



## Carol Anne Rudey

March 28, 1951 - February 20, 2026

Carol Anne Rudey, 74, of Racine, WI, died of complications from a fall at Aurora Summit

Oconomowoc Hospital on Friday, February 20th, 2026, surrounded by family in her final

moments. The fall took place in early December.

She is a true testament to love and determination in her lifelong battle against Rheumatoid Arthritis.

Carol was dedicated to her family and will be forever loved by her husband of 51 years (Tom

Rudey) and two adult sons (Scott Rudey and David Rudey- wife Casey (Ulman)-grandson Luke

Rudey). Carol was preceded in death by her mother (Frances) and father (Milton), her oldest

brother John Burdick and her younger brother Paul, and is survived by her beloved sister Sue

(husband Mike).

Carol was born in Racine, WI at St. Luke's Hospital on March 28th to Milton and Frances

Burdick, the 2nd of 4 children. (Jack, Sue, Paul) Carol was part of the inaugural graduating

class at Racine J.I. Case high school before studying journalism and

psychology at Warburg

University (where she met Tom) in Waverly, Iowa. While Carol had many different jobs, two

roles she truly loved were teaching “Hands on Science” courses at Emmaus Lutheran Church,

along with teaching at Racine Lutheran High School, Union Grove High School, and the

Lakeview Technology Academy in Kenosha.

Carol was an amazing educator, teaching for 18 years by going back to work as one of the only

licensed AP- Psychology and AP-Literature teachers in the state. (Taught both classes.) Her

mind was always going until the end; it's just her body gave out. She was someone that faced

and overcame a lot of obstacles in her life. Carol was always a wonderful example to be able to

watch her “beat” just one more thing, and prove somebody “wrong” one more time. Even

though she was told she could never have kids, she had two; even though she was told she

“couldn’t work”, she taught AP Lit and AP Psych for 18 years. She always taught us that you

can do anything you truly want to do. If there is a will, there is a way. Her lessons extended

beyond the classroom.

Carol was an avid writer, publishing three novels, countless articles and numerous stories. An

avid painter and gardener, Carol enjoyed vacations to Disney and other places around the

United States. While near the end of her life her body gave out, her mind never did. She

continued to write until her final hours.

Many people would always seek her counsel. Two great pieces of advice worth bringing up: “

you don't ever have to do anything in life you don't want to do” and “there is never any

justification for bad behavior”. I just wanted to leave you with those two messages because

today, more than ever, those are great things to be reminded of.

A service will be held on Saturday, March 28th, 2026 at Emmaus Lutheran Church with a visitation

from 10am-11:30 am, a funeral service from 11:30AM-Noon with a lunch to follow.

As Carol always reminded her friends and family: “Be good and do good things.”

John 14:2-3

In lieu of flowers please consider rerouting any donations to Emmaus Lutheran Church (

<https://emauselca1.org/index.php/donations/>) or to the Rheumatoid Arthritis Foundation

(<https://www.helpfightra.org/donations/>)

# Cemetery Details

## Graceland Cemetery

Racine, WI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 28. 10:00 AM - 11:30 PM (CT)

Emmaus Lutheran Church  
1925 Summit Avenue  
Racine, WI 53404

## Memorial Service

MAR 28. 11:30 AM (CT)

Emmaus Lutheran Church  
1925 Summit Avenue  
Racine, WI 53404

# Tribute Wall

JF

“ On behalf of Carol's extended family in Sanford, NC, please accept our heartfelt condolences, and wishes for blessings of comfort. While our memories of Carol are mostly from our childhood, it is easy to tell that her kind and generous spirit resonated with everyone she has come into contact with throughout her life. It is obvious that she will be sorely missed. God bless you all!

Very respectfully,

John Ferguson

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**John Ferguson** - March 12 at 03:17 PM

MB

“ I am blessed to be one of Carole and Tom's Wartburg friends. Carole was the brilliance and love that brought us all together.

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**Marilyn Braaten** - March 05 at 11:15 AM

MC

I went to high school with Carol and she was a great person. I loved the well written obituary and her messages to us. Michele Heck Caskey

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**Michele Caskey** - March 06 at 11:02 AM

RD

We are so sorry to hear of Carol's passing. We are praying that God brings you peace and comfort. Our deepest sympathy, Randy and Roberta Davidson

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**Roberta Davidson** - March 15 at 10:38 AM