



Lilija Lazdins

FEB 16, 1922 - JUN 23, 2007



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SYTSEMA
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

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Lilija Lazdins

FEB 16, 1922 - JUN 23, 2007

Lilija Lazdins, 85 of Grand Haven, died June 23, 2007. She is survived by three sons, Juris (Christina) of Woodbine, Maryland, and Valdis (Inara) and Peter (Rita) of Grand Haven; a sister, Elizabeth, of Grand Rapids; and four grandsons and four granddaughters. Her husband, Miervaldis, died May 8, 2007.

Lilija was born February 16, 1922, in Birinos, Latvia to Gvido and Elizabete (Segen) Gailitis. She attended the University of Latvia and studied pharmacology; however, her schooling was interrupted by World War II. Threatened with deportation to Siberian slave labor camps, she fled Latvia with her family in 1944 to escape the Soviet occupation. For a short time she worked as a pharmacist's assistant in Prague until that city was overrun by the communists. Eventually her family made it to western Germany and a displaced persons camp in the American Occupation Zone. There, in the Wurzburg, Germany DP Camp, she met and married Miervaldis Lazdins on August 5, 1947. They eventually immigrated to the United States in 1949 and settled in Grand Haven in 1950. She loved the area and especially Lake Michigan because it reminded her of the Baltic Sea. Lilija worked downtown at Baas' Men's Store and the Country House as a tailor for many years until she retired.

Lilija was an avid gardener, a gourmet cook, and loved to sew and knit. She also enjoyed downhill and cross country skiing and traveled extensively with her family. Lilija and her husband loved to ballroom dance. She sang in the Latvian choir in Grand Rapids for over thirty years. She was active in the Latvian community and in the local Latvian church. Lilija had a wonderful and eventful life and will be missed by her family and friends throughout the world.

There will be a memorial service in Latvian for Lilija at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, June 30, 2007, at the Lee Chapel of Lake Forest Cemetery with Rev. Ilze Goforth officiating. Friends may meet the family 5-8 p.m. Friday, June 29, at VanZantwick Bartels Kammeraad Funeral Home in Grand Haven. Memorial contributions may be made to the Latvian Center Garezers, 57732 Lone Tree Rd., Three Rivers, MI 49093. Share memories with the family at their online guest book at www.vbkfuneralhome.com.



Events

Lilija Lazdins

FEB 16, 1922 - JUN 23, 2007

Visitation



Friday, June 29, 2007

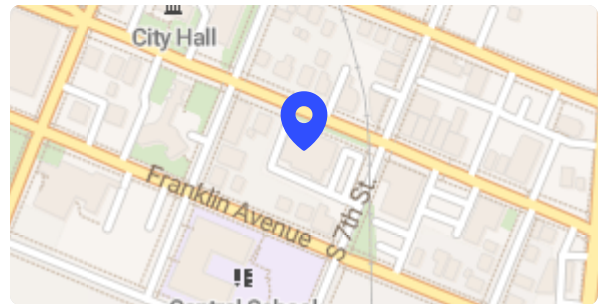


5:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET



VBK Grand Haven Chapel

620 Washington Avenue, Grand Haven MI



Service



Saturday, June 30, 2007

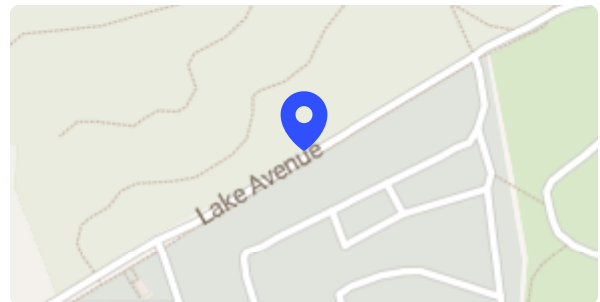


1:00 PM ET



Lee Chapel at Lake Forest Cemetery

1304 Lake Avenue, Grand Haven MI





Tribute Wall

Lilija Lazdins

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Anonymous posted:

I feel deeply saddened by the news of the passing of the parents of my good friend Juri, God bless them##imported-begin##Jorge Sosa##imported-end##

September 10 at 5:29 AM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Lazdins family, I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your mother. She was a special person and such a wonderful neighbor. Growing up right next door to your parents was such a blessing. They were so kind, friendly, and full of 'hellos' and smiles. My sister and I loved to visit with them often, as we played outside as much as they were outside gardening. When the kids and I were talking about the loss of Mr. Lazdins they remembered a time that I had forgotten, but they will never forget...My sister and I had loved leaving them special gifts on their doorsteps, and my kids decided they would like to try to leave something for them as we had done, they wanted to imitate our special memories. So, they left your parents some crafts that they had made...as they rang the doorbell and tried to make a quick, unseen get away your parents called for them to come back to the doorstep. As my kids went over to them, they too, were encouraged and even, to their little hearts delight, were given a quarter as a token of your parents 'thankfulness' for the crafts. What 'down to earth' ways of loving your parents lived out daily! What beautiful people. I am sorry for your loss. May the Lord grant you His peace, the peace that passes all understanding during this time. Debbie Ott (Boyer neighbors)##imported-begin##Debbie Ott##imported-end##

June 27 at 9:10 AM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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