



Susan L. Fogarty

AUG 27, 1944 - OCT 6, 2017



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Susan L. Fogarty

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Big Rapids - Susan Laraine Fogarty, 73, of Big Rapids, passed away suddenly but peacefully Friday, October 6, 2017, at her residence. She was born August 27, 1944, in Ludington, the daughter of James (Bill) and Veronica (Honey) (Kazmerski) Fogarty, and graduated from Muskegon Catholic Central High School in 1962. Susan earned her B.S. in Nursing from Mercy College in Detroit, her Nurse Practitioner's Certificate from Case Western University in Ohio, and her Master's Degree from Wayne State University in Detroit. Upon graduating college Susan worked as a Public Health Nurse in Texas and Detroit. In the 1970s she became one of the first Nurse Practitioners in the country. She practiced Family Health in White Cloud and Baldwin for 10 years. In 1987, she moved to Big Rapids where she began teaching at Ferris State University, retiring as a professor in 2012. As a professor of nursing who specialized in community health, Susan was a pioneer in her department. She led a study-abroad program that took students to Finland, The Netherlands, and New Zealand. She was an early adopter of online instruction and distance learning techniques. A member and advisor for Sigma Theta Tau, the International Honor Society of Nursing, Susan also received numerous professional awards, including the Bertha Lee Culp Human Rights Award for her years of advocacy for the LGBTQ community. Susan loved to travel in the U.S. and internationally and had journeyed to Poland, Fiji, Sicily, the Panama Canal, and many other destinations, often forming long-lasting friendships as she went. Active in both her book club and the local foreign film club, she loved reading, art, dance, and jazz music, and volunteered regularly at Artworks in Big Rapids. Her epicurean love of eating excellent food was matched only by her love of cooking it. Her family and friends were blessed often by her gourmet meals and her beautiful handmade quilts, as well as by her smart wit, her inner strength, and her rich love for them and for life itself. Susan is survived by 2 children, Amy (Michael) Carpenter-Leugs of



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Grand Rapids, Peter (Dino Stoneking) Carpenter of Chicago; 3 grandchildren, Brian (Kathryn), Fisher, and Riley Leugs; 3 sisters, Cindy (Bob) Zellers of Middleton, WI, Kathy (Doug) Fogarty-Laboda of Belleville, MI , Mary James of Cross Lanes, WV; one brother, Jim (Kathy) Fogarty of Virginia Beach, VA; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Susan was preceded in death by her parents and her beloved aunt, Dorothy Tope. Memorial services will be 2:00 p.m., Sunday, October 15, 2017, at the Mohnke Funeral Home in Big Rapids, with the Rev. Bruce Roller officiating. Susan's family will greet friends beginning at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday at the funeral home. Memorial contributions in her name may be made to Artworks, with envelopes available at the funeral home.



Tribute Wall

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CM

Christina Mcmillan posted:

One of the best faculty i met while studying at ferris state nursing program. She sponsored our trip to Finland in 2003...it was a really amazing experience!! Fogarty sparked my passion for community health..she waa a great person!! My condolences to you

December 27 at 8:00 PM

KS

Kim (Tiernan) Schodlatz posted:

Rest in peace, Susan. You were a good friend and source of support to my mother and to our family. You gave me the book "Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions," by Gloria Steinem when I graduated from college as well as "The Color Purple."^L

October 14 at 8:00 PM

DW

Danile Wilmouth posted:

A love of cooking, foreign films, and adventure travel - what a kindred spirit! I wish I could have known Susan. At least I have the privilege of friendship and artistic collaboration with her brilliant son Peter. I am so sad that Susan's life was cu

October 13 at 8:00 PM

AT

Alan Tope posted:

I deeply regret that I am not able to attend the memorial for Susan. My thoughts are with the familys sorrow at this time of sudden loss. But we also remember the inspirational life Susan lived. What a contribution she made to so many!

October 13 at 8:00 PM

KL

Kirsi Liimatainen posted:

Kirsi Liimatainen has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.

October 12 at 8:00 PM

JU

Julie posted:

Your family is in our prayers

October 12 at 8:00 PM



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KL

Krisi Liimatainen posted:

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October 12 at 8:00 PM

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TW

There's Lucht Woodward posted:

Peter and Amy, my heart goes out to you over the passing of your mom. Such fond memories of growing up and visiting your house after band and drama club. Prayers for peace and healing.

October 12 at 8:00 PM

KL

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BR

Brandi Reilly posted:

I was one of Susan's last nursing students before she retired. She changed my life, as a queer kid in northern Michigan and as a nurse. She was an ally before it was a cool thing to be, and she always made me feel safe in her classroom. She will be

October 10 at 8:00 PM

MF

Michelle Falkowski posted:

What a Beautiful tribute. I hope we all can live lives as full as she did. Condolences.

October 9 at 8:00 PM

EU

Ellen Upchurch posted:

RIP dear friend. I am blessed by having known you.

October 9 at 8:00 PM

RS

Rose Anne Shansky posted:

I knew Susan only casually, but our interactions were always both amusing and informative. We shared biking, books and Finnish dinnerware--as well as a love of the arts and unschooling. She was a remarkable, accomplished, giving woman whom I'm privi

October 9 at 8:00 PM

CH

Christine Vonder Haar posted:

I am so sorry to hear of Susan's passing a wonderful woman with such life and vibrancy, with humor and grace, zest for life, gift of friendship and caring for others. Susan was a neighbor I didn't see often enough, but now and then we might catch e

October 9 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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