



# Asbjorg "Pøni" H. Hansen

AUG 3, 1941 - MAY 20, 2020



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## **Asbjørg "Pøni" H. Hansen**

AUG 3, 1941 - MAY 20, 2020

**B**ig Rapids - Asbjørg "Pøni" Hansen, 78, of Big Rapids, passed peacefully after a long illness in the comfort of her home surrounded by the love of her family and friends.

She was the oldest of 4 children born to Johan and Mildrid (Christoffersen) Hansen on August 3, 1941 in the small fishing village of Ballstad, in the Lofoten Islands of Norway, north of the Arctic Circle.

Pøni left home as a young woman and served as a radio operator for ships sailing throughout Scandinavia and eventually immigrated to the United States in 1964, adopting Big Rapids as her home in 1973. In addition to being a gifted homemaker and mother, she earned an associate's degree in Dental Technology from Ferris and was proud to work many years at Ferris State University before retiring from the Office of International Education, where she welcomed everyone with open arms. She loved supporting her students, colleagues, and building international goodwill and understanding. Pøni was a model citizen, both local and global and spent many productive years intensely committed to her many friends and interests. She generously volunteered throughout the area and championed many good causes. Back in the day, Pøni could be found supporting literacy through the Friends of the Library, sorting plastics at Recycle of Mecosta County and advocating for social justice at every opportunity while always celebrating art, beauty, and diversity. Pøni had the ingenuity and courage to travel worldwide; almost always solo, with a rucksack, good shoes and always in style. She spent over two decades traveling to over 20 foreign countries and extensively throughout the States, often spending months of time away. Pøni loved to marvel at the big world but found her true joy in life's simplicity. At home, she was most fulfilled while baking bread, sewing exquisite creations, and reading good books. Her creative and courageous spirit has inspired many to pursue their own dreams and define the meaning of their own success.



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Pøni is survived by her daughter, Gry Karen and granddaughter, Sara Lillian Woodward of Hendersonville, NC; her beloved sister, Marit Hansen; brother-in-law, Dr. Jan Hana; and wonderful nieces and nephews, Øydis, Åshild, Johan, Matias and their respective families all of Norway. Pøni's brothers, Øyvind and Sven-Erik Hansen preceded her in death.

She will be missed by many.

Due to current public health concerns, a memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions in Pøni's name may be made to Friends of the Library or a local charity of your choice. Care and arrangements are entrusted to the Mohnke Funeral Home in Big Rapids. Share a memory or express condolences at [mohnkefuneralhome.com](http://mohnkefuneralhome.com).



## Tribute Wall

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ME

**Marja Erdogan** posted:

In 2008 I was as an exchange student in Ferris State University. I met Pøni in the local library's foreign film event. She was so warm and friendly and every now and then we spent some time together. She was really into Eckhart Tolle and invited me sever

December 28 at 8:00 PM

AP

**Aaron Palmer** posted:

I always think fondly of Poni whenever I encounter hardtack, GJETOST (cheese) & even plain old hard salami since she introduced me to these various tasty foods during the lunches I enjoyed with her & Gry in the early 1980s. One of my mom's favorit

June 9 at 8:00 PM

KM

**Karen Manoski** lit a candle in honor of Asbjorg "Pøni".

Gry I am so sorry to hear of your mom's passing. Although I did not know her well, she was always such a pleasure to visit with, a very lovely lady.

May 26 at 8:00 PM



HB

**Heather Boeke** posted:

I never got to meet her, but I know she must have been an incredible person to raise Gry and Influence Sara, both of which are admirable women. It sounds like her amazing spirit will live with you.

May 26 at 8:00 PM

DN

**Darlene Nichols** posted:

Gry and Sara - I am very sorry for your loss. Your mother/mormor was an amazing woman. I am glad to have had her in my life.

May 26 at 8:00 PM



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**Brian** posted:

Gry, what a wonderful tribute to your Mom, beautifully written. She lived life her own way and I always admired her for that. Hugs to you and Sara and hope to see you soon. ~B

May 26 at 8:00 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Asbjorg "Pøni" by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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