



Mary Kathryn Fluehr

April 5, 1953 - July 29, 2016

Mary Kathryn Hovda Fluehr , 63, passed away July 29, 2016 surrounded by her family after a courageous battle with cancer. Mary was born on April 5, 1953 the second daughter of the late Alden and Joanne (Johnson) Hovda in Volga, South Dakota.

Mary graduated from Thomas Roberts High School 1971 and Luther College in Decorah, Iowa in 1975. She was an art teacher for 12 years in Minnesota and in Florida and an IBM sales person for 10 years in Philadelphia. She married James Fluehr in 1993 and was mother to twin daughters Erika and Kathryn.

Mary's early years were spent in Madison, South Dakota, she lived in Stillwater, Minnesota and for many years in Philadelphia, but most recently lived in Naples, Florida and Leland, Michigan. She loved to play tennis and was a wonderful artist, painting beautiful landscapes of Leelanau County. She especially enjoyed singing in the choir at the Methodist Church in Leland. Mary loved flowers and gardening but she was most happy spending time with her husband and daughters and watching them participate in running events. She took tender care of her 17 year old dog, Abby. We will miss Mary's sweet disposition, her positive attitude, incredible strength, and delightful sense of humor. She saw every day as an opportunity to help make the world a better place, and has touched thousands of lives over the last 63 years. Mary lived her life with dignity and was at peace knowing that her faith in Jesus held the promise for her future.

Mary is survived by her husband Jim, daughters Erika and Kathryn and 6 siblings, Debby (Michael) Olson, Sioux Falls, SD, Richard (Christine) Hovda, Wausau, WI, Craig (Mary Ann) Hovda, Cedar Rapids, IA, David (Jayne) Hovda, St. Paul, MN, Kristin (Peter) Sneed, Leland, MI and Joan Hovda (George Stoffan), Oxford, MI, aunt and uncle Mary and Larry Schultz Lincoln NE and Jim and Judy Johnson Sioux Falls, SD, and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

A celebration of her life will be held on Friday, August 5, 2016 at 11 am, with visiting one hour prior, at the Leland Community United Methodist Church, 106 N. Fourth St, Leland,

MI 49654, with a private family internment. There will be a visitation with the family present on Thursday, August 4, 2016 from 5-7 at the Leland Community United Methodist Church.

Memorials may be given to the Old Art Building in Leland 111 S. main St., Leland, Michigan, 49654.

You may share your thoughts and memoires of Mary with her family by the way of her online guestbook at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff> Funeral home and Cremation Service.

Events

AUG **Visitation** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

4

Leland United Methodist Church
106 N. Fourth St., Leland, MI, US, 49654

AUG **Visitation** 10:00AM

5

Leland United Methodist Church
106 N. Fourth St., Leland, MI, US, 49654

AUG **Funeral Service** 11:00AM

5

Leland United Methodist Church
106 N. Fourth St., Leland, MI, US, 49654

Comments



“ My heart is heavy as my dear friend since 1971 is no longer with us. She was a college friend and roommate and a bridesmaid in my wedding and I in hers. She was sweet and gentle. I am so sorry that I cannot be there to celebrate her life and to reconnect with family. I am so sad for Jim and the girls as well as all her sisters and brothers. God bless the memory of this special lady.

kathy yohe - August 04, 2016 at 05:09 PM



“ I knew Mary when we were kids in Madison. She was a beautiful person, inside and out. I had the biggest crush on Mary and she may not have even known it. The day before the Hovdas moved to Decorah, Mary came to my house to say goodbye. It made me feel very special. She had a way of doing that. We lost track of each other over the years but she always occupied a very special place in my heart. Condolences to everyone.

Denny Holter

Denny Holter - August 04, 2016 at 09:57 AM



“ We are so saddened by the news. We have known Mary through tennis ,the neighborhood book club ,CSN and most recently at Pure Barre here in Naples. Mary was always kind,,devoted to her family and friends and great fun to be with. Our hearts go out to Jim,Erika and Kathryn. You are in our thoughts and prayers.
Lisa and Harold Lauber
Vineyards in Naples,Florida

Lisa and Harold Lauber - August 04, 2016 at 09:36 AM



“ Mary was in the Naples Junior Woman's Club with me and my memories are of a kind, giving woman whose smile lit up the room. I am sad to hear this news and my prayers are with her family.
Jayne Sventek. Naples FL

jayne Sventek - August 02, 2016 at 11:06 AM



“ Mary was every girls role model~~graceful & kind~~She made the world a more beautiful place ~ it was like she had Angels in her hair~~With Love, Joanie



joan hastings - August 02, 2016 at 01:05 AM



“ What a beautiful area to say farewell. Our family has been to Traverse City to visit our youngest daughter on the staff of summer at Interlochen. Mary was a high school friend and will be remembered by her class of 1971 as a gentle, caring, and amazing person.

Our sympathy to her family. Ruth Bruemmer Procter Decorah, Iowa

Ruth Ann Procter - August 01, 2016 at 05:21 PM



“ We were so sad when we heard of Mary's death. As a member of our class of '71, she will always be in our memories as a fun- loving, beautiful person who was liked by beveryone! Our sympathy goes out to her husband, Jim, her beautiful daughters and all of the Hovda "kids". God bless her memory. - Pat and Kerry Dolan

Pat Dolan - August 01, 2016 at 10:50 PM



“ I had just re-connected with Mary here at the Mayo Clinic in March- It was as if all those years of not seeing each other disappeared in that brief time we had to "catch up"! She displayed such grace in handling what life had dealt her and I was so very saddened to hear of her passing...We had been texting about our upcoming high school reunion in September and she has hoping to be able to be there with our class of 1971. My thoughts and prayers to Jim and especially her girls, as she was extremely proud of them!! Rest in peace, my dear friend- You were loved and admired by so many people, as evidenced by the outpouring of support for your family....Marcia (Christianson) Mahlman

Marcia Mahlman - August 02, 2016 at 07:16 AM



“ To the entire Family of Mary Fluehr, My heart is heavy hearing of the new about Mary's passing. What a wonderful caring person who was loved by all. They were also great neighbors when we resided in the Vineyards...I remember so clearly the twins running around and playing in bare feet..they became track stars we followed for years. Mary will be missed by Jim, the girls and so many others. God Bless You ..Mary will be in your hearts and memories a lifetime. God be with her.

Kirk and Colleen Kvetko

St. George, Utah

Colleen and Kirk Kvetko - August 04, 2016 at 12:30 PM



“ I remember Mary and her family from their time in Decorah. Mary always had a beautiful smile and was a friend to all. My sincere sympathy to her family. Bev Nichols

Bev Nichols - August 04, 2016 at 10:29 PM



“ Mary was truly a gentle soul, except on a tennis court! She was competitive but always in a quiet way and so focused! I loved getting to know her through tennis and it somehow became so easily more than that. She was easy to be with and I enjoyed all our time together. God called an angel back and I can't blame him, she was truly special. Which is why she will leave a huge hole in Leland and Naples and especially with her family and while we mourn, we can also rejoice in the knowledge that she is in heaven. One more note of praise, she raised two absolutely wonderful daughters whom were the light of her life and she was so very proud of! They are Mary's legacy, the purpose of her life here. They will do something very special!

Janice Purse

Janice Purse - July 31, 2016 at 06:47 PM