



Kay Ruth Wells

JAN 17, 1937 - MAR 26, 2015



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Kay Ruth (Ewer) Wells, age 78, of Spring Lake died March 26, 2015. She was preceded in death by husband, H. Gary Wells; son, Thomas Edward Wells; and sister, Janice McKenney.

Born in Lansing, MI, she graduated cum laude from Michigan State University majoring in Music Theory. She was a Sigma Kappa and a Delta Omicron Music Sorority member. Further studies included graduate study in music history, a teaching certificate, studies at the Royal School of Church Music London, England and studies in Rome, Italy where she was invited to deliver a paper on St. John Lutheran, the pope's parish church as a part of earning her Master's Degree in Religious Education from the Western Theological Seminary in Holland, MI. where she also earned the church history award.

Kay married H. Gary Wells on February 17, 1962. She was the music director at the First Presbyterian Church in Grand Haven for 25 years, as well as giving private piano and vocal music lessons from home. Later, she taught at Muskegon Community College and was Activities Director with the Muskegon Correctional Facility.

She enjoyed sailing with family and friends, cooking, and classical music.

She is survived by two sons, Christopher Wells of Spring Lake, Michael (Kim) Wells and grandson, Thomas Wells of Norton Shores.

Memorial service will be held 2:00 PM Thursday, April 2, 2015 at VanZantwick Bartels Kammeraad Funeral Home in Grand Haven with Captain Dan Sawka officiating. Visitation will be 6-8 PM Wednesday at the funeral home. Memorial contributions in memory of Kay may be given to Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp or WBLV - Blue Lake Public Radio. Please sign the family's online guestbook at www.vbkfuneralhome.com.

The family is being served by VanZantwick Bartels Kammeraad Funeral Home of Grand Haven.



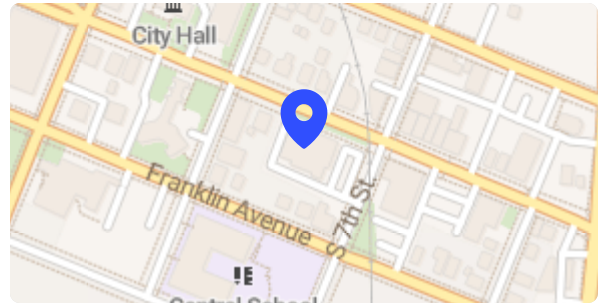
Events

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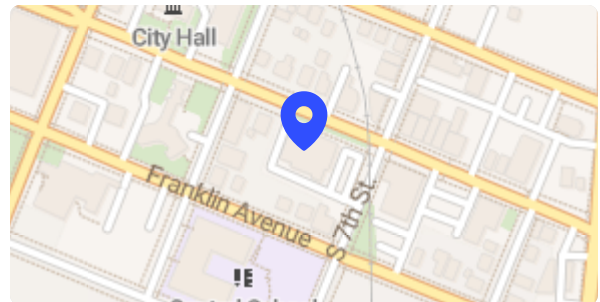
Visitation

- Wednesday**, April 1, 2015
- 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET
- VBK Grand Haven Chapel**
620 Washington Avenue, Grand Haven MI



Service

- Thursday**, April 2, 2015
- 2:00 PM ET
- VBK Grand Haven Chapel**
620 Washington Avenue, Grand Haven MI





Tribute Wall

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ST

Steven Tretchler lit a candle in honor of Kay.



September 4 at 4:39 PM

ST

Steven Tretchler September 4 at 4:45 PM

I thank God, and all of Mrs. Wells' family, friends and co workers for sharing her. But I'm especially grateful to Mrs. Wells herself for her selfless, kind compassion, and gifts she gave to me and so many others. When she entered Heaven, I KNOW our Heavenly Father said "Well done my faithful servant. Now enter into your eternal home of My Glory."

DJ

Dottie Johnson posted:

Dear Chris, Michael, Kim and Tom, What a delightful Mom and Grandmother you had. Mart and I were so sorry not to learn of her passing until this week, when we returned to Grand Haven. Kay was a superb choir director, and kept us on our toes always. I well recall her mandate, "no earrings with choir robes." Mart and I adored her music selections, particularly John Rutter. I always loved the fact that she helped rehabilitate prisoners, I am sure there was a lot of music included. I well recall your Mom telling us of the happy times on your beach, and of course the choir parties there as well. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Big Hugs, Dottie and Mart Johnson

May 2 at 5:18 AM

MC

Marge Carrithers posted:

