



## Barbara J. Engelbrecht

September 17, 1950 - October 4, 2024

A Memorial Service for Barbara will be held on Friday, October 11, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. at Farmer & Son Funeral Home in Geneva, Nebraska with Lay Pastor Michelle Lessard presiding.

No visitation will be held as it was Barb's wishes to be cremated.

Graveside Services will be held following the Memorial Service at the Geneva Public Cemetery in Geneva, Nebraska.

Memorials are to be directed to the family to be designated at a later date in Barb's name.

Barbara Jo Zimmerman was born September 17, 1950 to Elmer and Grace Zimmerman, an event that caused the overnight graying of her mother. Grace would later contend that this was foreshadowing, while acknowledging that at least the deed was done by the time the teenage years struck. Barb passed on October 4, 2024, her hair-graying, but endearing, orneriness intact until the end.

While Barb was born with a mischievous gleam in her eyes and a penchant for living life to its fullest, she was first and foremost a people person. At a young age she endeared herself to much of the village of Fairmont, and was

rewarded with gifts of candy, soda, and rigged contests to ensure that she was the prize recipient. Her mother at times failed to appreciate Barb's outgoing nature, especially when she'd shout at random, tattered gentlemen, "Hey Mister! Want a ride?" despite frequent admonishments.

Her penchant for peopling continued into her teenage years, when her need to be near the action resulted in Houdini-like moves of climbing out of and into windows (the into at a time known as dawn). Despite a plethora of punishments, Barb never regretted those fun-filled years of dances, concerts, and parties; her parents were just grateful she survived.

After graduating from Fairmont High School in 1968, she married Francis Schropfer in 1969, and two sons were born, Scott and Shawn, who were disadvantaged in their own teenage years by a mother who knew or had invented almost every form of mischief imaginable. Barb and Frank owned an antique store, and her love of refinishing furniture commenced. Barb was an avid "junker"; she could see the potential in the worn and discarded and turn it into a thing of beauty with a touch of whimsy. More importantly, it was a connection to vendors and customers, many who became friends. At various times she was also a Sunday school teacher, Avon representative, camper, dancer, motorcycle rider, and traveler. She ended her career as a manager at Lichti Oil in York

Barb legitimized the Betty Crocker award she earned in high school by becoming an excellent cook, and often shared her creations. She also loved going to restaurants, and anyone accompanying her to one knew the drill; while the rest of the party stood out on the sidewalk sweating or freezing, they'd look back and mumble, "Barb found someone to talk to". Sometimes it was an old friend; usually it was a newly created one. Shopping was similar; Barb would still be at the first rack

absentmindedly flipping through clothes, while deep in conversation with the stranger on the other side. The rest of the group was tapping a indentation on the floor at the exit.

Barb married Cy Howell in 1993, and they were rascally partners until his death in 2004. In 2009, she married Scott Engelbrecht, with whom she had many adventures until health issues transpired. It was Scott who took the vows "in sickness and in health" to heart, and supported Barb throughout her illness.

As her grandkids and great nieces and nephews arrived, she rejoiced in becoming their partner in crime, willingly passing on her extensive knowledge of mischief, and chuckling at the results. This, of course, made her the favorite: an adult co-conspirator.

While it is uplifting to think of Barb breathing easily in heaven, if one is to imagine it with pearly gates, she probably hasn't progressed far; she's still conversing with the gatekeeper. That's all right, though; she has eternity to meet all the others.

Barb was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Cy Howell; brother, Ken Zimmerman, and sister, Marge McGowan.

She is survived by her husband, Scott; son Scott (Enice) Schropfer of Kearney; son Shawn Schropfer of Lincoln; Step Daughter Michelle (Chad) Kinney of Lincoln; Step Son Seth (Cheryl) of Milltown, IN; Grandchildren Chris (Lizzy) Schropfer, Andrew Schropfer, and Brittney Bedke all of Geneva; great grandchildren Ellie, Brentley, Oakley, Merrick, and Tallulah; step grandchildren Darien, Hudson, Zoe Adriona, Kaylea Jean, Jenalee Page, and Seth Scott, Jr; sister in laws Maxine (Jim) Bishop of Lincoln; Sue Ann (Kent) Kriefels, Nephew Rod Zimmerman, Nieces Teri (Rowdy) Yates and Brenda Green;

Great nieces and nephews Shannon (Michael) Spies, Ryan (Kathy) Yates, and Brooke (Michael) Braun, special friend Michelle Lessard, as well as a host of many other wonderful friends.

