



Margaret Austin

May 15, 1936 - April 8, 2021

Margaret Kathrine (Gordon) Austin passed into heaven peacefully surrounded by family on Thursday, April 8, 2021.

Marge was born in Detroit, Michigan on May 15, 1936 to Ruth (Diebel) and Benjamin Gordon. Marge and Darrel Austin were married on August 25, 1956. Marge and Darrel co-owned a Beef-a-Roo for 5 years where she personally made the salads for the salad bar. Marge was a realtor in Beloit for 45 years.

Marge is affectionately known as “Black Granny” for her color choice in cars, purses, and coats and to differentiate for her grandchildren from Green Granny, Gold Granny, and Apartment Granny. As Black Granny, she saw to it that her grandchildren and great-grandchildren had an opportunity to know and be involved in the musical arts. She started a drama group with Cindy Bacon in 1989 named Kids Fun and Drama (KFAD) that is still growing today. She is most proud of the opportunities given to community children through her approximate 37 years of countless hours and fundraising for KFAD. Outside of KFAD, some of her most cherished memories include taking her grandchildren to operas and exploring the world with each granddaughter for a high school graduation trip to New York or Europe respectively. Most recently she has enjoyed road trips with her husband in addition to time with her husband and family members at a lakeside cabin in Upper Michigan.

Marge was predeceased by her parents, Benjamin Gordon and Ruth Diebel Larson; her step-father, Adolph Larson; brother and sister-in-law; Ben (Dolly) Gordon and nephew, John P. Gordon.

Marge is survived by her husband, Darrel Austin; two children, Marcie (Phil) Ramsey and Brad (Teresa) Austin; six grandchildren, Melissa (Ryan) Falk, Traci (Ryan) Scherck, Anya (Manuel) Ramsey-Martinez, Tricia (Matt) Kelnhofer, Jake (Lauren) Ramsey and Trent (Jessica) Austin; 14 great-grandchildren and two nieces, Mary (Gary) Williams and Kathy (Kieth) Liebowitz.

Marge Austin's life will be celebrated with family, music, and pictures at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 17, 2021, at First Congregational Church, 801 Bushnell St., Beloit, WI. Visitation of remembrance will be from 9:00 a.m. until 10:15 a.m. in the church. Daley Murphy Wisch & Associates Funeral Home and Crematorium, 2355 Cranston Rd., Beloit, WI. assisted the family.

Donations in honor of Marge Austin's life and service can be made to KFAD.

The family would like to extend their appreciation to the doctors and nurses at Beloit Memorial Hospital and Beloit Regional Hospice for their excellent care of Marge.

Events

APR **Memorial Visitation** 09:00AM - 10:15AM

17

First Congregational Church

801 Bushnell Street, Beloit, WI, US

APR **Memorial service** 10:30AM

17

First Congregational Church

801 Bushnell Street, Beloit, WI, US

Comments



“ Henry and I shared in Marge’s beautiful service. Would like to have been there in person because so many memories came back as Cindy celebrated her life. We were there before KFAD with the purchase of our first house in Beloit, then led seamlessly into our long relationship with First Con at Marge’s subtle invitation. From there our children were among the first in Cindy’s children’s summer programs which launched into KFAD. I was one of the first costumers and supporters, and was even invited back when our youngest, Caroline, at thirteen, was trying to make a transition back to Beloit after a move away. Marge was always a subtle force behind promoting the arts. She was able to find the best teachers for her grandchildren and I followed her lead in music and in art for my own children to there lifelong love and pursuit of the arts. Thank you, Marge, and we will miss you.

Susan and Henry Kneuppel - April 19 at 09:55 AM



“ Marge was such a wonderful woman who had such a big impact on the Beloit community and its children. Thank you, Marge, for creating a space for children to learn music and develop a love for arts. KFAD instilled in me a passion for theatre at the age of 7 years old that has not faded for 15 years. I accredit my love of music and theatre to Marge, who allowed me a space to pursue my passions from a young age. Condolences to her family, and may she rest in peace.

Emma Corum - April 18 at 11:34 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Daley Murphy Wisch Funeral Home - April 17 at 05:51 PM



“ Trina Ehlers lit a candle in memory of Margaret Austin



Trina Ehlers - April 16 at 05:09 PM



“ Karen and I were shocked and saddened to learn of the passing of Marge. She was truly an exceptional person who positively impacted the lives of so many people. Her work with KFAD will live on in the many lives she impacted in such a positive way.

To Brad and the entire Austin family, our sincere condolences and best wishes as you grieve this tremendous loss to your family and the greater Beloit community.

Larry and Karen Arft

Larry N. Arft - April 17 at 07:50 AM



“ Comfort and condolences to the family of the "Black Granny" from the Black Conley/Hodges family. She truly was a KFAD "Black Granny" for Delaina and Nico who loved her because she had the demeanor of a loving caring Granny. Delaina took this hard as she remembered the surprise recognition Marge arranged with the other performers for her on the KFAD stage on her birthday, to sing "Happy Birthday". She'll never forget that.

Rita Hodges - April 16 at 01:55 PM



“ Dear Marcie and family so sorry for the loss of your Mother. I will always be grateful for the childhood memories growing up with your family. Prayers for you and family.

Joni Butcher - April 16 at 06:54 AM



“ Bob & Nancy Carlson lit a candle in memory of Margaret Austin



Bob & Nancy Carlson - April 14 at 04:11 PM



“ Our condolences to Marge's family. Our daughter had the opportunity to be a part of the KFAD family for a few years. Marge's love for theater and the kids was amazing. She will be remembered fondly and missed very much.



Kayla Cotone - April 14 at 03:02 PM



“ Marge was our realtor and she was a wonderful lady.. We enjoyed her so much. Sorry for your loss.



Ralph & Bonnie Elliott - April 14 at 02:46 PM



“ Dear Marcie and family, I am so sorry for your loss!



Darcy Disch-Demos - April 14 at 02:41 PM



“ For nearly 30 years, Marge and I worked together getting grant funding for KFAD. During that time, I learned a lot about KFAD and a lot about Marge. Loved by her students and by the community, she was energetic, unfailingly-optimistic, and a true force of nature.

Lynnette Newton

Lynnette Newton - April 14 at 01:17 PM



“ Amy Lokrantz lit a candle in memory of Margaret Austin



Amy Lokrantz - April 13 at 05:33 PM



“ Marge sold us our first home in Beloit in 1983. We were selling and buying. We were young and she helped in every way she could. She found us a house to buy which was larger for our family and then turned around and sold that same guy the house we were selling for him to down size. What a great day for her skills. RIP.



Laurie Zimmerman - April 13 at 01:40 PM



“ Anya, Marcie and Phil,
So sorry to hear of Marcie's mothers passing.
Prayers for you.

Becky Watson - April 13 at 10:25 AM



“ Thinking of Marge's family during this difficult time.

When I moved to Beloit, my first story assignment (with the newspaper) was to do a story on KFAD's production of Oliver. I thoroughly enjoyed working with Marge and the kids throughout the 8 years I was at the Beloit Daily News. She will definitely be missed!

Erica (Pennington) Mathis



Erica Mathis - April 13 at 09:25 AM



“ Sue & Steve Christensen lit a candle in memory of Margaret Austin



Sue & Steve Christensen - April 13 at 08:49 AM



“ Our deepest condolences to the Austin/Ramsey family. We were fortunate enough to buy the Ramsey home that made us neighbors of Marge and Darrel. When we bought the home from Marcie and Phil Ramsey, we had no idea after purchasing such a wonderful property, that it would only be even more special having gained Marge and Darrel as our neighbors. The friendship, the bond, that was formed will be lifelong. Marge was so dear and she 'allowed' Mark and Darrel to do their shenanigans together. We are feeling the pain of losing Marge, cannot even image how her family is. She made an impact on everyone that knew her. Love and Sympathy to all.

Mark & DuAnne Mecca - April 12 at 08:43 PM



“ Darrel, Marcy & Brad and families; my deepest condolences to all of you. Marge certainly left an impression on so many of us throughout her life here in Beloit. So many memories of growing up with you in the same neighborhood, sharing rides to swimming lessons etc. Marge sharing her love and passion for the opera and in turn giving the opportunity to so many kids to enjoy the arts through Kids Fun and Drama. 45 years of helping people find their homes here in Beloit and beyond. I always wondered where her drive an energy was rooted because she was always on the go. There will never be a time when I go to the Lyric that I will not think of Marge. Prayers for you all as I know you will be comforted with all of your wonderful memories of Marge as a wife, mother and grandmother.
Warmest regards,
Tara Dabson Tinder

Tara Tinder - April 12 at 04:45 PM



“ I remember Marge from the beginning of KFAD, she and Cindy were such go getters in doing everything. The kids all loved her and she did a wonderful job. The programs were terrific and I remember her painting scenery, etc. A great gal and she will be missed.

Pat Raymer

Pat Raymer - April 12 at 04:10 PM



“ Webster and Cheryl Steel



Webster and Cheryl Steel - April 12 at 11:32 AM



“ Our deepest sympathy to Marge's family - love and prayers to each of you. May all your precious memories and photos give you wonderful reminders of the love you shared. Praying God will provide the peace and comfort you need.

Dale & Diane Walker - April 12 at 10:54 AM



“ Dan & Beth Baroni lit a candle in memory of Margaret Austin



Dan & Beth Baroni - April 12 at 10:30 AM



“ Rick&Pam Ruegger



Pamela Ruegger - April 12 at 09:35 AM



“ Kim & Tim Mecca lit a candle in memory of Margaret Austin



Kim & Tim Mecca - April 12 at 08:55 AM



“ MY CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY.

LOUIE elko - April 12 at 07:56 AM



“ We are very sorry to hear of Marge's passing, she was a wonderful person. Our condolences to all of you .

Bruce and Kathi (Monroe). Mielke - April 12 at 07:56 AM