Our favorite memory of aunt Kay is when she hosted the WELLS family reunion at her home. She made us all feel so welcome and was a terrific hostess. We will we love you and miss you Aunt Kay, Marge and JP Carrithers

April 2 at 9:03 AM



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Janice White posted:

Over the years, Kay became much more than conductor of the church choir that I sang in.. She was a role model, with her love and acceptance of special need's children. She was an inspiration to the community, exposing all of us to the finest in sacred music traditions, even when we did not always understand her reasons why. She was not afraid to introduce us even to music that was fun, yet carried with it a message (" Joseph").Kay always asked me how our kids were doing. She remembered to tell us how much she enjoyed (or didn't enjoy) the latest symphony performance. She was more than my choir director and "Leader of the Band"... she became family!! will miss her terribly, but she will always have a special place in my heart, and in the hearts of our family. I am so grateful to have known Kay and appreciated her gifts , concern, and above all, her sense of humor.Thank you, Chris and Michael, for sharing her with us! Jan White along with Roger, Nick, and Molly

April 2 at 8:29 AM



Roger White posted:

Kay Wells was an important and dear friend to me, and so many other people. Her smile, drive, and compassion set her apart. She loved kids, her family, her friends, her dogs, Lake Michigan sunsets, music, and (especially) "her" choir. Kay had an innate way to bring out the best in people; with her smile and a twinkle of her eye, she'd ask for "just a little bit more". Many of us will be sharing touching, helpful, supportive, and humorous recollections of the many aspects of Kay's personality this week. She was, after all, an educator, musician, friend, loving wife, and Mom. Many of us were bonded to Kay through music and the First Presbyterian Church Choirs.She loved traditional classical music and many a sermon was dwarfed by special music that Kay shared with the congregation. She collaborated with local musicians to feature music, from Bach to Rutter, to even "Joseph and His Technicolor Dream Coat", with a children's choir and orchestra joining us. All of this, despite a few rowdies in the bass section! (I can see that grin !)Another virtue Kay had was patience, from beginning pianists and special needs children, to a not-so-great roof repair crew - which I was a member of - she would find a positive...then that smile!Well, if I should find myself at those pearly gates someday, rumor has it that they probably will have a new angel choir director, and I'll be signing up!Thanks, Kay, for the memories! We will miss you.Roger White and the White family

April 2 at 5:05 AM



Mikey Wells April 2 at 6:48 AM

Spot on.....



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Mikey Wells posted:

I would like to thank all of our family friends that attended Kays' visitation tonight. It was wonderful to participate in your memories of her. Michael

April 1 at 5:30 PM



Connie / John Flynn posted:

Kay and her family have lived next door to my mom and dad since 1967. There are many stories that bring smiles to us. Kay was always a kind, thoughtful and generous neighbor to my parents. She will be missed. Our best wishes to Chris and Michael at this difficult time. Connie (Clements) and John Flynn

April 1 at 4:09 PM



Scott Cutting posted:

Lost: A fine lady. A fine musician.Scott

March 31 at 6:07 PM



Donald Linebaugh posted:

Like Laird, I had the great good fortune to work with and learn from Kay. She brought energy, fun, (some frustration), and a deep spirituality to our church through her musical talents. Choir with Kay was, well, a weekly adventure! As others have said, it was very often Kay's way or the highway - but it always seemed to work out so right. The process might have occasionally been flawed, but the results were superb. Whether it was the Messiah, a weekly anthem, a new cantata, or our production of "Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat," Kay had a gift for coaxing out our best sounds and musical expressions of worship. Kay was a wonderful mentor, encouraging me to take on the children's choir, and helped me negotiate that new challenge. She also taught me about the need for forthright debate and thoughtful engagement on issues that mattered (and that a clean office was the sign of a troubled mind). While I have lost touch with Kay over the last few years, I cannot listen to sacred music without thinking of her and asking, "what would Kay have done differently." We both fell in love with the John Rutter anthem, "God be in my head," and promised that, depending on who died first, we would sing it at the other's funeral. I cannot be in GH to celebrate Kay's life with you, but wanted to offer this recording by the Cambridge Singers as a small token of my affection and love. Don Linebaugh Stewartstown, PA

March 30 at 4:33 PM



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LS

Laird J. Stuart posted:

I am saddened to hear of Kay's death. We worked together when I was the Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven. I loved working with Kay. I always knew what she was thinking. This encouraged me to be clear and straight forward in return. We shared similar values for music and worship. Her brightness and humor made working with her all the more enjoyable and memorable. God bless her.

