



## Mary Anna Ruzicka

June 4, 1939 - August 13, 2016

Mary Ann Ruzicka passed away at home after a short battle with cancer on Saturday, August 13, 2016. She was born June 4, 1939 in Burchard, Nebraska, to Joe and Della (Chapp) Ruzicka. She grew up in Burchard and graduated from the Burchard High School in 1956. After getting her two-year teaching degree from Peru State Teacher's College, Mary Ann taught 5th and 6th grade for 12 years in the Omaha Public School System. During that time she received her BS Degree in Education. In 1970, Mary Ann moved to Portland to teach. She taught middle school in the Portland Public School system until her retirement in 1994. During that time she received her master's degree in school administration from Portland State University. She was a member of Job's Daughters and Eastern Star. After retirement Mary Ann enjoyed many hobbies. She was an avid gardener, loved to read, and do crossword and jigsaw puzzles. She enjoyed a good game of Scrabble and Mexican Train. She also engaged in stitchery and loved making cross-stitched Christmas stockings, towels and ornaments for family and friends. Her neighbors were always remembered with baked T-Rings and peanut brittle at Christmas. Mary Ann also enjoyed traveling to many countries including the Czech Republic, Greece, Italy, and many other countries. Mary Ann was devoted to her animals. She always had cats and dogs. We all remember her poodles, Max, Rosie, Cricket and Jenny.

Mary Ann is survived by her brother, Joe Ruzicka (Kathy) of Seward, NE,

sisters Joan Christen (Joe), Tecumseh, NE, and Virginia Karas (Junior), Fort Morgan, CO. Also, many nieces and nephews: Jim Karas (Nancy), Granby, CO, Jeff Karas (Gale) Loveland, CO, Jon Karas (Terri), Fort Morgan, CO, Janelle Woods (John), Atlanta, GA, Jennifer Harre (Glenn) Omaha, NE, Chad Ruzicka (Julia), Council Bluffs, IA, Cory Ruzicka (Heather), Seward, NE, Kerry Jo Kremer (Chad), Las Vegas, NV, Tony Christen (Nina), Wymore, NE, Ben Christen (Rebecca), Sioux Falls, SD, Jayne Christen, Albuquerque, NM. Her great nieces and nephews: Jennifer Hall, Dallas, TX, Ryan Karas (Kristy), Denver, CO, Jacob Karas, Denver, CO, Logan Karas, Loveland, CO, Nicole Karas, Brown Wood, TX, Trista Cobbley (Chris), Ft. Morgan, CO, Daron, Zack and Dominick Blaylock, Atlanta, GA, Ashton Woods, Atlanta, GA, Audriana Packard (Grant), Colorado Springs, CO, Nathan and Mathew Christen, Sioux Falls, SD, Tiffany and Brandon Christen, Wymore, NE, Jaxon and Jordon Harre, Omaha, NE, Paige, Grace, Claire and Reese Ruzicka, Council Bluffs, IA, Sage Ruzicka, Seward, NE, Mason Kremer, Las Vegas, NV, and great-great nephew, Camden Karas , Denver, CO. She was preceded in death by her parents, Joe and Della (Chapp) Ruzicka, nephew, Joe Karas, and great niece, Jennifer Sampson.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Anna Ruzicka*

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January 28, 2023 at 02:51 PM



“ *Miss Ruzicka was my first very memorable teacher in the Portland Public schools. She taught me years ago at Joseph Lane. I was in awe of her confidence, and loved how tall she was, wishing I could be that tall 'when I grew up'*  
*She was always cheerful and fun.*  
*I've often wondered about her. I'm 60 next week and still hold her dear to my heard.*  
*She was a wonderful woman. I'm sure her family greatly misses her.*  
*Bless you Miss Ruzicka*

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**Vicki Thompson** - July 23, 2019 at 07:28 PM



“ *Mary Ann was great friends with my mother, Jill Lokting Schroeder, and another family friend, Eileen Rose. The three of them, all educators, had a friendship that lasted decades. They enjoyed traveling together, eating dinner at one another's houses, and sharing books. My mother passed away in 2004; Eileen passed away in 2015; and now Mary Ann, the last of the triumvirate, is gone. How blessed they were to have had each other!*

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**Ellen Steen** - September 18, 2016 at 10:56 AM

CE

“ So sorry to learn of Mary Ann' s passing. I had just seen her name in the Peru State newsletter as a donor and had no idea where she was so I decided to look her up on Facebook then did a search on the internet and found her obit....just a couple weeks ago that she passed. So sorry that I missed connecting with her. We were roommates for while in Omaha after college. My sincere sympathy to all her family.

