



Judith "Judy" Melinda Martinelli

November 11, 1949 - March 28, 2026

Judy was happy in her life and lived the life she wanted on her own terms. She was most fortunate and appreciative of life's blessings.

She loved and focused much of her attention on her family, who will miss her tremendously: husband Giulio of 50+ years, sons David (Lucinda) and Scott (Christine) and daughter Elisa (Rodolfo Goncalves). She was proud of her grandchildren and marveled at their unique personalities and interests: Alex (Ruthie), Adam, Jonas, Maya, Andrew and Elizabeth. She will be sorely missed by her sister, Connie Ralston, in addition to numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Judy was a constant in the lives of her family and friends, who she considered her crowning achievements. She was contacted for advice, information, recipes, favors, medical consults, stain removal, and just to chat. She loved her Cousins' Zoom meetings. A private person herself, she was a great listener and possessed a sharp mind and wit. She didn't judge, except for perhaps for one thing. In Judy's kitchen hangs a plaque that reads, "I am silently correcting your grammar." Judy possessed the quirky Savage sense of humor, and one Christmas gifted her brother Bill The Roadkill Cookbook. It was a hit. The messages on her sweatshirts and tee shirts tell a similar story of her fondness for witticisms.

She excelled at organizing family gatherings—birthdays, holidays, applesauce production, pie making, cappelletti assembling, and February Fests. An exceptional cook, many were the happy recipients of her legendary pies. Thanks to Mama Martinelli, she became most proficient at Italian cuisine. Those who knew Judy were well-aware of her sweet tooth. Actually, her sweet tooth had a sweet tooth. The whispered rumors were true that she made 50-mile round trips to a bakery for butter tarts. She also never met a bean that she liked (except the green ones, fresh from the garden).

Judy could be found just about anywhere with her nose in a book. She read widely and could discuss myriad topics. She particularly enjoyed eco-feminist science fiction and fantasy novels. She loved gardening, her morning cup of Tim Hortons, playing online Pogo games, and was most appreciative of capybaras, birds and wildlife (with the possible exception of chipmunks). She refinished furniture exceptionally well. With rare variation, lunch consisted of sliced apples, cheese and Pringles. Judy basked in her time at the cottage at Bruce Beach. She enjoyed spending time with family, friends and neighbors, taking walks, water walking, relaxing on the deck, sitting on the beach, and oh, my, those Canadian sunsets. In her more nimble days, she handled a tennis racquet pretty well.

Judy was born (1949), raised, and educated in Grosse Pointe, Michigan. She attended Alma College in Alma, Michigan, where many family members also attended and where she met her husband-to-be Giulio.

Judy would have preferred to stay longer and say a proper good-bye. We can all take solace in how she added so much to our lives. Thank you, Judy.

A Celebration of Life gathering of family and friends will take place on Monday, April 20th from 3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. at the Robison-Bahnmilller Funeral Home, Saline.

Memorial contributions encouraged to: Detroit PBS, 48325 Alpha Drive, Suite 150, Wixom, MI 48393 www.detroitpbs.org or to the Saline District Library, 555 N. Maple Road Saline, MI 48176 salinelibrary.org.

To leave a memory you have of Judy, to sign her online guestbook or for directions please visit www.rbfhsaline.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Gathering

APR **20**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services

301 E Michigan Ave

Saline, MI 48176

(734) 429-9760

rbfhsaline@hotmail.com

<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

Tribute Wall

SB

“ We are going to miss you Judy -

Sara Bertsch - April 16 at 10:23 AM

PL

“ Judy was a great neighbor in the mid 80s when we both lived on Lambkins in the townhouses. Always enjoyed our chats. I pray for peace and comfort for the family.

patty lady - April 09 at 08:24 PM

DI

“ We were neighbors back in the early 80's when our kids were little. I remember her sense of humor and her laugh!

Diane Irwin - April 09 at 03:16 PM

MO

“ I met Judy and became friends when our three-year-old sons, Scott and Jeff, were in the Co-Op Nursery. Judy was the President and managed to rope me into becoming Membership Chair when the boys were in the four-year-old group. I really enjoyed her company. She had a special laugh I will never forget. Though we didn't run into each other often as the boys grew older, whenever we got together for lunch (not often enough), or had a phone conversation, we ended up spending two or three hours remembering our younger years and sharing news of our grown children and their children. My sincere condolences to all the family. Mary Jane Ormsby

Mary Jane Ormsby - April 08 at 10:19 PM

FS

“ Gail and I were sorry to learn about Judy's passing (from Sally and Tom). We will miss her at the beach as will lots of others. It is hard to lose a family member and Judy's sudden death must have come as a great shock. We feel sorry for you all. In sympathy, Frances

Frances L Stewart - April 07 at 08:44 AM

KL

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Judy and I shared some great memories watching our children grow. As I look back the times we were living in the town house were the best! Our morning coffee together, taking our kids to the pool, watching the kids ride their bikes and big wheels in the parking lot and telling them to get on the sidewalk (they never listened) dumpster diving. They found great treasures. Chuck and Elisa, Corey and Scott were great friends wanting to spend everyday together from morning until night. I hope all these memories will comfort you during these sad times. ❤️🙏

Karen LeCrone - April 04 at 09:36 AM