



## Judith A. Marco

April 5, 1945 - February 15, 2022

Judith Ann Bjorklund Marco, 76, of Central City, died Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at Litzenberg Memorial Long Term Care. Memorial services will be Monday, February 21, 2022 at the United Methodist Church in Central City at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor Tom Lucas officiating. Visitation will be on Sunday, February 20th from 5-7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church. Inurnment will be at a later date.

Memorials are suggested to the family to be designated at a later time.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.soltwagnerfuneral.com](http://www.soltwagnerfuneral.com).

Judith Ann Bjorklund was born April 5, 1945, in Ord, Nebraska, to Lorene (Otto) Bjorklund and Oscar Leroy Bjorklund. The family lived on a farm near Greeley and she attended Freeman Valley District 20 rural school through the 8th grade. She always maintained she had the best education possible and it prepared her for a full and rewarding life. She attended Greeley High School from grades nine through twelve and graduated as the valedictorian of the class in 1963. During her high school years, she participated in music, speech, volleyball, softball, and track. She was an accomplished accordionist and played, along with another musician, Darlene Soll MacKenzie, for many occasions and events in the Greeley area. After her daughters were old enough to voice an opinion, they told her to never tell anyone she played the accordion or they would run away from home. Eventually she began playing again with other accordionists.

She attended Kearney State Teachers College, graduating in 1967. She was

in the college marching and jazz bands, and played exhibition basketball (with 6-woman rules). She was also a member of Kappa Pi Art Honorary Society and Sigma Tau Delta English Honorary Society.

Upon graduation, she took a teaching position at the Central City High School in Central City, Nebraska, where she taught English and pioneered the art program at the school. In the summer of 1968 she married Len Marco, her high school sweetheart, and moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where he was stationed at the Fort MacPherson Army Post. She obtained a teaching position in Douglasville Junior High in Douglasville, Georgia. Their daughter Pamela was born while they lived in Atlanta.

The family moved to Hebron, Nebraska, when Len got out of the Army, and she taught English and Art at Hebron High School for two years. Their daughter Melissa was born while they resided there. The family returned to Central City in 1972, where Judy took the position of Central City Junior High, and later Central City Middle School art and English teacher until her retirement in 2000.

In 2000, she took the position of Youth Services Librarian at the Central City Public Library, and continued to serve the children of the area. It was a source of great pride to see former pupils bring their children (and occasionally grandchildren) to the library and having happy and successful lives. She retired from the library in October of 2018.

Throughout her life, she was active in her community and church. As a member of the United Methodist Church, at different times, she led the youth choir, sang in the adult choir, organized women's teas, and applied her art talents to keeping the bulletin board in the fellowship hall interesting and eye-catching.

She was a long-time member of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Delta Kappa Gamma International Women Educator's Society, the Nebraska Writer's Guild, local, state and national education groups, the Merrick Arts Council, the Merrick County Historical Museum, and the Chamber of Commerce where she served at one point on the Chamber board. She

received the Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year Award for her efforts in organizing and creating the Community Christmas Pageant for eight years. She wrote the scripts for some of the pageants and sometimes composed the music herself. She also received a Northeast Library Systems Award of the Year for her work with children and youth in innovative projects. The large softball field sign at South Park was her inspiration and design.

Her greatest joy has been her children and grandchildren, daughters Pamela Lee Marco of Lincoln, and Melissa Lynn Marco Gragg (Scott) of Central City, and watching her two grandchildren, Alexandria and Ashton Gragg, grow into great human beings. Following their sports and activities provided many hours of loving entertainment, and she claimed it kept her from feeling old. She is also survived by her sister-in-law Ann Bjorklund, her brother-in-law Dwight Engel, and her sister-in-law Gretchen Behnk, as well as numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her infant older brother, William Leroy; her brother, Dennis Bjorklund; her sister, Carol Bjorklund Engel; and her brother-in-law, Scott Behnk.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **20**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Central City United Methodist Church  
2601 18th Ave  
Central City, NE 68826  
(308) 946-2853

