



Helen M Waisanen

October 4, 1928 - June 18, 2015

Helen M Waisanen (nee Hill) died peacefully on June 18, 2015. She was 86.

Born on October 4, 1928 in Detroit, MI, she moved as an infant with her parents, Erick and Lillian Hill, to Ontonagon, MI. At Suomi College (now Finlandia) she majored in music and met her future husband, Frederick B. Waisanen of Aura, Michigan.

Fred and Helen had three children, Christine, John and Erick. They enjoyed traveling, and Fred's work as a sociologist brought the family to Iowa, North Dakota, Finland, Costa Rica and Michigan, where Fred was tenured at Michigan State University and Helen taught in Lansing schools for many years.

The couple enjoyed traditional folk music, and were founders of the Aura Jamboree-- a multi-day music festival with dance since 1976-- and active with the Baraga Friends of the Arts. Helen was also active with many organizations including NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) and was Chair of Aura Community Hall. She took classes in lifelong learning, loved her movie nights at Peter White Library and enjoyed gardening, cooking, and quilting, among other interests. Helen was a nature lover, and enjoyed spending summers at the family's lakeside cabin on Pte. Abbaye.

She was preceded in death by her husband Fred and her sons John and Erick. She is survived by her daughter Christine, her daughter-in-law Susan and her five grandchildren, John, Jr, Jeff, Ellen Mary, Tom and Erick. She was also immensely proud of her four great-grandchildren. Helen was a loving, strong and generous woman who was devoted to her family and friends, and she will be deeply missed.

A memorial service was held on Sunday, June 28, 2015 from 5 pm-7 pm at the Pavilion at Presque Isle in Marquette, Michigan, 49855. Burial will take place at a later date in Aura, Michigan. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Aura Community Hall, c/o L'Anse, Michigan, 49946 or to NAMI.org.

A memorial service was held at 10:30 am on Saturday, July 9, 2016 at the Reid Funeral Service and Chapel, L'Anse. The family greeted friends at the funeral chapel on Saturday from 10 am until the time of the service. Immediately following the memorial service, the family invited friends to join them for fellowship and a luncheon in the Harrington Gathering room, located at the funeral chapel.

Interment took place in the Aura Cemetery.

Cemetery

Events

Aura Cemetery

Aura, MI,

JUL **Visitation** 10:00AM - 10:30AM

9

Reid Funeral Service and Chapel
18240 US 41, L'Anse, MI, US, 49946

JUL **Service** 10:30AM

9

Reid Funeral Service and Chapel
18240 US 41, L'Anse, MI, US, 49946

Comments



“ I am so sorry for your loss. Helen & Fred were good friends of my parents, Clayton and Marcella Auger. I have fond memories visiting with both of them!

Robin Henry - July 15, 2015 at 12:20 PM



“ Glenda Hiltunen lit a candle in memory of Helen M Waisanen



Glenda Hiltunen - July 10, 2015 at 03:36 PM



“ Helen was my very good friend and mentor, sorry for your loss Christine, Susan and families.

Glenda Hiltunen - July 10, 2015 at 03:39 PM



“ Kathleen K. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Helen M Waisanen.



Kathleen K. - July 01, 2015 at 11:09 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to Christine, Susan and all the family. Helen was a lovely lady and she will be deeply missed.

Kathi & Bob King

Kathleen King - July 01, 2015 at 10:11 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Helen Waisanen



Barb Waisanen - June 30, 2015 at 03:48 PM



“ I met Helen a few years ago when she joined a lunch group in Marquette, MI. Always thought she was such a lovely lady, with a gentle and attractive style. She sure was a survivor based on some of her sad background stories. Our group will miss her during the times we share ahead. Bless Helen and her family. -- Paula McCormick

Paula McCormick - June 27, 2015 at 07:45 AM



“ My mother, Elna Lampi, who is now 92 years old and in a nursing home, knew Helen for more than 50 years. Elna greatly appreciated Helen's friendship. We send our condolences to Christine, Susan, the grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Harold Lampi and Elna Lampi

Harold Lampi - June 26, 2015 at 12:20 AM



“ Norma Kokko lit a candle in memory of Helen M Waisanen



Norma Kokko - June 25, 2015 at 08:31 AM



“ I was a co-member with Helen of the grief group, The Compassionate Friends. Neither she nor I attended every meeting, and we did not know each other well. She was not verbose, yet I felt that she carried a deep hurt from past pains. I often felt the desire to get to know her better, and I looked forward to the time when she and I could more fully communicate. But a convenient opportunity did not present itself and I did not stretch myself to reach out. I feel some regret now that I did not find some

way to connect more fully with her.

Gene Stroobants - June 24, 2015 at 11:55 AM



“ We will miss Helen very much. We are honored that she was our friend and will treasure the many wonderful moments we shared. Helen & Bob Foster

helen foster - June 22, 2015 at 05:10 PM