



Dorothy M. Rathje

SEP 12, 1930 - AUG 6, 2019



Scan to Visit

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 4
Tribute Wall	Page 5



Dorothy M. Rathje

SEP 12, 1930 - AUG 6, 2019

Dorothy Mae Rathje of Phoenix, AZ, formerly of Clinton, IA, passed away on August 6, 2019, from complications of a stroke. She was 88.

Memorial service will be 11:00 am, Saturday October 19, 2019 at Zion Lutheran Church - Clinton. Visitation will be from 10:00 am until the service time at the church. Burial will be in the Clinton Lawn Cemetery. The Clinton Chapel Snell-Zornig Funeral Homes and Crematory is assisting the family with arrangements.

The daughter of the late Dr. F.E. Schoenbohm and Lillian (nee Hicks) Schoenbohm, Dorothy grew up in Elvira. After the family moved to Clinton, she graduated from Clinton High School. In 1946, barely 16 years old, she took the train by herself into Chicago to attend the Chicago Musical College. Concurrently, she became the church organist for her father's church, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Clinton, a position she held until she retired 50 years later.

In 1949 she met a sailor on a blind date. She and William Rathje were married on Easter Sunday in 1951, and welcomed their son Stuart William in 1959 and daughter Sandra Jane in 1961. While raising her family Dorothy was an accounting clerk at Lyons Pharmacy, president of the Clinton Junior Women's Club and taught dozens of private piano and organ students. An inveterate bridge player she was also involved in sewing, crafts and ceramics, and in her later years was an avid collector of Heisey glass.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Frederick Schoenbohm IV and sister-in-law Carol Schoenbohm of Blue Island, IL. She is survived by her husband Bill, son Stuart (Linda Packer) Rathje of Chicago, daughter Sandi Hansen of Phoenix, and grandchildren Brianna Hansen and Maxwell Hansen.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be sent to Zion Children's Music Ministry, 439 Third Avenue South, Clinton, IA 53732.



Events

Dorothy M. Rathje

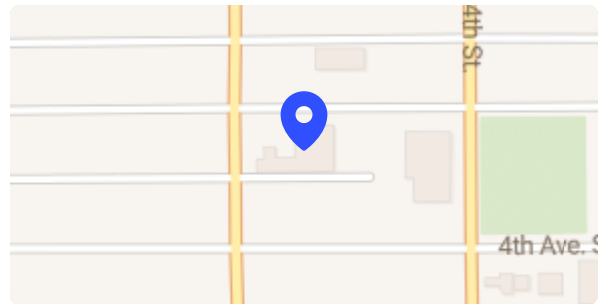
SEP 12, 1930 - AUG 6, 2019

Visitation

Saturday, October 19, 2019

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CT

Zion Lutheran Church
439 3rd Avenue South, Clinton IA

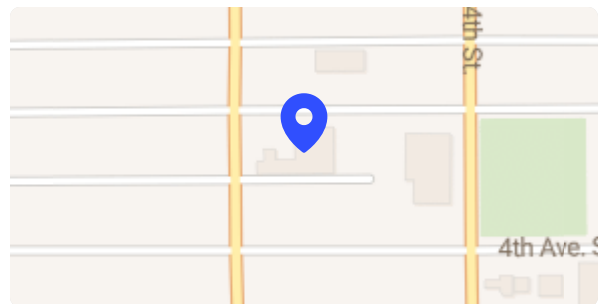


Service

Saturday, October 19, 2019

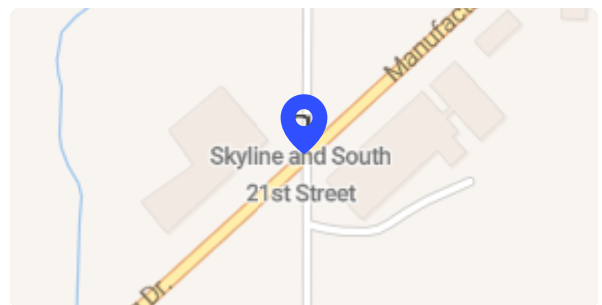
11:00 AM CT

Zion Lutheran Church
439 3rd Avenue South, Clinton IA



Cemetery Details

Clinton Lawn Cemetery
2100 Manufacturing Drive, Clinton IA 52732





Tribute Wall

Dorothy M. Rathje

SEP 12, 1930 - AUG 6, 2019

SE

Sharon Kao Sheng Her And Branen Edgens sent a Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet to the Rathje family.



October 18 at 12:21 PM

BO

Becky Sullivan Oberdorf posted:

My deepest condolences to the family. Bill and my dad ride to work together every day. Sandi and Stuart were our first friends growing up. Praying for you all.

