



## Mary Gleicher

September 28, 1934 - July 18, 2011

Mary Kay Gleicher passed away Monday morning, July 18, 2011, in the presence of her husband and children after a decades-long bout with COPD. Her departure was peaceful. Although having to curtail her physical activities for the past several months, she maintained a schedule which allowed her to enjoy the company of family and friends. On the day preceding her death she even traveled to the Portland area to visit her daughter and family.

Mary Kay was born on September 28, 1934 to Raymond A. and Grace (Waugh) Schmidt in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. During her early school years the family relocated several times due to her father's military assignments. Many of her childhood years, however, were spent in Dayton, Ohio. They ultimately settled in Greenville, Ohio, a community which she always considered her home town. After graduation from Greenville H.S., she received a B.S. degree from Denison University. She then taught high school Chemistry in Cleveland. In 1959 she enrolled at the University of Michigan from which she received an M.S.Chem. degree in 1961. For almost all of the next five years she remained in Ann Arbor as Coordinator of the University's General Chemistry Program. While there she also met Gerald Jay Gleicher. They were married on August 20, 1966 and honeymooned by motoring across the country to Jerry's new appointment at OSU.

In their initial years in Corvallis, they established a family. A daughter, Abigail Susan, was born in the fall of 1967. Son Thomas Gerald arrived in summer, 1969 and son James Park was born in the winter of 1972. Once the children

had reached school age, Mary Kay returned to her love of teaching and taught Chemistry both at LBCC and OSU. She also served a long tenure in the laboratories of AVI Biopharma.

Mary Kay always tried to give to the community. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church since her arrival in Corvallis, and served terms as both a deacon and an elder. She enjoyed her time as a Campfire Girl Leader for many years, venturing fearlessly onto mosquito-infested trails and enduring chatter from her charges. For many years she was a board member, and ultimately, president of Benco. After her retirement from AVI Biopharma she volunteered at the OSU Thrift Shop. She enjoyed all of these activities greatly.

Mary Kay had a lifelong love of music, beginning with piano lessons as a child. In Corvallis, she participated in many of her church's musical offerings—singing in the choir, playing in the handbell choir, and being a piano and organ accompanist. This was a true ministry for her. As an added benefit, she was able to accompany the choir to Europe several times.

Love of family was the center of her life. Since their births, grandchildren Vivian and Levi were the polestars of her universe. Holding them as newborns, guiding them as toddlers and finally observing their maturation into thoughtful people with natures and spirits of their own, always excited her. They, in return, loved her unconditionally.

Mary Kay is survived by her husband of nearly 45 years, Gerald Jay; her daughter Abby and son-in-law Chuck and their children Vivian and Levi, of Tigard; her older son Tom of Portland; and her son James, of Corvallis. Also surviving are her brother Bill Schmidt, of Dayton, Ohio; her nephew Matt Schmidt of Cincinnati; her niece Meredith (Todd) Fisher, of Clayton, Ohio; her brother- and sister-in-law Jules Gleicher and Joan Kapstein, of Rockford, Illinois; and their son David Gleicher, of Chicago. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Her family would like to thank all her friends who made her last days as pleasant as they were by their visits and encouragement, and particular

thanks go to Benton Hospice for their loving and insightful care. A memorial service is planned for the early fall.

# Tribute Wall

RR

“ *A great loss. A very strong woman that I'll never forget.*

Rob Rettig - August 06, 2011 at 12:06 PM

MH

“ *Mary Kay was in my Pulmonary Rehab and Better Breather's group in Lebanon. She always had a smile on her face and a story to share. I am very saddened by her death.*

Michelle Hammel - August 04, 2011 at 04:51 PM

MM

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I miss Mary Kay very much. She played such an active role on the Benco board. She provided so much support, knowledge and encouragement. You had to love her humor. To say she was a special lady doesn't say enough. Mary Kay was unique, funny, smart, passionate and loyal. She loved her family. When she talked about the grandkids she would go on and on about how smart and well mannered they are, then she would say "I'm not bragging they are." Mary Kay will be greatly missed and always remembered.*

Marge McClellan - July 25, 2011 at 12:47 PM

MF

“ *My heart is heavy. I am so sorry for your loss.*

Mary Fryer - July 24, 2011 at 02:44 PM

FS

“ We are saddened to hear of the passing of Mary Kay. We were classmates at Greenville High School, graduating in 1952. Our sincerest sympathy to her family and friends. God takes care of us and we know she is looking down on all of us. Frank & Judy Van Scoyk

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**Frank & Judy Van Scoyk** - July 24, 2011 at 09:40 AM

MP

“ Myra was a dear friend. She and I were the only girls in Physics class at Greenville High School in 1952. She found the material easy, I struggled. Myra was a dear friend.

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**Mary Ann Gatchell Porter** - July 24, 2011 at 09:09 AM

DM

“ I am so sorry to learn of Mary Kay's passing but know she is in a far better place. She was a treasured friend and a member of our GHS Class of '52.  
Dorothy Oberer Muhlhauser

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**Dorothy Oberer Muhlhauser** - July 23, 2011 at 07:52 PM

AB

“ Mom, you've been my guide, support, confidante and friend all my life. I hope I can continue your legacy with those around me. I love you so, so much.

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**Abby** - July 21, 2011 at 04:05 PM

CP

“ *I remember Mary Kay well. She taught so many students in organic lab, and she wrote so many letters of recommendation for premedical and predental students. She always used green ink! She was well liked by students.*

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**chere pereira** - July 21, 2011 at 12:03 PM