



Alice J. Donaldson

October 23, 1927 - April 14, 2013

Alice J. Donaldson, 85, of St. Joseph, passed away peacefully at her home Sunday, April 14, 2013.

Alice was born on Oct 23, 1927 in Crawfordville, IN to Ralph and Ruth Olin Crowder. While performing as a vocalist with local big bands, she met the band drummer, Benjamin Franklin Donaldson, Jr. on Aug 16, 1947 they were married. He preceded her in death on Oct 24, 2009. Together they celebrated 62 happy years as husband and wife.

Alice and Ben established the popular and award-winning toy and hobby store, The Hobby Horse, in downtown St. Joseph, which they owned and operated for 17 years. She was also the Vice President of Parren-Donaldson, Inc., Treasurer of Monday Musical Club, Inc., business manager of West Coast Gym, LLC, as well as being involved in many other organizations. Alice approached life with enthusiasm, tenacity and boundless energy, and had a talent for organization, finance and detail.

She is survived by her daughters, Laura Donaldson and Lisa Donaldson and her son, Benjamin Franklin (Angela) Donaldson III; her grandchildren, Sarah Swerbinsky (Brian) Clark, Lindsay(Mike Basel) Tuhacek, Allison (Andy Foster)Tuhacek, Hunter Johnston and Joseph Benjamin Donaldson; her great grandchildren, Keira, Caeden, and Braylen Kurtz, Maia Basel, and Trace and

Avery Clark; her brother-in-law, James Donaldson; her nieces, Diane Winslow and Debra Donaldson; and her nephews, James, Jr. and Jeffrey Donaldson.

Family services celebrating her life will be held at a later date and cremation has taken place. Burial of the ashes will be in Spring Run Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Monday Musical Club, the Humane Society, or in the form of fond memories. Please share memories, messages or photos at www.florin.net.

Tribute Wall

JT

“ Dear Donaldson Family:
I grieve with you!
Alice & I were friends since the 4th grade!
Girl Scouts ;North School; WTHS
I knew your grandparents on both sides
Your father visited us in Calif. several times!
They were all wonderful people!!
You can be proud of your heritage!

Fondly.

Joan Mayer Teller

joan mayer Teller - May 06, 2013 at 12:07 PM

CC

“ Dear Laurie, Lisa, and Ben,

I was SO SAD when I opened your note today; your mother was my last link to my family (except for a niece and nephew). She was such a feisty lady that I thought she would live forever.

Please advise me of the family service because I would love to attend.

Hugs to All!!!

Clare Crowder

Clare Crowder - May 01, 2013 at 05:07 PM

RK

“ *Laura, Lisa, & Benji;
Soon only fond memories will remain, knowing only Laura is enough
to know the legacy continues. "You"nique Construction LLC*

robert kotman - April 21, 2013 at 12:52 PM

JP

“ *Pez....I am so sorry to learn of your Mother's passing. As you and
your family know, we have fond memories of the Donaldsons and
could see your house across The Ponds from us. I know Jeff, Rick
and Randy will feel sad for you also. Love, Joann Prince*

Joann Prince - April 21, 2013 at 12:50 PM

AB

“ *Benji, Laura , and Lisa*

*I am so sorry for the loss of Mrs. Donaldson. She was such a
wonderful woman. I always enjoyed mowing for her. She was
always there with a smile and a hug and a list of yard chores, and
she always made my children feel welcome with an offer for a dip in
the pool or a piece of bread for them to feed the turtles. She was
such a sweetheart, and I will miss her so much.*

Please let us know if we can do anything to help.

*Sincerely,
Amy Burke*

Amy Burke - April 20, 2013 at 06:45 AM

SN

“ *Monday Musical Club was the beneficiary of Alice's expert direction as our treasurer. She was always so confident and expressed a lot of joy. She took pride in keeping our books correct. She will be missed by all of us who had the privilege of knowing her.*

Sandra Nye, President

Sandra Nye - April 19, 2013 at 08:48 AM

SS

“ *The Silver Beach Carousel family was saddened to hear of Alice's passing. She and Ben showed great support and generosity when they purchased and then donated the classic, century-old original band organ to the Silver Beach Carousel Society before we even had a site or design for our machine. Band organ music signals the start of every ride and also brings back memories for those who remember long-ago outings with family and friends at the Silver Beach Amusement Park. Listening to Ben's favorite song, "Sleepy Lagoon Waltz", will be especially nostalgic now. What a beautiful and happy legacy the Donaldson family has given to area residents and visitors! Thank you, Alice and Ben -- we will never forget you. And to the entire Donaldson family, you are in our thoughts and prayers as you mourn the loss of a truly lovely lady.*

*Suz Schalon
President
Silver Beach Carousel Society*

Suz Schalon - April 18, 2013 at 10:13 PM

LD

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Laura Donaldson - April 18, 2013 at 06:12 PM

DC

Maybe a few more wrinkles but she really hasn't changed much.

David Cunningham - April 18, 2013 at 06:44 PM

LD

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Laura Donaldson - April 18, 2013 at 06:02 PM

DC

“ Dear Benji, Laura, and Lisa,

We are saddened by Alice's death. I spoke with her on the phone the day before she died. We have been neighbors for over 20 years and I always appreciated her husky laugh and lively intelligence. She and I agreed on almost nothing (especially politics and economics) but that did not prevent me from liking her immensely. And I believe she was very fond of us too. We will miss her as we miss your dad. The Ponds has lost one its earliest and most devoted settlers. It won't be the same without the Donaldsons.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help you.

Dave and Lee Cunningham

David Cunningham - April 18, 2013 at 05:59 PM

RR

“ *Our deepest sympathy to the family. My daughter worked at Inter City Bank in St. Joseph when she graduated high school in 1979, and Alice was always so kind to her. I was a secretary to Ben in 1983-84 at Whirlpool, and he was a wonderful supervisor!*

Rhonda & Paul Richards, Coloma, MI

Rhonda Richards - April 18, 2013 at 12:49 PM

NP

“ *Aww, I'm sorry to hear about your loss. I'll be thinking of you during this difficult time. May God bring you peace and comfort.*

*xo
Nancy*

Nancy Pretty - April 18, 2013 at 10:18 AM