Pam Wolz

Pamela Wolz - December 05, 2013 at 05:14 PM