



A Celebration of Life Service

Saturday, March 1, 2014 at 1:00 P.M.
Wildwood Mennonite Church
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

OFFICIATING MINISTER	Joe Hiekman
PIANIST	Brenda MacDonald
EULOGY	Doreen Pankewich Norma Klassen Carol Klassen
SHARING MEMORIES - OPEN	
MUSIC	Family & Friends
	<i>Amazing Grace</i> <i>Twilight is Stealing</i> <i>The Lord's Prayer</i> <i>The Lord is My Shepherd</i> <i>Whispering Hope</i> <i>In the Bulb There Is a Flower</i>
CLOSING REMARKS & PRAYER	Rev. Verner Friesen

PAULBEARERS

Trevor Pankewich	Kerry Pankewich
Johanna Kaiser	Josh Kaiser
Elsa Fridriksson	Mekkin Fridriksson

Lunch to follow celebration. All are invited.
Interment (following lunch) at the Waldheim Cemetery
Rev. Verner Friesen officiating

Obituary for Arlene Helen Klassen

Arlene was born in Waldheim, along with her twin sister, Doreen, on March 5, 1950. She spent her early years on the family farm. At that time there were no accommodations for students with special needs in regular schools, and so Arlene stayed with her Aunt Helen in Saskatoon while attending John Dolan School. After Arlene's parents moved to Saskatoon in the mid 70's, she lived with them for many years, working first at the Saskatchewan Abilities Council and later at Cosmo Industries. Arlene lived briefly in private group homes before settling at Parkridge, where she lived the remainder of her life.

Arlene was very determined to live a full life, enjoying singing in choirs, piano and swimming lessons, Girl Guides, bowling, Camp Easter Seal, bike riding, sewing, crocheting afghans, dancing, reading, writing letters and stories, and travelling to "The Holy Land", Hawaii, Mexico, and other parts of Canada.

Family and church were a very important part of Arlene's life. In her early childhood she attended German Sunday School with her family at a country church, Tiefengrund Mennonite, followed by Sunday dinner and "faspa" at grandparents' farm homes, usually surrounded by a large extended family. In Saskatoon Arlene attended First Mennonite Church, where she sang in a special choir conducted by her Aunt Helen, and where she took catechism classes. She was baptized in Waldheim Zoar Mennonite Church, where she attended when at home with her parents and sisters. As an adult, Arlene attended Wildwood Mennonite Church with her parents, assisting with a pre-school children's Sunday School Class for a time. Arlene enjoyed social outings with relative and church families, and she freely took the opportunity to perform on piano, recite poems, or share her thoughts at special celebrations.

Arlene inspired many lives and shared freely her smiles and hugs. She was very determined and frequently challenged others' perceptions of her limitations. She taught us about respect and dignity for all people, about valuing our differences and encouraging each other's unique strengths.

Arlene's family is grateful for the many people who contributed to her life: her caring relatives, friends, and church communities. A special thank you to the staff who cared for her so lovingly at Parkridge Centre, where she passed away while sleeping peacefully on February 21, 2014.

Arlene was predeceased by her father, Jacob Klassen, two siblings who died at birth, and her dear Aunt Helen. She will be fondly remembered by her mother, Johanna Klassen, her sisters, twin Doreen (Albert) Pankewich, Norma Klassen (David Kaiser), Carol Klassen (Stefan Fridriksson), nephews & nieces, Trevor (Corinne) Pankewich, Kerry (Rona) Pankewich, Johanna Kaiser (Mike Maggrah), Joshua Kaiser, Elsa Fridriksson, Mekkin Fridriksson, grand nieces and nephew, Bella, Kyrena, Kingston and Irelann Pankewich, as well as extended family and friends.

Psalm 121

1. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help
- 2 My help cometh the lord which made heaven and earth
- 3 He will not suffer the foot to be moved he that keepeth thee will not slumber
- 4 Behold he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep
- 5 The lord is thy keeper the lord is thy shade upon the right hand,
- 6 The sun shall not smite thee by day nor the moon by night
- 7 The lord shall preserve thee from all evil he shall preserve thy soul
- 8 The lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth and even for evermore,

Psalm 121 - Arlene's handwriting

Donations can be made in Arlene's memory to Camp Easter Seal
<http://www.abilitiescouncil.sk.ca/index.cfm>

Arrangements entrusted to
Dalmeny Funeral Home



Arlene Helen Klassen

March 5, 1950 - February 21, 2014