



Sandra L. Hertling

April 5, 1938 - November 28, 2015

On April 5th, 1938, Sandra Lee Dyer was born into the world. She was the daughter of James and Hazel Dyer, both educators in Monticello, Indiana. James was the elementary-junior high school principal at West Grade and Lincoln Schools and Hazel taught music and art for Adams Twp. and Meadowlawn Schools. Suzanne Louise (Cumings), a younger sister completed their happy family.

Sandy graduated from Monticello High School as an outstanding senior in 1956. She loved music and used her talents in the community with many organizations as a pianist, accompanist, choir director and song leader. She was an active member in the Monticello Methodist Church, a participant in the Rainbow for Girls group, and a member of 4-H.

Sandy attended Ball State, where she participated in Concert Choir, Ball State Student Union Board, Alpha Chi Omega Sorority, and was named Clavia for outstanding senior women. While a student at Ball State she had the honor of escorting Eleanor Roosevelt around campus for the day. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Music and Elementary Education in 1960 and later a Masters Degree in Education from Indiana University.

Her first teaching job was as a 3rd grade teacher at Woodlawn Elementary in Monticello, where she remained for 7 years. During this time, she met and married a young principal from Delphi High School, James Hertling. They lived in Delphi for three years and then moved to Bloomington to complete Jim's Doctorate in Education. In 1968, their daughter Heather Suzanne was born, and the following year the family moved to DeKalb, Illinois where Jim was professor at Northern Illinois University. Bloomington always felt like home, so three years later, they returned so Jim could help create the School of Continuing Studies at IU. Sandy founded a private piano studio for children and adults and began to grow into the community.

When her daughter Heather was entering her 8th grade year at Binford Middle School, Sandy was asked to become the choral music teacher. She continued as a choral and elementary music specialist there for 18 years, until her retirement in 1999. During her career, she served on the State Elementary Educators Board and the Indiana State Music Education Board.

Sandy spread her wings in Bloomington and was active in many groups and organizations. She was a dedicated member of the Chancel Choir at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Tri Kappa Sorority, PEO, Inter Sec, Woman's Club, University Club, and Alpha Mu Music Club. She served as a member of the IU Theatre Circle Board, and was one of the founders of the Lotus World Music and Arts Festival. She enjoyed travelling to all the states in the U.S. and exploring the world with her family. Other passions were reading, making greeting cards from her beautiful

photographs, and gardening.

To know Sandy was a true gift. She was always thinking of others and reached out to people in so many ways. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, teacher and friend. She survived advanced pancreatic cancer for 6 years, and enjoyed every "extra" day she was given. One of her greatest thrills was seeing her daughter participate in the Miss America Scholarship Organization as Miss New Jersey. She was so proud of Heather, Daniel, and Nicolas's musical contributions, and was their biggest fan when attending concerts. Sandy treasured her time with her family, and created an especially close relationship with her grandson Nicolas.

Sandy is survived by her daughter Heather, son-in-law Daniel, and grandson Nicolas Narducci, sister and brother-in-law Suzanne and David Cumings, nephew James Bradley (Karen) Cumings and family, and niece Cynthia Lee (David) Rosier and family. Her husband James preceded her in death.

There will be a Celebration of Life Service on Friday, December 4th at 3:00 pm, held at St. Marks United Methodist Church.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the following organizations in Sandy's name: St. Mark's United Methodist Church Music Ministry or Bloomington High School North Band Program.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory, 4155 S. Old State Road 37,

have been entrusted with arrangements. You are invited to share a memory or leave an online condolence at www.allenfuneralhome.org

Tribute Wall

MM

“ *Sandy played at our wedding 50 years ago. She was one of the most talented musicians I have ever known!* ”

Mary McDougle Schuth - January 07, 2016 at 12:21 PM

MA

“ *Heather and family, my condolences on your loss. Even when death is a release from illness, it is hard for those of us left behind. May God's comfort fill and surround you.* ”

Martha Dawson - January 07, 2016 at 12:21 PM

BJ

“ *Suzy, So sad at the loss of Sandy. Although it's a part of the life process, losing our loved ones is tough and hard to prepare for. I remember her marvelous talent and how I wanted to be like her. She was such an inspiration to those of us following in her footsteps. She leaves a rich legacy to all the lives she has touched. That we shall always be grateful for having known her.* ”

Beverly (Bowsher) Johnson - January 07, 2016 at 12:21 PM

SU

“ *Dear Suzy and family, dear Heather, Dan, Nicholas and all your family, Thinking of you at this time and believing that God will give you every comfort that you need. Sandy was such a talented and caring member of our high school class of 1956 in Monticello. To know her was a privilege . Wishing you every comfort and blessing.* ”

Susanna Smith - January 07, 2016 at 12:21 PM

LA

“ *Fond memories from family reunions. I wish the family great peace and hope warm memories soon replace all sadness. Love, Larenda Johnson (daughter of Jack Johnson who was son of Lamoine Johnson).*

Larenda Johnson - January 07, 2016 at 12:21 PM

LR

“ *Susie,*

Sadden at the loss of your sister.

Larry R Noe - January 07, 2016 at 12:21 PM

ED

“ *Dear Suzy, Heather and family--it is with a heavy heart that I observe Sandy's death. My deepest sympathies and condolences to you. The obituary includes a beautiful portrait of Sandy and sums up a life well lived in music and service for family and others. We grew to adulthood as Harrison Street neighbors and friends. The Dyer family was a bulwark in our schools and my Methodist Church. Sandy was one of the nicest and prettiest girls in our class and I was fortunate to escort her to our proms to the delight of our parents. I was too shy to make much of the opportunity to pursue this catch and she went on to make a harmonious life with the perfect soul mate. Heaven is blessed to receive her spirit.*

Edwin Emerson - January 07, 2016 at 12:21 PM

RO

“ I am so sorry for your tremendous loss. I am thankful I had a few minutes with Sandy this August to remember when she had both of my boys in her music classes at Binford Elementary School. She asked me to send them a greeting from her, and had such a genuine warmth about her. Sandy was beaming with pride when she spoke of her grandson's accomplishments in the North Band.

Robin Rupp - January 07, 2016 at 12:21 PM

HA

“ Sandy was a "shirt tail" cousin, her Aunt Marie being the wife of my Mother's first cousin, Richard Wilson. But, more than that, she was an outstanding teacher, a gracious hostess, a devoted Mother and a mover and shaker, where ever she was. Those who came in contact with her were blessed. May our Creator provide solace to Heather and her family - as well as her many friends.

Harmon Baldwin - January 07, 2016 at 12:21 PM

DA

“ Daniel, Heather, and Nicolas, I am truly sorry for your loss. Although I didn't know Sandra well, from the time and circumstances that I did have the opportunity to meet her and her close knit family I just wanted to say "I'm sorry". Losing a parent or a grandparent is one of life's hardest (part of the process) we have to go through. Sandra's remarkable life will live on through all who were fortunate to have her in their lives. And I'm sure she will look down proud of you and all that you have accomplished.

David Cox - January 07, 2016 at 12:21 PM

PE

“*Heather and all your family, I am saddened by your mother's passing. She was a good friend through all the years that we knew each other in the various music organizations. She always encouraged and supported others. She was very talented and I know she passed that on to you. You were fortunate, indeed, to be her daughter.*

She put up a good fight against her disease. My prayers are with you as you mourn her passing and celebrate her life. Love to you all.

Peg Albertson - January 07, 2016 at 12:21 PM