March 30 at 9:07 AM

KL

Karelyn Lotz posted:

Kay and I started kindergarten together 47 years ago and we have been close friends ever since. Our families were close as well. We shared many happy and some not so happy times, but that is what life is made of. "Sometimes memories sneak out of my eyes and roll down my cheeks" AnonKarelyn Hodges Lotz

March 30 at 3:58 AM

SS

Shirley Sampier posted:

Chris and Michael and Thomas, too. Condolences on the loss of your Mother and Grandmother. She was a good friend and neighbor. Loved all our lake parties and especially the Christmas sing alongs and beach parties. Rest in peace, Kay. Keep the Angels singing.

March 29 at 1:31 PM



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GS

Gordeen Sherwood lit a candle in honor of Kay.



March 28 at 1:43 PM

CV

Char Vanderwall April 2 at 7:13 AM

Thoughts and prayers with the Wells family at this difficult time.

BS

Bill Scott April 2 at 2:05 AM

I was saddened to hear of the death of Kay Wells Two highlights come to mind, Her directing and putting together the production of "Joseph's Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat and introducing the Geneva Choir to the work of John Rutter She can now direct the Angels in singing and music. God Bless her. Bill Scott

GS

Gordeen Sherwood March 28 at 1:49 PM

Both Pete and I will miss our dear friend of many years. What wonderful memories we have of all the special times and places we enjoyed together. I will also miss my dear telephone friend with whom I shared so much...God Bless You Kay ...

SC

Stephanie Cole posted:

Mrs. Wells was one of those terrific people who makes a community a better place to live in. Such a smart and talented lady! She had terrific sense of humor. I was lucky to have known her. I offer my sincere condolences to her family. Stephanie Cole

March 28 at 8:43 AM

AS

Anne Shell posted:

Mike and Chris, my deepest condolences. Your mom was a wonderful lady- I will always have such fond memories of her teaching me to play the piano. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Anne (Cooper) Shell

March 28 at 8:11 AM



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Beverly Cooper posted:

Chris and Mike, this is a lovely picture of your mom, and expresses her friendliness and good cheer. I am sorry to hear that she has passed away, and will miss her in the neighborhood. Love to all of your family, Beverly Cooper

March 28 at 7:49 AM



Dave Cooper posted:

My condolences to Chris and Mike and the rest of her family. Their mother was a very nice lady and a good neighbor. She was there for my mother when my dad passed away a few years ago. She will be missed.

March 28 at 6:08 AM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Wells family.



March 27 at 9:44 PM



Kindra Vilneff lit a candle in honor of Kay.

I am so glad I got to know Kay and work with her over the past several years. We became friends and enjoyed sharing stories of our families. She was a proud mom and grandmother for sure! I always would hear about how helpful Thomas was to his grandmother and she enjoyed every minute of time with him. I will miss her visits into our Physical Therapy clinic and how funny she was as every time she would get out of the pool she would shiver as I put her towel around her to keep her warm (it was really warm in there, but she was always cold)! She hated feeling cold! God Bless Kay as she is in a better place and free of illness!



March 27 at 7:02 PM



Gordeen Sherwood March 28 at 2:09 PM

Kindra, she would share with me the many fun stories from the pool...I will miss her smile, humor and wonder laugh...



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RA

Rob Andersen posted:

I have so many fond memories of Kay as our church choir director. One of my favorites was at the waterfront stadium, and she had a mass community choir. We were singing a rendition of The Battle Hymn Of The Republic. One of the nearly 100 singers said rather forcefully, that we should change part of a phrase. Kay politely replied through the P.A. System; "Thank you. I very much value your opinion." My Aunt turned to me and said, "She's going to change it!" I just smiled. My mother said, "Wanna bet?" And Kay stepped back on the podium, and proceeded to conduct the piece exactly as she wanted it to be done. That was the Kay I knew. She respected others opinions, but she was the director. There's a new director for one of the Easter choirs in heaven now. As the Irish Blessing says, "May God hold you in the palm of His Hand." Thanks Kay, Rob Andersen

March 27 at 3:05 PM

GS

Gordeen Sherwood March 28 at 2:10 PM

Great job Rob!

MB

Mary Jane Boettcher March 28 at 4:53 AM

To Chris and Michael and family I send my love. See you both soon. As Rob said...so many memories. SOLI DEO GLORIA.

KJ

Ken Jackson posted:

Dear Well's family. I sang in the choir for many years. Your Mother was a friend and will be sadly missed. Please know many people knew and loved your Mother. God Bless her.

March 27 at 2:24 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Kay by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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