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**Connie Sayer Eggen** - August 30, 2016 at 07:32 PM

RG

“ Mary Ann was an excellent teacher, a wonderful colleague and a friend at Sellwood Middle School in Portland. I am sorry to read that she has passed away.

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**Richard Garrett** - August 23, 2016 at 10:41 AM

AC

Me too,my younger cousin Xaykham and I were just rema icing about out middle school years at Sellwood. And we have good memories of Miss. Ruzika talk about then like you looked her up and saw this obt. Man,can I tell you we really sad to us Mr.Garrett. This is Alony (Arouny) Bea Chanda and Xaykham Chanthavong

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**Alony Chanda** - December 25, 2019 at 08:54 AM

EO

“ Mary Ann and I shared many moments growing up. As a cousin I spent many times at their home. My thoughts and prayers go out to her sisters and brother and family. I will miss her Christmas cards and letters.

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**Evelyn Reiman Olson** - August 23, 2016 at 09:33 AM

MC

*Mary Ann and I shared many school memories from Burchard and I always received a hand stitched Christmas Card each year from her. She will be greatly missed. Our Class Reunions will not be the same.*

*Mary Donahue Callam*

**Mary Donahue Callam** - August 23, 2016 at 02:03 PM

NK

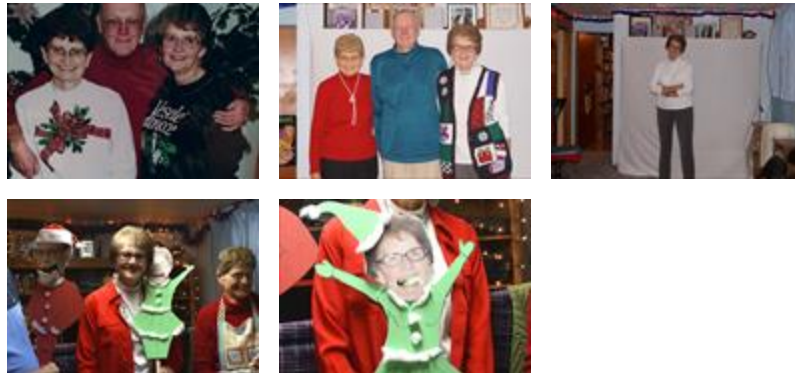
“ 1 file added to the album Vacation Fun



**nancy\_karas Karas** - August 21, 2016 at 11:05 PM

NK

“ 6 files added to the album Christmas Fun



**nancy\_karas Karas** - August 21, 2016 at 10:58 PM

NK

“ 2 files added to the album *Summer 2016 Family Fun*



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nancy\_karas Karas - August 21, 2016 at 10:55 PM

NK

“ 2 files added to the album *Birthday Celebration*



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nancy\_karas Karas - August 21, 2016 at 10:51 PM

NK

“ 2 files added to the album *Family Photo*



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nancy\_karas Karas - August 21, 2016 at 10:44 PM

NK

“ 3 files added to the album *Sisters!!*

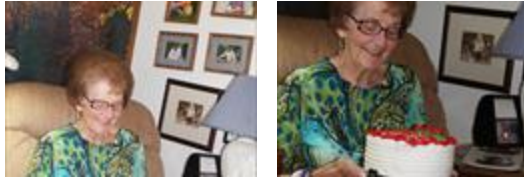


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nancy\_karas Karas - August 21, 2016 at 10:26 PM

NK

“ 2 files added to the album *Birthday Celebration*



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nancy\_karas Karas - August 19, 2016 at 09:17 PM