## Cemetery Details

### Geneva Public Cemetery

Geneva, NE 68361

## Previous Events

### Memorial Service

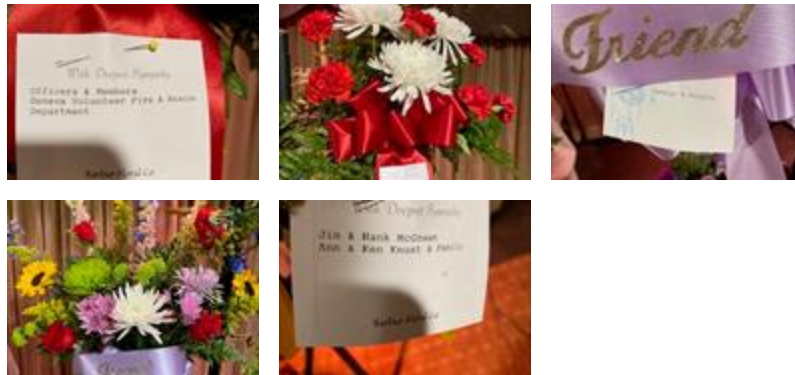
OCT 11. 10:30 AM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home  
242 N 10th Street  
Geneva, NE 68361  
(402) 759-3617  
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ 27 files added to the album Flower Arrangements



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - October 11, 2024 at 02:59 PM

JL

“ Scott, I am so sorry for your loss. Barb was a very special person and a very good friend of my mothers. I remember the first time I met Barb, my mother had me stop at Cross Roads and fill up with fuel then go inside and tell Barb that I had forgot my wallet and was unable to pay for the fuel. Never meeting her before she looked at me and said, your are Norma's son aren't you? I wish we would have stayed in better contact after my mother passed away. Can not picture the trouble those two are going to cause now that they are together.

Joseph Lichtenberg - October 10, 2024 at 04:22 PM

HR

“ Holly Rippe lit a candle in memory of Barbara Engelbrecht



Holly Rippe - October 07, 2024 at 04:29 PM

LH

“ *Linda Heinisch lit a candle in memory of Barbara Engelbrecht*



Linda Heinisch - October 07, 2024 at 06:57 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Barbara J. Engelbrecht.*



October 06, 2024 at 06:36 PM

JS

“ *James and Julie Stone planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara J. Engelbrecht.*

James and Julie Stone - October 06, 2024 at 06:09 PM

JS

“ *James and Julie Stone purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Barbara J. Engelbrecht.*



James and Julie Stone - October 06, 2024 at 06:09 PM

KF

“ Barbara is you one of my best friends too just talk too!! Through the years I've appreciated your humor and your love! I already miss u!! Scott I'm so sorry and to the family!! I love u always see u later!! Love Kathleen Freking! 🙏🙏🙏🌹❤️❤️❤️🙏🙏🙏

kathleen Freking - October 06, 2024 at 03:31 PM

BG

“ I think, no, I know I got my sass and bluntness from my Aunt Barb... and I wouldn't want it any of way. I'm so thankful she's healed and in heaven with my grandparents and her siblings!! Fly high with the angels and watch over all of us..I love you so much 100❤️!!



Brenda Green - October 06, 2024 at 03:22 PM

BM

“ Hugs and prayers to the family of Barb. She was such a sweet lady. Loved picking up stuff on swap from her. Always had a great visit.



Beverly Mohlman - October 06, 2024 at 11:48 AM

LO

“ My condolences to Barb’s husband and family. I met Barb when she and her husband agreed to take my son’s cat (Miss Hyde, now known as Missy). Barb was kind enough to share updates and pictures with me, which I really appreciated. She shared how she was doing and I’ve been praying for her and her family’s comfort. I know she’s in heaven now and I told her I would see her there one day. I’m grateful to have met her.

Lori Olesen - October 05, 2024 at 08:52 PM

JG

“ Jason george lit a candle in memory of Barbara Engelbrecht



Jason george - October 05, 2024 at 08:34 PM



Thank you much Jason she was telling me about the post you sent her daily. It made her smile and almost forget the cancer for a little while. Again thank you

Scott Engelbrecht - October 08, 2024 at 01:54 AM

JG

Sorry for your loss scott

Jason george - October 21, 2024 at 04:27 AM