



Celebration of Life



Judith Bavis Steller
 June 10, 1936 - December 12, 2022

Memorial Service for Judith Steller
Saturday, February 18, 2023 • 2:00 p.m.
**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

GATHERING MUSIC

Ahmed Anzaldúa, piano

TOLLING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Sinfonia 5 in E-flat Major, BWV 791 by J.S. Bach

OPENING WORDS | KINDLING THE CHALICE FLAME

Rev. Karen Gustafson

*OPENING HYMN #108 (verses 1 and 2) *My Life Flows On in Endless Song*

WORDS ON LIFE AND DEATH

SILENCE

PRAYER

REMEMBRANCES

*HYMN

#18 *What Wondrous Love*

EULOGY

COLLAGE OF VOICES

Rev. Karen Gustafson and Rebecca Flood

MUSIC

Deep Peace by Bill Douglas

Unity Choir

COLLAGE OF VOICES

CHARGE TO THE COMMUNITY

*CLOSING HYMN

If I Had a Hammer by Lee Hays and Pete Seeger
(see insert)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Please join the family for a reception in the Parish Hall following the service.

To access the Sanctuary's assistive listening system, please switch your hearing aid to "T" or request headphones or assistance from an usher. Large print orders of service are also available by request to an usher.

Judy was born June 10, 1936, in Bowling Green, Ohio, to Harry and Berenice Bavis. She grew up with younger brother Jim in an FDR household. At age 12, Judy spent a year in a hospital bed in Cleveland for treatment and surgery to correct scoliosis, while also finishing 7th grade. The next fall she met her future husband, Bob Steller, in 8th grade science class.



Judy went to Oberlin College as a scholarship and work-study student, graduating in 1958 with a Government degree, then to Cornell for a year of graduate school before returning to Bowling Green, where she and Bob married in 1959.

In 1960 they headed for the wilds of Minnesota to graduate school at the University of Minnesota. Over the next 12 years, Judy held a variety of U of M jobs, finished her M.A., and had two babies, Chris and Tim. Those years were filled with friendships at work, in grad school, and especially at SE Co-op Nursery School. While continuing to work part-time, Judy completed her psychology Ph.D.

Judy's psychology career started with an internship at the V.A. She worked at United Hospital, first in the rehab unit, then with patients and staff. She formed a partnership with a fellow psychologist there until he left the Twin Cities and she went into private practice in an office in the old Cass Gilbert church building at the foot of Ramsey Hill. Her caring practice over 25 years helped her clients live more fully and happily.

Judy was an inveterate gardener, wherever she lived, from one end of SE Minneapolis to the other. When she was hard at it, it was as if she'd been put on this earth to weed and grow pole beans.

Political activism was in Judy's DNA, from marching to protest the Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956 to hosting Minnesota Psychological Association fundraisers for Paul Wellstone, a champion of Judy's persistent political goal, mental health parity. She especially liked lobbying for the MPA in Washington, where she'd sometimes pay surprise visits to members of Minnesota's congressional delegation.

The family went on many trips, coast to coast, but the first big adventure was six weeks in England and Europe with two-year-old Chris. Then in 1980 on a family trip to England Judy connected with her English cousin, inaugurating multi-generational friendships maintained in letters and visits for 39 years.

The family's first exchange student arrived from Norway in 1983 (finally, a girl in the house). Ardis and her family are still friends. In 1991 Judy helped Tim's college friend from Kazakhstan get into grad school at the U of M; he and his wife lived with the family for over a year. That was part of what Judy and Bob referred to as their Russian period--about 15 years of studying Russian, hosting Russians and Kazakhs, and traveling in Russia and Kazakhstan.

Meanwhile Chris and Tim married, and Judy and Bob were delighted as their sons' wives and five grandchildren entered the family. Judy enjoyed regular afternoon visits with the Minneapolis grandchildren and winter months with the Tucson grandchildren. They remember cookies, soup, games and encouragement.

Alzheimer's disease compromised, clouded, then stole Judy's last years. But those years were made easier by the skill, attentiveness, love and compassion of her caregivers from Amada Senior Care, the Pillars of Prospect Park memory care, and Grace Hospice. The family is deeply grateful.

If I Had a Hammer

Words and music by Lee Hays and Pete Seeger

If I had a hammer
I'd hammer in the morning
I'd hammer in the evening
All over this land
I'd hammer out danger
I'd hammer out a warning
I'd hammer out love between
My brothers and my sisters
All over this land

If I had a bell
I'd ring it in the morning
I'd ring it in the evening
All over this land
I'd ring out danger
I'd ring out a warning
I'd ring out love between
My brothers and my sisters
All over this land

If I had a song
I'd sing it in the morning
I'd sing it in the evening
All over this land
I'd sing out danger
I'd sing out a warning
I'd sing out love between
My brothers and my sisters
All over this land

Well, I've got a hammer
And I've got a bell
And I've got a song to sing
All over this land
It's the hammer of justice
It's the bell of freedom
It's a song about love between
My brothers and my sisters
All over this land

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