October 14 at 3:45 PM

BM

Betty Mosgrove posted:

Our condolences to Bill, Sandi, Stuart Linda, Brianna and Max-We met Dorothy and Bill over 65 years ago at Zion Lutheran. All just young newlyweds at the time, we quickly became lifelong friends and they were our daughter's Godparents. We remained close over the years, visiting each other and traveling together many times. Dorothy was like family and very special to us. We will miss her. Betty & Bill Mosgrove, Cape Coral Florida

August 15 at 3:20 PM



Tribute Wall

Dorothy M. Rathje

SEP 12, 1930 - AUG 6, 2019

CM

Christian Michaelsen posted:

She chuckled softly as she eyed my size 11-1/2 shoes, wondering if she could teach those big feet to play the pedals. She did. And I've been playing the organ now for 45 years, thanks to her inspiration both as a teacher and church organist. My family joined Zion Lutheran Church in Clinton in 1958 and, if we weren't too late for the service, the seven of us would slide into the pew next to the organ so I could watch her fingers and feet, while listening to the music and singing the liturgy and hymns, which she accompanied flawlessly. Dorothy Rathje had a huge influence on my life as a church leader and organist. She gave every opportunity to her students to get their feet wet, by playing pre-prelude music, accompanying Sunday School and even the adult choir, having the choir perform some rather awkward music I composed in high school, and allowing me to sing with my dad in the bass section of the Chancel Choir, which was under her direction. She also invited me to serve as a non-voting junior member of the committee charged with securing a new pipe organ for the new church in the 60's, very exciting for a high school kid. Bill was an alumni of Valparaiso University. So am I. Dorothy talked of the university, its magnificent chapel and organ, and was instrumental in bringing then university organist Philip Gehring to Clinton to play a recital, which "sealed the deal" for me. (He eventually became my teacher.) Bill, you, your children and grandchildren, are in my heart and in my prayers. I feel so privileged to have known you and Dorothy. You've been in my life since I was an eight-year-old boy surrounded by the love and guidance of parents, Sunday School teachers, choir directors, and, of course, the organist of Zion. Such memories have sustained me all these years, and I will hold your dear wife in glad remembrance until the day we are all together again in heaven. Thank you, dear Lord, for the gift of Dorothy! Chris Michaelsen, Annandale, Virginia

August 10 at 5:42 AM

SM

Steven Mallinger posted:

My condolences to Dorothy's family. Dorothy and Bill were my next door neighbor for over 20 years and they were great neighbors again so sorry for your loss.

August 12 at 9:37 AM

JO

Jolene posted:

My deepest condolences to the Rathje family upon the passing of Dorothy. I know this phase in life is never an easy one...I will always remember Dorothy's sweet smile and wonderful demeanor. Although, I did not meet her until her later years in life. I do remember all her great stories she had and the good advice she gave me. Her marriage to Mr. William Rathje was something wonderful that I admired greatly! Even though she may not have known it, she will always hold a special place in my heart. Sending prayers and comforting hugs! Jolene Brown of Phoenix, Arizona

August 11 at 8:33 AM



Tribute Wall

Dorothy M. Rathje

SEP 12, 1930 - AUG 6, 2019

DC

David Christiansen posted:

Dorothy provided my first memories of church music, which influenced my career in a marvelous way. As my first organ teacher, she laid the foundation for what has become one of the joys of my life. Beyond music I remember her wonderful hospitality and ever present smile. I keep her family in my prayers and rejoice in her homecoming in heaven, where the music (like everything else) is always perfect. David Christiansen, Park Ridge, Illinois

August 10 at 7:45 AM

RH

Roger J. Hill posted:

Dorothy was just the best accompanist. I worked with her at many funerals as a soloist over the years. She was always happy and encouraging. I also appreciate how Pastor Schoenbaum always remembered me when we met. I send my sympathy and appreciation for the many contributions to our world made by Dorothy. Sincerely Roger Hill of rural Low Moor Iowa

August 10 at 5:42 AM

JB

Jonett Butler October 17 at 5:42 PM

As others have written, Dorothy had a special place in my life. She was my organ teacher and as directed I bought the special slippers from JC Penny's with leather soles and rubber heels which made playing the pedals much easier. They were left in the "side room" of Zion Lutheran along with the white robe worn for church services. I started playing the 15 minutes before church when I was in sixth grade and was allowed to play a church service after Rev. Schoenbaum confirmed our class. I had the honor of playing the organ for Bill and Dorothy's wedding and remember that very special event. Dorothy was someone to look up to and try to emulate. She had so many wonderful qualities -- kindness, intelligence, talent and humor. She had a great impact in many lives and I know how much she will be missed by her family and friends. I wish I could be there to honor her memory in person and send love and sympathy to her family and gratitude for knowing Dorothy. JoNett Melchert Butler Atlantis, Florida



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Dorothy by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit