



## Valerie J. Dunagan

March 22, 1930 - March 4, 2021

Valerie June Hunter Dunagan was born on March 22, 1930 in Oak Park, Illinois and passed away on March 4, 2021. She grew up mostly in Villa Park, Illinois and attended Illinois State Normal University of Normal, Illinois. There she majored in girls' physical education and preformed with a collegiate circus troupe as a trapeze artist. In Normal, she also met her husband, Richard Dunagan. They married in 1952. When he entered the army after college, she accompanied him to Karlsruhe, Germany, where she worked as a civilian employee. They moved to Beloit in 1955.

Her jobs included physical education teacher, vocational Spanish teacher, and secretary at First United Methodist Church in downtown Beloit. She was active in community groups such as Girl Scouts, the hospital auxiliary, the AFS student exchange program and the Friends of Beckmann Mill. She also enjoyed playing folk music on dulcimers and recorders. An outdoor enthusiast, she enjoyed camping, bicycling, and gardening. She was a member of the Unitarian Church of Rockford, Illinois.

She was predeceased by her parents, Harold and Ruth (Friess) Hunter of Villa Park, Illinois and her younger brother James Hunter of Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania.

She is survived by her husband, Richard Dunagan; daughters, Holly Dunagan and Marcy Dunagan both of Minneapolis; granddaughter, Cassandra Moore, also of Minneapolis; nephews, James Jr., Jeffrey, and Todd Hunter.

She will be missed by Carlos Acosta and his family, of Houston, Texas. She will also be missed by James and Ida Ann Dunagan of Maryland and Sandra Sophia Dunagan of Indiana.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date. Daley Murphy Wisch & Associates Funeral Home and Crematorium, 2355 Cranston Rd., Beloit, WI, is assisting the family.

# Comments

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“ I fondly remember volunteering at Beckman Mill and playing music with Val and Dick. Such good people; I always enjoyed talking about history swapping mill songs, and searching out native plants. My thoughts are with Dick and the rest of the family.



**Steve Frevert** - March 31, 2021 at 06:27 PM

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“ My sympathy to the family. I met Dick and Val when they lived back door to Elwood and Barbara Karwand (who introduced John and I.) I also knew Val through the First United Methodist church. I enjoyed lunches with her and Dick in retirement. She is missed.

Nadine Stoner

**Nadine w. Stoner** - March 26, 2021 at 05:14 PM

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“ Val will be missed by so many! I knew her through Sacred Harp singing, but she and Dick kept us posted on so many of their activities and doings, they were like neighbors we didn't get to see nearly often enough.

**Annie Grieshop** - March 26, 2021 at 10:29 AM

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“ I have a lot of great memories of Mrs. Dunagan leading our Scout troop at Robinson School. We went camping, went on a bike trip, earned lots of badges, and played on the trampoline in her backyard. She had fun ideas and a lot of energy!

**Chris Hopson** - March 25, 2021 at 09:21 PM

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“ I have fond memories of singing Sacred Harp with Val and Dick. I enjoyed her stories of working on mill restorations and hearing her play the dulcimer. Dick, may God grant you peace of heart. May her memory be a blessing.

**Judy Mincey** - March 25, 2021 at 08:25 PM

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“ I sang Sacred Harp music with Val and Dick over the years and enjoyed spending time with her around various singings in the Midwest. May sweet memories soothe the days ahead for her family and loved ones.

Martha Beverly  
Kalamazoo, Michigan

**Martha Beverly** - March 25, 2021 at 07:48 PM

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“ Karen J Isbell lit a candle in memory of Valerie J. Dunagan



**Karen J Isbell** - March 25, 2021 at 02:29 PM



“ It was my honor to know Val through Sacred Harp singing and fellowship. Dick, you have my sympathy on your deep loss.

**Karen J Isbell** - March 25, 2021 at 02:31 PM

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“ Val and her husband Dick were longtime singers of Sacred Harp shape note music in Wisconsin and Illinois. Her voice and her smiling presence will be missed. Dick, you are in my prayers. May the memories of the many wonderful things you shared be a comfort to you.

-Janet Fraembs, Charleston, Illinois

**Janet Fraembs** - March 25, 2021 at 10:16 AM

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“ Sheri lit a candle in memory of Valerie J. Dunagan



**Sheri** - March 24, 2021 at 03:44 PM

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“ Val was a very special lady. She was secretary of Friends of Beckman Mill while I served as the president. She was a tremendous help. She and Dick were very presistent in creating an Oak Savanna at the Beckman Mill Park. She would call and let me know when she was going to work in the Savanna hoping that I would volunteer to help (which I usually did). I learned a lot from her. She and Dick were eager to play their dulcimers at our events and they took their turn giving tours too! She has always had a special place in my heart. I will miss her! Sheri (& Jim) Disrud



**Sheri & Jim Disrud** - March 24, 2021 at 03:42 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Peter Irvine** - March 24, 2021 at 12:27 PM

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“ I'm just a local Beloitier who enjoyed Val's sweet dulcimer music at many events over the years. Thank you, Val, for sharing your talent. My condolences to your loved ones.

-Adrienne Massel

**Adrienne Massel** - March 24, 2021 at 11:29 AM

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“ Kim Dary Mecca lit a candle in memory of Valerie J. Dunagan



**Kim Dary Mecca** - March 23, 2021 at 08:57 AM



“ My condolences on your loss, Dick. I met your wife while visiting Beckman's Mill many times over the years. I will miss seeing both of you there. May you be comforted by memories of your long life with Valerie.

**Steve Benton** - April 16, 2021 at 11:21 AM