



Elizabeth "Betty" Chalker

November 7, 1935 - April 14, 2020

Elizabeth Chalker

11/7/35 – 4/14/20

Elizabeth "Betty" (nee: Prentice) Chalker passed away in Union Grove on April 14th in the presence of her loving family, several of whom provided diligent care and support in her final days. Comfortable in the spotlight, Betty had an innate flair for the dramatic; as such, no one was particularly surprised she chose a global pandemic as the backdrop for her grand finale.

A lifelong resident of Racine, Betty was born to Margaret (Constable) and John Prentice in 1935. A fervent believer in the importance of family, Betty's proudest accomplishments were raising her four children – Larry, Lon, Lori, and Lana – to be happy, compassionate, and selfless people.

The course of her life changed in the early 1970s thanks to a stack of quarters and a load of whites. Betty met Charles Chalker at a laundromat and the couple was married at Grace Chapel Church in 1972. For decades, their love served as a life-changing cornerstone not just for their family, but for a countless number of West Racine kids who grew up the benefactors of Betty and Chuck's kindness.

The corner of West Lawn and 13th was a place filled with love, laughter, and life lessons. At Betty and Chuck's, the pool was always open, kids always had

a place to nap, snacks were plentiful, and if it was your birthday, well, a gift would be waiting.

For over 40 years, Betty's affection for children and philanthropy manifested itself in her commitment to the Girl Scouts of Racine County. She was a troop leader, founder of the annual Father-Daughter Dinner Dance, an organizer of Trefoil Oaks overnights, and a frequent visitor to parties, parades, and pumpkin farms. If something festive was unfolding in Racine, rest assured Betty and her girls would be there.

More than most, she delighted in life's little pleasures. A trip to Pine Lake. Playing Mrs. Claus to Chuck's Santa. A wedding floor boogie. A thrift store treasure. A ride in her Chrysler convertible. Dessert. Desserts rather, plural, all of them piled high on a little paper plate and consumed before the meal itself. Betty knew how sweet life was, and she savored its meaningful moments.

Many of those involved scratch-off lottery tickets delivered by Larry. Sporting her signature smirk as she scraped away the grey flecks of dust, Betty was never upset when she lost. Perhaps that's because she was keenly aware of her luck in the lottery of life, an unending fortune paying dividends in the form of raucous holiday dinners, great-grandchild hugs, and a constant stream of visitors to her home, everyone eager to pull up a chair and take a seat at her table.

Betty was preceded in death by Chuck, her husband of 46 years; her mother, Margaret Prentice; father, John Prentice; grandson, Shane Radcliff; and brothers-in-law, Donald Beckett and James Gast.

She is survived by her children, Larry (Cindy Lou) Radcliff, Lon (Linda) Radcliff, Lori (Jim) Henderson, and Lana (Patrick) Krueske, as well as her sisters, Margaret Beckett and Bonnie Gast, her brother, John Prentice, and

nine grandchildren and twenty-four great grandchildren.

In accordance with COVID-19 restrictions, a private visitation and service will be held at Sturino Funeral Home. Together once again with Chuck, Betty will be buried alongside her loving husband at the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

The family wishes to thank Hospice Alliance for their care and compassion.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages contributions to Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast and the Wisconsin Stars and Stripes Honor Flight.

Cemetery Details

Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery

21731 Spring Street
Union Grove, WI 53182

Tribute Wall



“ *Sturino Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Chalker*



Sturino Funeral Home - April 21, 2020 at 09:54 AM

KM

“ *So sorry to hear of your loss. I haven't talked to Betty in many years but she was a very special and unforgettable lady. She was my daughter's Girl Scout leader and after school babysitter along time ago. Always pleasant and truly interested in my life and a great conversationalist. Picking up my daughter from her house after work usually involved a chat inside the door. Very much a people person and grateful to have known her. RIP Betty 🙏*

Kim Morzinski - April 29, 2020 at 02:10 AM

KS

“ *I had the good fortune to know Betty Chalker from all the Girl Scout parties we shared. She was kind, hard working and did tasks with the highest level of care. I especially remember the Balloon Drops! She cared deeply about family and leaves a fine legacy through them.*

Ken Stenzel

Ken Stenzel - April 24, 2020 at 07:46 AM

JL

“ My condolences to the family. I am so sorry about the loss of your mother, she was a special person. She was always creative, and doing something crafty. She did live a great life. She had so much love for her kids, and grandkids, and so proud of them all. May the great memories carry you though.

Jon and Jan Leischow

Jan Leischow - April 20, 2020 at 07:44 PM

FS

“ We got to know Betty while attending Bethel Tabernacle and working at Racine Christian Academy where her daughter, Lana, went to school. She was always so joyful and friendly whenever we saw her. Her sister, Paula, was also a friend. Whenever we drove by Betty's house, there was always something going on (barbeque, party, pool fun, etc). She was full of life and very unforgettable! Condolences to her family during this time of loss. Our hearts and prayers are with you!

Frank and Stephanie Sisson and family

Frank and Stephanie Sisson - April 20, 2020 at 02:16 AM

RP

“ I remember Betty as a fun loving person. Always involved in activities. She was the “garage sale” lady of Racine. Her family was always special to us. I cared for Betty's dad when he was on dialysis. Praying for your family.

Ray & Kathy Paradowski - April 19, 2020 at 11:42 PM

JK

“ I remember Mrs. Chalker from Brownies and Girl Scouts. She was always a fun and vibrant troop leader. Lana and I were friends & classmates in our younger years. My heartfelt condolences to the whole family.

Jodi (Valukas) Kuhl

jodi kuhl - April 17, 2020 at 06:18 PM

LK

Thank you Jodi for your fond memories! My mom was one of a kind and will be terribly missed 😞

Lana(Radcliff) Krueske

Lana Krueske - April 19, 2020 at 09:43 PM

KW

I grew up on that wonderful corner 13th street and West Lawn, that was our home away from home, I only lived 5 doors down the block, Betty always treated us like one of her own. I have many GREAT memories. As I grew to an adult ,married and had children Betty babysat my 3 kids. Betty had a heart of gold and love for everyone. My heart is filled with great sorrow to learn of her passing, but filled with love as I think of all the great memories. Kelly (Hanson)Welter

Kelly Welter - April 20, 2020 at 08:17 PM