

## Jatzak, Barbara D.

March 5, 1939--January 5, 2017



Barbara "Barb" Diane Jatzak (nee Hansen), age 77, who passed away peacefully in her sleep after a short illness at home on January 5, 2017, was born March 5, 1939 and is survived by her 3 children, Kristin (Dan Barber) of Waukesha, Brian of Waukesha and Mark (Shana) of Cottage Grove; her brother Jim Hansen (Karen Hipkins) of Berkeley, CA and 4 grandchildren Jordan, Auden, Preston and Sabella.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Jerome "Jerry", and her parents, Russ and Dorothy Hansen.

Barbara was born in Racine and lived on Hayes Avenue for many years becoming active in Girl Scouts and acquiring a taste for Danish kringle. After graduating from Washington Park High School in Racine she went onto UW-Oshkosh and graduated with a B.S. in Elementary Education & Teaching. She began her teaching career in the Racine school system and later

subbed in the Palmyra-Eagle School district. After teaching and raising her family she started working at the Alice Baker Memorial Library in Eagle as a librarian and eventually became its director. She also enjoyed working at Old World Wisconsin with her favorite area being the Finnish-Dane settlement. Working there brought her a lot of joy, and she developed a lot of long-lasting friendships.

After retiring from the library it was rare that you would catch her at home for very long. She was always on the go whether it be volunteering at the Retzer Nature Center, the Eagle Historical Society, Friends of Alice Baker Library, Eagle election polls, reading to children at Eagle Elementary or helping out with the Fish Fry at St. Theresa's Church. She also took two trips to Belize with a church group and helped to build a senior center there. Before her illness began she loved hiking on and monitoring her segment of the Ice Age Trail in Waukesha County. She also enjoyed her book club meetings and meeting her friends regularly at Culvers.

A gracious and thoughtful person, Barb left an impression of kindness on everyone she met. There are so many people to thank for their outpouring of support, kindness, frequent visits and meals that they brought over during her illness.

Funeral Mass was held on Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 11:00am at St. Theresa Catholic Church 136 W. Waukesha Rd. Eagle, WI with Father Mick Savio officiating. Burial followed at St. Theresa Catholic Cemetery with visitation at the church from 9:00 am until mass time. On-line guestbook is [www.haaselockwoodfhs.com](http://www.haaselockwoodfhs.com).

## Barbara Jatzak

Written by Her Son, Mark Jatzak

Barbara “Barb” Diane Jatzak (nee Hansen) was born on March 5, 1939. She lived in Racine with her parents Russ and Dorothy and her brother, Mark. She became active in Girl Scouts and acquired a taste for Danish kringle. After graduating from Washington Park High School in Racine, she went on to UW-Oshkosh and graduated with a B.S. in Elementary Education. She began her teaching career in the Racine school system and later taught in the Palmyra-Eagle School district.

Barb and her husband Jerome “Jerry” Jatzak raised three children: Kristin (Dan Barber), Brian, and Mark (Shana). She was the proud grandmother of four: Jordan, Auden, Preston, and Sabella.

After teaching and raising her family, she became a volunteer in the Eagle community, which she loved. Barb became an integral part of the Alice Baker Library as librarian, director, and active member of Friends of the Alice Baker Library. She also enjoyed working at Old World Wisconsin. Her favorite area was the Finnish-Dane settlement. Working there brought her much joy, and she developed many long-lasting friendships.

After retiring from the library, it was rare that you would catch her at home for very long. She was always on the go, volunteering at the Retzer Nature Century, working Eagle election polls, reading to children at Eagle Elementary, and breeding fish and setting tables for the St. Theresa Fish Fry. She also traveled to Belize on two St. Theresa mission trips. She helped to build a senior center there and taught hymns to the children. She loved hiking on and monitoring her segment of the Ice Age Trail in Waukesha County. She also enjoyed her book club meetings and visiting friends regularly at Culvers.

Barb was hands-on with everything she did. Her volunteer work as an officer with the Eagle Historical Society (EHS) helped it become one of the most active in Wisconsin. One could find her at the EHS museum most Saturday mornings, organizing and cataloging their many artifacts for future generations to “discover.” Barb helped organize and participated in their many community events. A gracious and thoughtful person, Barb left an impression of kindness on everyone she met! Her gentle spirit and genuine character is missed by all.