



Gretchen Rauschenberg

September 29, 1933 - January 8, 2024

Gretchen Margaret (Strasma) Rauschenberg, 90, of Columbus, Ohio died at Wesley Glen retirement community in Columbus on January 8, 2024. She was born in Kankakee Illinois in 1933 to Charlotte (DeSelm) and Roy Strasma. She often spoke of her wonderful, close-knit family growing up.

Gretchen graduated from DePauw University in 1955 and got her Master's Degree at the University of Illinois in 1957. She later completed her Ph D. at Ohio University in 1987. After a taste of travel on her own and a year of teaching, she married Roy Rauschenberg who she loved deeply in 1958. She taught at Ohio University's Putnam Elementary School and for decades at Alexander High School in Athens County, and later Marquette University and Ohio State University's Newark Branch. She was a lifelong Methodist and served in various volunteer roles in scouting, church, and civic groups. She served on the Board of Neighborhood Services Inc. in Columbus and was President of Wesley Glen's Resident Council. Gretchen wrote two books (Dear Sister: The Recreated Letters of Maggie Drinan Strasma, and Chicago's

Mr. Rural: the Life of Matthias Lane Dunlap) and several other manuscripts about her ancestors and growing up in Kankakee. When the end inevitably came, she accepted it, having written that "Death is, after all, part of life."

Gretchen was preceded in death by her husband of over 50 years Roy Rauschenberg, her parents Roy and Charlotte Strasma, her brother John Strasma and sister Cynthia Dennison. She is survived by her sisters Elizabeth (Betsy) Torman and Jane Randall, as well as her brother James (Jim) Strasma. She is also survived by her children Mary, Nancy, Roy (Fritz), and Jane Rauschenberg, her daughter-in-law Jean (Maxwell) Rauschenberg, and grandchildren William, Eleanor, and Charlotte Rauschenberg.

There will be a memorial service at Wesley Glen 5155 North High Street in Columbus on Saturday, January 27, 2024 at 1pm. Burial will be at Union Ridge Cemetery in Chicago, IL. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Neighborhood Services Inc. 1950 N. Fourth St. Unit E, Suite J/K, Columbus, OH, 43201.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 27. 1:00 PM (ET)

Wesley Glen Retirement Community
5155 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43214

Tribute Wall

KB

“*Condolences to Nancy, Fritz, and Jane. I have many fond memories of your Mom when she lived in Athens- particularly as a member of the Athens United Methodist church and Girl Scouts. She always had a strong faith and I am certain she is with the Lord now. God bless you and keep you strong during this difficult time.*

Kira Hazen Burns - January 20, 2024 at 11:39 AM

CR

“*Mary, Nancy, Fritz, and Jane, as you well know, your mother was truly an exceptional loving woman. I first met her when I was in Kappa Phi at Ohio University in the mid 60s. She was one of our wonderful advisors and was fun and a special mentor. I loved how she was with her kids. Sometimes I babysit in the basement while meetings were going on. Then when I was married with little ones of my own, I assisted your mother teaching a Sunday School class in the mid 70s. She was a wonder! Then lo and behold much later, she came into my life again, when we lived in Albany, my son had your mom for French class. She was amazing. At Christmas, she had all the kids together making Yule log cakes. I still have the recipe. Sometimes a person comes into your life and makes you want to be a better person.....like her! My sympathy to you and all the family. (I had your dad for World History also!!)*

Cindy Kirlin Royse - January 19, 2024 at 10:09 AM

MC

“*Mary and Jane—My condolences and prayers as you mourn your mother’s passing.*



Martha Carson - January 18, 2024 at 10:56 AM

DB

“ We fondly remember Gretchen and Roy, part of the OU History Department family. She was such a nice person! We last saw her at Roy’s funeral in Columbus. So many dear friends in the department have passed away. — Phyllis & Doug Baxter

Douglas Baxter - January 18, 2024 at 09:17 AM