



Judith May Bishop

December 28, 1940 - December 17, 2019

Judy Bishop, 78, of Oskaloosa, passed away suddenly, Tuesday, December 17, 2019, at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines, IA.

Judith May Bishop was born on December 28, 1940, in Kearney, New Jersey, to George Jabez Simpson and May Elizabeth Simpson. She graduated from Ames High School in 1959. She attended Iowa State University for three years, and graduated from William Penn College in 1980, with a Bachelor's Degree in Music and P.E. While at Penn, she played on the Women's Tennis Team. She received her Masters of Music Education from the University of St. Thomas, Minnesota. On August 25, 1962, she married Robert Wayne Bishop of Ames, Iowa. They raised a daughter, Krys, and a son, Dan. She taught elementary music for 20 years for the Oskaloosa Community School District.

Judy loved to play her violin and was a long-time member of the Central College Orchestra and the Ottumwa Symphony Orchestra, and played every Sunday at her church. When she was 13, she had the honor of playing her violin at Carnegie Hall. She was an avid reader and belonged to three book clubs. Bridge was a favorite game, and she played regularly in three bridge clubs. Yarn arts were another passion, and Judy spent many hours lovingly spinning wool and knitting gifts for her friends and family. She made countless pairs of Nordic snowflake mittens. She was involved in three spinning and knitting groups. P.E.O. is an organization that was near and dear to her heart, and Judy was a member of Chapter N.N. for over 50 years. Judy served on the Oskaloosa Library Board, Foster Care Review Board, and many committees and boards at the St. Paul Congregational United Church of Christ in Oskaloosa, where she was a member for 55 years.

Planting, caring for, and sharing her flowers with friends was a favorite pastime. She enjoyed walking the trails in Rocky Mountain National Park with her family and snowshoeing in the winter. She had a great sense of adventure and loved traveling with friends and family. Her brother, Allan, taught her to fly fish, and fishing in Montana with him brought her great joy. She also had a great sense of humor and frequently told funny stories about herself and her family.

Judy was preceded in death by her father, George, and mother, May.

She is survived by her husband, Bob, their daughter Krys (Jim) Plate of Denmark, IA, their

son, Dan (Cathy) Bishop of Mitchellville, IA; grandchildren: Evelynne (Peyton) Thomas of Norwalk, IA, Kayley Plate of Kansas City, MO, Jameson Plate, Karley Plate, and Kaydey Plate; and one great-grandson, Calvin Thomas. She is also survived by one brother, Dr. Allan (Ginny) Simpson of Nellys Ford, Virginia; a brother-in-law, Bill (Sandi) Bishop of Boone, IA; two cousins; and nieces and nephews.

Memorial Services for Judy will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, March 14, 2020, at the St. Paul Congregational United Church of Christ with Rev. Carol Lammatteo officiating. The family will greet visitors from 9:30 a.m. to service time Saturday morning. Memorials may be made to St. Paul Congregational United Church of Christ in Oskaloosa or Chapter N.N., P.E.O. Langkamp Funeral Chapel and Crematory are handling the arrangements.

Previous Events

Family Greeting Time

MAR 14. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Paul Congregational United Church of Christ
501 High Ave. East
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Memorial Service

MAR 14. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Paul Congregational United Church of Christ
501 High Ave. East
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Tribute Wall



“ *Judith May Bishop*

October 05, 2023 at 11:57 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Judith May Bishop.*



March 12, 2020 at 04:57 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Judith May Bishop.*



March 11, 2020 at 01:06 PM

JK

“ *Bob, have been thinking about you and your family. Hoping you are doing well and that your faith is helping you through. Jane Kauz*

Jane Kauzlarich - March 07, 2020 at 04:26 PM

CK

“ *On behalf of the Central College Music Department, I send our deepest condolences. Judy was an important member of the orchestra, and I always looked forward to speaking with her when I joined the ensemble for concerts. Her spirit and musicianship is dearly missed. We would be honored to give a musical offering in her memory. Please reach out to me (Cynthia Krenzel) if there is a place and time where this would be most appropriate.*

Cynthia Krenzel - January 09, 2020 at 04:36 PM

SM

“ Bob, I'm so sorry for your loss. Judy and I go back to our years in the Ames High orchestra, sharing first desk in the violin section. But more than that, we were friends, along with six other women who have kept in touch all these years, a friendship grounded in our love of music and in our faith. She will be missed by many. May you find comfort in your memories, and in the knowledge that she touched many lives with her music and her generous, lively spirit.

