



Barbara Jean Kuipers

MAR 16, 1938 - AUG 6, 2024



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Barbara Jean Kuipers

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On the beautiful morning of her passing, at the age of 86, her magnolia tree bloomed a second time, birthing six new blooms. On August 6, 2024, Barbara "Bobbie" Kuipers' spirit was set free to join her Heavenly Father and her adoring husband, Albert Kuipers.

Barbara was born on March 16, 1938, in Whitehall, MT, to Ralph Huckaba and Violet Stacy Huckaba. Raised in Montana, she completed her Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education with minors in English and Music at Western Montana College of Education. She was an independent, strong Montana woman through and through.

On July 28, 1961, she married the love of her life, Al Kuipers. The couple moved to Utah and began their journey at Wasatch Academy, where Barbara served as a librarian and English teacher. Their next adventure took them to Blanding, UT, where Barbara became the San Juan High School Media Specialist. During this time, she earned her master's degree in Instructional Technology from Utah State University. She authored and published both her master's thesis and a second edition book, *American Indian Reference Books for Children and Young Adults*. At San Juan High School, Barbara managed the Honors Program and Sterling Scholar Program, achieving record numbers of Sterling Scholars from San Juan. Her high expectations and diligent work with students ensured their success, requiring volunteer work, interview practice, and completing impressive portfolios. The family loved exploring this beautiful and historically fascinating red rock country together.

Upon retirement they moved to Salt Lake City to be closer to their family. Barbara had a beautiful singing voice, often complimented at church, and was a talented pianist. Her passion for literature made her a voracious reader, sometimes finishing a dozen books a week. She joined several book clubs, bridge groups, and organizations, such as PEO and her church care group, where she developed lasting friendships.



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She loved hosting gatherings and redecorating her home each season with artwork commissioned by her loving husband. Barbara's greatest joy was attending every event in which her children and grandchildren participated. She was always there for her family. Barbara's children and grandchildren will miss their adventures, family gatherings, and heartfelt conversations.

Barbara is survived by her children: Jim Kuipers (Celeste Callaghan), Dave Kuipers (Suzie), and Stacy Pierce (Joe); her sisters: Kathy Lein and Judy Cowdrey; her grandchildren: Shay Kuipers, Casey Gerdes, Chase Kuipers, Coleman Gerdes, and Brody Kuipers; and her great-grandchildren: Reagan, Jayden, Daisy, Zuni, Xonih, and Otto. The family extends heartfelt thanks to Kasia and Winey from Caring Hearts for their tender and loving care of Barbara in her home. The love of family, friends, and Mt. Olympus Presbyterian Church members provided comfort and lasting memories.

A celebration of Barbara's life will be held on Saturday, September 7, at 10:30 am at Mt. Olympus Presbyterian Church, 3280 E. 3900 S., Salt Lake City, UT.




Events


Barbara Jean Kuipers

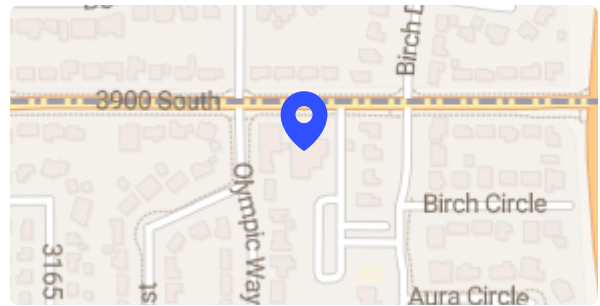
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Celebration of Life

 **Saturday**, September 7, 2024

 10:30 AM MT

 **Mount Olympus Presbyterian Church**
3280 East 3900 South, Salt Lake City UT 84109





Tribute Wall

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Jennifer Smith Johnson posted:

Mrs. Kuipers, as we all knew her, is a legend at San Juan High School and comes up in any discussion of our high school years. I credit her for helping me with many life skills, but one of the most important is how to interview and be interviewed. I still cherish the portfolio she helped me put together. One of the funniest memories I have of her was she was so worried about my hair looking professional (it's naturally curly with a mind of its own) so when Miss Payne and I called to tell her I had won the FBLA interview competition her response was how did she do her hair? She's going to need that same style for Sterling Scholar interviews. May Mrs. Kuipers rest in peace and her family find comfort in their memories. Thank you for the time you spent on the youth of SJC.

August 24 at 2:33 AM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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