

# Obituaries

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## Karen A. DeBenedet

LIVONIA - Karen A. DeBenedet, age 69, of Livonia, passed away on August 31, 2018. She was born on June 16, 1949 in Detroit, Michigan; daughter of Ralph J. and Marjorie A. (nee Swingle) Kimble. Karen graduated from Linden High School, class of 1967. She continued her education at Michigan State University, graduating in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She moved to Northville in 1981 and made it her home for over 27 years.

Karen began her nursing career as a cardiology nurse and later an emergency room nurse in the St. Joseph Mercy health system. She then transitioned to serve as the inaugural parish nurse at First United Methodist Church of Northville. Karen also worked as a medical-legal consultant, serving the State of Michigan Attorney General's Office for more than 20 years. Most recently, she started her own business, Patient Advocates of Michigan, where she continued caring for others.

Karen was a true matriarch and a very devoted friend. She was a master at cultivating friendships and integrating friends within her social groups. Karen found true crime trials fascinating; she liked watching documentaries and following current high-profile trials. She was an avid reader and always enjoyed reading while drinking her Starbucks. Entertaining her friends and family, keeping up with technology and being creative through interior design were other important aspects of her life. Karen was a loving and proud mother and grandmother. She cherished spending time with her granddaughters at "Camp Grammy," teaching them the importance of being kind and loving one another. And she faced her death with courage and grace.

She is survived by her son Anthony DeBenedet and his wife Anna; her daughter Millie Brooks and her husband Rowan; her mother Marjorie Kimble; her brother Joe Kimble and his partner MaryAnn Pierce; her granddaughters Ava Grace, Mia Faith, and Lola Joy; and many dear friends. She was preceded in death by her father.

A celebration-of-life service was held September 5, 2018 at the First United Methodist Church of Northville. Rev. Marsha Woolley and Rev. Douglas Vernon officiated the service. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the First United Methodist Church, the San Francisco Playhouse, or the Rogel Cancer Center at the University of Michigan.



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## Janet B. Fenbert

NOVI - Janet B. (Schuster) Fenbert, of Novi passed away in the loving care of her family on August 30, 2018. She was 81 years old.

She is survived by her children, Deborah (Kenneth) Peszko, Mark Schuster, Patrick (Amanda) Schuster and Timothy (Cassandra) Schuster; 10 grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; also extended family and dear friends.

Janet is preceded in death by her husband, Roy Fenbert.

A Memorial Service will be held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty St., Milford, on Saturday, September 8th, at 2:30 PM. Visitation will be held at the funeral home from 12:30 PM until the time of service.

In lieu of flowers the family highly encourages memorial contributions to be designated to the Serenity of Commerce on behalf of Janet Fenbert.

For further information phone 248.684.6645 or visit [www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com](http://www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com)

## Michael A. LaChance

- - Michael A. LaChance, age 62, passed away August 22, 2018. He was born in October, 1955 in Escanaba, Michigan, son of the late Warren and Mary LaChance. Mike was a long-time truck driver with Hornet Concrete in South Lyon, Michigan. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and loved spending time on his family property in Perkins, Michigan. Mike is survived by his sisters: Janet (William) Duffield and Debra (Christopher) Thompson; his niece, Brenda and his nephews: Bill, Andrew, Thomas, Scott and Craig. Michael was preceded in death by his parents. A memorial service will be held at the family property in Perkins, Michigan. The family would like to thank Mike's loyal friends and family, especially Tom LaChance and his family of Perkins, Michigan. Your kindness will not be forgotten. [www.phillipsfuneral.com](http://www.phillipsfuneral.com)



Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.

## Annabell Gotts

MONROE - Annabell Gotts passed away on August 19, 2018, at 98 years old. She was born in Plymouth to Harry and Myrtie (nee Eckles) Brown. Annabell was the dear wife of the late Robert L. Gotts. She is survived by her three loving children, Kaye Horsfall, Linda (Bernd) Freiny, Rick (Sue) Gotts, 9 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren and her dear sister Betty (the late Robert) Barbour. Annabell was preceded in death by her eldest child Jane Ann Gotts. A Memorial Service will be held Monday, September 10th at 11 am with visitation at 10 am at the First United Methodist Church of Northville, 777 W Eight Mile Rd, Northville MI 48167. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the First United Methodist Church of Northville or to Wellspring Services of Monroe, 1236 S Monroe St., Monroe MI 48161 (where Anna spent her final years.)