Susan Marrier - January 07, 2020 at 04:43 PM

MM

“ Bob and family,

I have Judy to thank for good memories of elementary music class! I always appreciated her love for music and care for students. She was always very encouraging and even convinced me to go sing with an elementary honor choir in Muscatine. That is a special memory! My condolences to the family, especially Bob (or Mr Bishop as he was to me). Bob also played a special part in my education. I'm still designing and drafting as an engineer and Bob - your teaching was the best I ever got in CAD and put me ahead of the pack! I'll be praying that even in grief, God will bring peace and joy as you remember Judy and the many lives she touched.

Mark McLellan

Mark McLellan - December 20, 2019 at 10:56 AM

LL

“ Bob and family,

I got to know Judy during the 1980 community theatre production of Georgiana. She was warm, kind hearted and so encouraging. Her smile and energy were contagious. I am saddened by her passing, and trust your many years of memories will bring you comfort as you grieve.

Laura Webster Larsen

Laura Webster Larsen - December 19, 2019 at 09:26 PM

NG

“ Judy is a long-time member of the Fiber Arts Shoppe group in Albia where we gather every week. I am so deeply saddened by her sudden passing and will miss her far more than I can say right now. She was creative, gifted and fun. That wonderful sense of humor I will miss the most. I counted her as a dear friend and someone who lit up a room effortlessly.. Sending so much love & comfort to her family. We were all blessed to have Judy in our lives.

Nell Gates - December 19, 2019 at 11:34 AM

AM

“ I was saddened and shocked to hear of Judy’s passing Tuesday. I have known Judy for 30 years. I first met her in my kindergarten-6th grade music class at Whittier elementary and gained her as a choir director in 6th grade, I was blessed to ride with her to central college when I performed with the orchestra there after college and was very glad when Judy joined Ottumwa Symphony for the past several years. I can’t imagine what symphony will be like without her in it. One thing that I can say about Judy is that she is a believer in sparking and encouraging musical talent. I kinda am shocked still that she chose me for a solo in 6th grade choir and let me sing out as loud as I did. 🧑🏻👦🏻♀️ She didn’t care because she knew it was just a young girl gaining confidence in herself musically. She seemed to enjoy being part of groups and encouraged other to join in so that they could share in the experience. I think the best way we can remember Judy is to do what she did often. We need to invite others towards our circles and the world will be a better place for it.



Angela McDonald - December 19, 2019 at 03:34 AM

JH

“ Bob and Family,
I am so terribly sorry for your loss. I have so many great memories of Judy. One night we had a reception in the Foyer Gallery at the Library and Judy played with Anita that night and it was wonderful, their music turned the occasion into a night to cherish. Judy was always funny and insightful at book clubs and I shall miss her.
Julie Hansen

Julie Hansen - December 18, 2019 at 07:24 PM

RB

“ I remember Mrs. Bishop fondly as my elementary school music teacher. One year for the Christmas program she asked me to accompany on the piano for a class's performance - I was terrified, but she believed in me! She was always so encouraging and helpful. I loved seeing her and her bright smile whenever I ran into her at events. She was a kind and vibrant soul, and I will miss her warmth. May your memories and God's love be a comfort to you during this difficult time.

Rebecca (Foster) Bock - December 18, 2019 at 12:26 PM

PG

“ Bob, I am so sorry for your loss. I came to know Judy through the Knitting Nook in Albia. I enjoyed watching her make all kinds of clothing for the family. I will miss her.

