



Gretchen Elizabeth Kvikstad

July 18, 1942 - April 8, 2024

Gretchen Elizabeth Kvikstad, 81 years-old of Shoreview, Minnesota, died peacefully in her sleep on Monday, April 8th 2024.

Gretchen married the love of her life, James (Jim) Kvikstad on December 29th, 1962. They lived in Buffalo, New York while completing their masters degrees and starting their careers. In 1969 they moved back to their home state of Minnesota to raise their family. Gretchen taught at Mounds View High School as a British Literature and English teacher for nearly 40 years. A long-time patron of the Guthrie Theatre and St. Paul Chamber orchestra, Gretchen was an avid lover of the fine arts, books, and literature.

Gretchen is best known for her storytelling, fashion, and love of travel. During the summer months you could find Gretchen and Jim sailing on White Bear Lake and in the winter skiing in Aspen Colorado. They traveled around the world during their 61 years of marriage, enjoying life to the fullest. Gretchen will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Gretchen was born in Mahnomon, Minnesota and was preceded in death by her father, Hallvard Berge and mother, Lucille Berge. She is survived by her husband, son Christopher Kvikstad (Michele), daughter Erika Kvikstad (Jeff Sorley), grandchildren Spencer, Gavin, Vibeke, and Parker, two sisters Beverly Anderson and Kathlyn Larson, and brother John Berge.

A visitation will be held at 1:00 p.m. with a funeral to follow at 2:00, refreshments served at 3:00 on Thursday, May 2nd at Incarnation Lutheran Church, 4880 Hodgson Road in Shoreview MN, 55126.

As an expression of sympathy and support, we ask friends and family to donate in memory of Gretchen to the Guthrie Theater (<https://securesite.guthrietheater.org/donate/contribute1>) or Mounds View Schools Education Foundation (<https://mvsef.org/donate>) in Gretchen's name. You may send a donation to the Mounds View Schools Education Foundation at 4570 Victoria St, N, Shoreview, MN, 55126, adding Gretchen's name in the memo.

Tribute Wall



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gretchen Elizabeth Kvikstad.*



May 02, 2024 at 08:44 AM



“ *Mike Wheeler planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gretchen Elizabeth Kvikstad.*

Mike Wheeler - May 02, 2024 at 08:44 AM



“ *We met as newlyweds in Buffalo 61 years ago and became fast friends. We shared the love of good theater, good music, good food, and travel. We moved to greater Boston, and Jim and Gretchen moved to Shoreview - but that didn't stop the friendship. Cruises, trips to Cape Cod and Maine were among our travels together. The big highlight trip was Istanbul and the Greek Islands. So many wonderful memories! Gretchen will surely be missed. We will continue to love and support Jim. As he says - "I make really good martinis!" Hugs and prayers to the entire Kvikstad family. - Lois and Tom Toepner*

Lois - April 26, 2024 at 05:26 PM

JS

“ I had Mrs Kvikstad for Ninth Grade Honors English and she taught me potentially the most important skill I learned in High School. She introduced speed reading to us and it clicked extremely well for me and it’s something that I use to this day. At the time, reading “The Bismarck” to a timed beep seemed arduous but it sure paid off long-term. Rest in peace and prayers to her family.

jeremy S - April 18, 2024 at 02:15 PM

GI

“ Gretchen was a lovely neighbor. She gave my daughter Cora the sweetest little tea set with this note attached. We will miss her stories & seeing her in the neighborhood. My heartfelt condolences to Jim & her family & friends.
-Gina Knutson & family



Gina - April 17, 2024 at 06:02 PM

SJ

“ What an amazing human being Gretchen was! I worked with her at Mounds View High School, our children were in her English classes in which they could not help but be saturated in love of literature. Gretchen has been on my heart recently with her beloved trio plays on stage! She ADORED them in the last Guthrie run and she loved attending the performance of all three plays in one day! What an outstand human being! She will be missed and remembered as a legend of her time. Shirley Jackson

Shirley Jackson - April 15, 2024 at 05:58 PM

SJ

Sending love to here family!

Shirley Jackson - April 15, 2024 at 05:59 PM

HG

“ *When I was young I loved visiting my Dad’s (Ralph Berge) cousin Gretchen and his aunt Lucille. I never forgot their sweetness and love, and named my twin girls after them, Lucille and Gretchen Geraghty. 💕💕💕*

Heidi Geraghty - April 14, 2024 at 06:56 PM

SR

“ *One of my favorite teachers of all time. Our trips to the Guthrie were a favorite every year! She will be missed!!! My heart goes out to her family!*

Sharon White Reinertson - April 14, 2024 at 11:04 AM

JO

“ *Truly one of the best!!!!*

Sorry to read this... Mrs. Kvikstad was and is still one of my favourite Teachers!!!

I still speed read because of her...drives my wife nuts I can complete a novel in a day, comprehend it and even cite chapter and verse...and can still mostly do that about “Sink the Bismarck”... the book Mrs. K use to teach that. Ah..memories!

My heartfelt condolences.

joe - April 13, 2024 at 01:45 AM

RW

“ *I'm so sad to hear this. A great teacher. Her love for her subject matter was evident. She also taught Emery and I how to tie a real bow tie before our Senior year double concerto!*

Ross Winberg - April 12, 2024 at 06:34 PM