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Catherine Eugenie "Jean" (Green) Bemish

NORTHVILLE - Catherine Age 81, passed away peacefully in the home of her daughter Katherine Clare "KC" Bemish in Ann Arbor, Michigan with KC by her side and KC's dog, Rowdy, nestled in the crook of her knees on the evening of August 14, 2018. She was born in Detroit, Michigan on January 26, 1937 to William and Lois (Aber) Green. She is survived by her twin brother Michael "Mike" Green of Farmington Hills, son Andrew Lawrence "Andy" Bemish of Northville, daughter KC of Ann Arbor, and grandson Charles Michael "Athang" Bemish of Lansing. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Lawrence Merrill "Larry" Bemish, and her brothers, Robert "Bob" Green, William "Bill" Green, and Lawrence "Larry" Green. She met the love of her life, Larry, through her brother Bill. They were a perfect match since both were 5' 3" tall. They were married on June 22, 1957 in Northville and were together for 55 wonderful years.

At the age of 11, Eugenie's family moved from Detroit to Northville. Her father promised her when they moved to the "country" she could have a horse. True to his word, Eugenie's dad got her a horse, Blackie, who, as his name suggests, was jet black. Blackie proved to be quite a handful for Eugenie and was sold to the western movie star, Lash LaRue, who was famous for riding a black horse. Babe was Eugenie's next horse who turned out to be the perfect companion. Her love of horses never waned. She was fortunate to have her horses in her backyard and a wonderful crew of friends to ride with. Remarkably, she rode until she was well into her 70s.

At a time when many women pursued a career in homemaking, Eugenie decided on a different path. With encouragement from her biggest fan, her husband Larry, she attended Eastern Michigan University and earned a BA in Elementary Education. She taught briefly until the arrival of her children. After a 14-year absence from the workforce and again with the encouragement of her husband, Eugenie renewed her teaching certificate and eventually earned a MA in Elementary Education. She was hired by the Plymouth-Canton School District and taught for 25 years at Miller Elementary School. Her passion for teaching was focused on the reading



- writing connection. And she more than once mentioned that she would never teach a level higher than third grade because she couldn't do the math! Her love of children's literature spilled over into other parts of her life. A trip to England in 1984 included visits to the Lake District home of Beatrix Potter (author of the Tale of Peter Rabbit and many, many other wonderful tales), and of course Paddington Station in London, where Michael Bond's Paddington Bear begins his adventures. As an avid rug-hooker, nursery rhymes inspired many of her works - including Hey Diddle Diddle and Goldie Locks and the Three Bears.

In addition to being a wife/daughter/mother/aunt/grandmother, Eugenie was an active volunteer in many organizations often holding positions of president, vice president, or secretary. She was a member of the Salem Area Historical Society, Friends of Maybury State Park, and Maybury Trail Riders to name a few. She was also an active member of the Heirloom Rug Hookers Guild, a chapter of ATHA (Association of Traditional Hooking Artists.) For a number of years she spent Saturday mornings reading to children at the Bookstall book store in Northville; carrying her passion for teaching and children's literature into retirement.

Aside from a brief period living in Ypsilanti for college, Eugenie spent almost 70 of her 81 years living on Napier Road in Northville. Of those 70 years, 51 were in the same house; a warm and welcoming space she created by decorating with her various crafts and handy-works. It was an extension of her generous and loving spirit.

Visitation will be held Friday, September 14, 2018 from 4-8pm with a Rosary at 7pm at Casterline Funeral Home, 122 West Dunlap, Northville. A funeral mass will be held Saturday, September 15, 2018 at 10:30am at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, 133 Orchard, Northville. In lieu of flowers please send donations to the Friends of Maybury State Park, [www.friendsofmaybury.org](http://www.friendsofmaybury.org), or the Salem Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 75011, Salem, MI 48175, [www.sahshistory.org](http://www.sahshistory.org), or the Humane Society of Huron Valley, 3100 Cherry Hill, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, [www.hshv.org](http://www.hshv.org). Share online condolences at [www.casterlinefuneralhome.com](http://www.casterlinefuneralhome.com).

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