Pat Garoutte - December 18, 2019 at 11:11 AM

RM

“ Judy was a part of our music family for at least 50 years. Just weeks ago we shared our joys and worries as we prepared for the annual Central College Community Orchestra concerts. Judy played a major role not only as a fine violinist, but also as a leader in building camaraderie among us. Judy reached out to new members. Judy brought us delicious homemade cookies and the apples from her trees each fall. She was a wise and supportive friend to me. My heart goes out to Bob and her family. I will always remember her and be grateful for her gifts to us. Robin Martin

Robin Martin - December 18, 2019 at 11:02 AM

AP

“ I'm terribly sorry to hear this. Judy was an anchor of Central's College-Community Orchestra, both for her fine playing and for her warm, upbeat personality. I'm better for having known her. Wishing strength and comfort to her whole family.

Anne Petrie - December 18, 2019 at 08:37 AM

MS

“ Love and prayers to you Bob and your family ♡ Judy touched so many lives with her music and all of her talents ♡



Mary Sandholdt - December 18, 2019 at 08:28 AM

PB

“ What an abrupt and staggering loss of a wonderful woman. Judy and I have played together in the Ottumwa Symphony Orchestra for many years and we often shared stories as we rosined up our bows in preparation for rehearsal. Everyone enjoyed her sense of humor and were delighted when she proudly recruited musicians for the group. I'll remember Judy for a very long time. My heart breaks for her family.

Patty Babb - December 18, 2019 at 07:04 AM

NC

“ Such a kind friend and mentor. I had the pleasure of knowing Judy as a P.E.O sister and she was the person who invited me to join her in the Ottumwa Symphony. I will miss her. My heart is with the family during this difficult time.

Naomi Cochran - December 18, 2019 at 12:11 AM

JE

“ Judy has been a part of my musical life for almost as long as I can remember. She has conducted me and shared my music stand. I always enjoyed her company. Krys, my friend, I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts are with your dad and family. The orchestra in heaven has gained another fine musician.

Jill Ewing - December 18, 2019 at 12:03 AM

RM

“ Her music was a gift she shared willingly with many. When our Mom, Shirley had her 96th birthday in November, she took the time to go to Homestead and play for her. Her playing always brought so much joy to our Mom. Now they're together in heaven. Sending hugs to Bob, Krys and Dan and families. We will miss her.

Roxie Morrison - December 17, 2019 at 10:47 PM

MS

Love and prayers to the family♡♡She touched many lives sharing her wonderful talents of music♡

Mary Sandholdt - December 18, 2019 at 08:04 AM

AF

“ I'm saddened by the loss of Judy in the world. She was a good friend and PEO sister, great teacher, and wonderful person. My sympathies to her family.

Ann Fender - December 17, 2019 at 10:41 PM

LF

“ Judy was my friend. My heart is heavy, but I can only imagine the loss Bob, Dan, and Kris are feeling. May God's mighty hands hold them during this difficult time. Praying for all

Linda Fox - December 17, 2019 at 10:10 PM

MA

“ Mother - Wife - Teacher - Musician - Friend to many - Too soon gone - Will be missed by all.

Marvin Andersen - December 17, 2019 at 09:44 PM

SB

“ So sorry to hear of Judy's passing. She was one remarkable woman and a joy to be around. Thinking of you Bob and family with sympathy.
Sandy Bailey

Sandy Bailey - December 17, 2019 at 09:17 PM

PG

“ So sorry to hear of Judy's passing. She was a very special person. She will be missed by many.

Paulette Groet - December 17, 2019 at 07:37 PM

JL

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Bob and family! Judy touched soo many lives with her talents and outgoing personality! She will be missed! 🙏



Judy & Larry Lewis - December 17, 2019 at 07:30 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Judy's passing. Her favorite recording we did together was “Ashokan Farewell”. Farewell dear Judy.

Beth Brostrom - December 17, 2019 at 07:04 PM

MN

Mr. Bishop, I am so sorry for yours and your family's loss. Will be praying for peace of mind for you in the coming days.

Marna Craver Navara - December 18, 2019 at 10:47 AM