



Beatrice "Beba" Anna Kay Johnson

October 12, 1929 - December 1, 2023

BEATRICE ANNA KAY (MALACH) JOHNSON

Beatrice "Beba" Anna Kay Johnson, was born on October 12, 1929 in Park Falls, WI to the late Bohumil and Mary (Smetak) Malach. She was a proud graduate of the Lincoln High School Class of 1947.

Beatrice was the 6th child in the family who was always surrounded with love and support

from her older siblings: Rudolph (Rud), Joseph (Joe), Annette (Dolly), Albert (Al), and Hazel. Her younger brother, Stanley, preceded her in death at age 9 from a tragic accident. It was Stanley who had affectionately given Beatrice the nickname 'Beba,' which continued throughout her life.

Even before she graduated, Beba was employed in the superintendent's office, under the supervision of the District Superintendent, Mr. McLaughlin. She continued that employment until she got married to the man of her dreams, Jerome Johnson, a Lincoln High School history teacher. The two were married on August 8, 1964 in Park Falls and then moved to Boulder, CO. Beba worked at the University of Colorado in Boulder doing clerical work while Jerry pursued his masters in library science. They loved the mountains but family drew them back to Wisconsin in 1970.

It was then that Beba & Jerry were blessed with the son that made their family complete. Kendrick (Rick) was born on April 29, 1971, and was always their pride and joy. The three of them remained in Whitewater until 1994 when they moved back to Park Falls where they lived out their lives.

Beba is survived by her son, Kendrick (Rick), eight nephews & six nieces and numerous relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jerry; her six siblings; four nephews and one niece.

Beba treasured her dear friends, many of whom have left this world, but her dearest childhood friends of 90 years are Joan Wells, JoAnn Gehrman and more recently, Dona Hessler all of Park Falls. They were her constant companions throughout her lifetime.

For those who knew Beba, their lives were touched by a gentle soul who cared for many. The family would like to thank the staff at the Waterford for the wonderful care they gave Beba throughout her three years living there.

Funeral services will be held at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Park Falls on Tuesday December 5, 2023 at 11:00am. Rev. Emerson Coy will officiate.

Burial will follow at Nola Cemetery in Park Falls.

A visitation will be held at the church on Tuesday from 10:00am until the hour of the service.

Birch Street Funeral Service is assisting the family.
www.birchstreetfuneralservice.com

Cemetery Details

Nola Cemetery

Park Falls, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 5. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Congregational United Church of Christ
279 North 1st Ave
Park Falls, WI 54552

Service

DEC 5. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Congregational United Church of Christ
279 North 1st Ave
Park Falls, WI 54552

Tribute Wall

DM

“ Because she was the Secretary to the principal in our Lincoln High School in Park Falls WI she watched over all of us Malach students ... Thanks Beba ... Miss You. David Malach

David J Malach - March 18 at 11:40 AM

RP

“ I was a caregiver at waterford and was so lucky to have taken care of this sweet woman ❤️
There were many times id stay a lil later and Beba and i would eat chocolate ice cream watching a movie on the couch . Sure have thought about her every now and again since i left Waterford .
My condolences to the family 🙏

rebecca pratt - December 19, 2023 at 12:18 PM

SH

“ Aunt Beba's passing is sad because you never want to lose a special person in your life. She was special to all of us who knew her and the memories are warm. As a child she always put either a dollar or a cotton hanky in my birthday card. That still brings a smile to my face. As her own mother (my grandmother) aged, Aunt Beba and Uncle Jerry took her into their home and cared for her. That shows what good people they were. After my mother passed away, Aunt Beba would call to visit with me and we had the best conversations. When it became difficult for her to make a phone call, and I called her, she always answered so cheerfully. I will miss her sweet laugh and her memory of places and relatives. We know she is so happy to be with Uncle Jerry now and her parents and siblings. Eternal rest.

Steve and Cheryl Hammarstrom - December 12, 2023 at 08:55 PM

JH

“ *Julie Meier Heizler lit a candle in memory of Beatrice "Beba" Anna Kay Johnson*



Julie Meier Heizler - December 08, 2023 at 08:24 AM

CG

“ *It's difficult to think of the Malach family now without Aunt Beba. As a little girl growing up in Park Falls, I remember how she loved to play Monopoly with me and my two sisters. She always made sure one of us won so we wouldn't cry as she didn't like to see us sad. Together with my two sisters, Susan and Marla, we were honored to serve punch at her wedding in 1964. Another great memory I have of Aunt Beba and Uncle Jerry is when they moved to Whitewater WI when I was still a student at the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater. We had a year together with them at that time, including when they welcomed their young son, Kendrick, into their family Spring 1971. After Dan and I were married June 1971, we lived nearby in the Milwaukee area so we could visit with them often. I remember how Aunt Beba and Uncle Jerry loved to go to yard sales. They found many a treasure doing these hunts. Aunt Beba would telephone often, no matter where we moved, Rochester NY, Asheville NC or the Twin Cities. We were fortunate to have Aunt Beba as she truly shared family stories with us through the years. She is now finally at peace after a life well lived.*

Carol & Dan Gutt - December 03, 2023 at 09:48 PM

SM

Rest in peace dear Aunt Beba. 🙏

Susan Malach - December 04, 2023 at 05:32 PM

DA

“ Today we say our final goodbye to our wonderful Aunt Beba. As a child I remember returning to visit her in Park Falls whenever our family was transferred to a new military base. I have nothing but fond memories of visiting her and family on those occasions. I remember at a young age, while living in Italy, Aunt Beba travelled there and met us in Pisa. At that time I thought I was a pretty special nephew for her to come see me so far away. Many years later, Rhonda and I and our two children travelled to Whitewater to visit Beba, Jerry, Rick and Grandma Malach and had a wonderful time. A few years ago, Rhonda and I took a trip to Wisconsin and traveled from Milwaukee to Park Falls and back by way of Green Bay. We were thrilled to stay a few days with Aunt Beba who chauffeured us around town and the nearby cities. She again provided much family history and insight into my past. The last time we visited Aunt Beba was to celebrate her 90th birthday four years ago. The party was a huge success and surprise to her. We thoroughly enjoyed time spent with her and her smiling face. Once she moved into the Waterford, I called her often and enjoyed hearing of old family history and stories. She was always a valued historian and keeper of the family history and will be missed but we know she is in a place of peace now. Rest In Peace. Love Always Danny and Rhonda and family

danny - December 03, 2023 at 08:46 PM

SH

“ Dearest Aunt Beba brought so much joy, fun and inspiration to me/my family with her genuine concerns for us always. She was faithful at keeping in touch with us with faithfully sending birthday and anniversary cards. Once she learned how to do emailing on her computer, we were blessed with updates on a regular basis. Whenever we would visit her she would make the very best chocolate chip cookies for us to take back home with us. She was the one who kept the family connected and while we will miss her sweet, loving ways, we know she is not suffering and enjoying now being with her Jerry, parents, siblings, and other dear friends who she missed so much. We were so blessed to have her as our sweet aunt and grateful for the 90th big family celebration we had to surprise her with 4 years ago.
Dallas & Sue (Malach) Hildebrand

Sue/Dallas Hildebrand - December 02, 2023 at 02:38 PM

SS

“ What a wonderful lady Beba was! Although I didn't actually meet her until later in life, I felt as though I knew her from stories heard in the family, stories about her and her husband. They both touched many. My sincere sympathy to the family for their loss. I still picture her sweet, joyful smile.

Sue Seidl - December 02, 2023 at 01:05 PM