## Memorial Service

FEB **21**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Central City United Methodist Church  
2601 18th Ave  
Central City, NE 68826  
(308) 946-2853

# Tribute Wall

GH

“ *Judy Marco was a good teacher and we enjoyed working with her at Central City Public Schools. She always had some new activities planned at the library. We had many great conversations there. Gary enjoyed teaching Pam and Missy in high school. Cherlyn enjoyed working with Judy on community Christmas programs. She will really be missed. Sincerely, Gary & Cherlyn Haussermann* ”

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**Gary & Cherlyn Haussermann** - February 25, 2022 at 12:34 PM

RM

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with Pam and her family. Russ and joyce* ”

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**russ mick** - February 21, 2022 at 10:43 AM

MR

“ *Judy was my art teacher in middle school. I remember she taught me how to make a macrame hanger around a large light bulb. She was fun and creative. A good teacher who's influence lasted a lifetime.* ”

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**Mike Randall** - February 20, 2022 at 09:36 AM

“ Judy was one of the eldest of the dozen Bjorklund 1st cousins. We all grew up a few miles apart on family farms outside of Greeley, NE. At one point we lived close to Leroy’s, so Bette, Pete, Judy and Pat all went to the same one room country school. During our recent visit Pete and Judy were recalling their schoolmates. Judy said she was still in contact with one of the Rose girls.

The Greeley Methodist Church and music was another common thread amongst us. Mom (Elaine Bjorklund) taught Judy the piano and accordion. Judy was gifted with the ability to read music as well as play by ear and of course sing. Judy as well as Bette and Denny sang in the choir. Choir practice was once a week at our house since Mom was the church pianist as well as the choir director. We didn’t have a living room, but a music room. During our recent visit, Judy commented, that she would like to have a hymn from the Greeley Methodist Church played at her funeral. Hopefully, someone was able to find their recording per her request.

Judy was very creative and a great storyteller. I recalled for her one evening that she was babysitting and entertaining us with ghost stories. She had us all close our eyes and hold out our hands. Then places something strange in our hands and told us they were eyeballs. Her peeled grapes scared the devil out of all of us! Her comment was “I’ve always had a weird sense of humor.”

1st cousins are a special lot – we grew up together, we played together and were each other’s first good friends. We’re bound by our Swedish grandparent, all raised with Christian values, lived & worked on family farms, attended one room country schools through 8th grade and enjoyed many family dinners together and coffee after church at Grandpa & Grandma’s house. Even as the years have passed, we can still set down for a good visit.

Judy and Len created a beautiful family together who will miss her dearly! However, she now joins all the other Bjorklunds in Heaven looking over her family, all of us relatives, former students, and friends.

Irene Bjorklund

MG

*Thank you Irene. She cherish her family and loved them fiercely. She always said she grew up at the perfect time and loved to talk about the farm, the one room school house and of course church/choir. Thanks for posting.*

**Melissa Gragg** - February 19, 2022 at 07:22 PM

DF

“ *Don Williams Family purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Judith A. Marco.*



**Don Williams Family** - February 19, 2022 at 12:11 PM

DS

“ *Dick And Linda Saylor lit a candle in memory of Judith A. Marco*



**Dick and Linda Saylor** - February 19, 2022 at 11:02 AM

DS

*Len and family. Our deepest sympathy to you and your family.*

**Dick and Linda Saylor** - February 19, 2022 at 11:04 AM

JL

“ *Judy was one of my college roommates we periodically got together for lunch the last five years and she will be missed I could share stories about the times we had in college but that could be for later. My prayers are with you Len and your family. I am so sorry for your loss. Jo Langford*

**joanne Langford** - February 19, 2022 at 09:59 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Judith A. Marco.*



February 19, 2022 at 08:58 AM



“ *YOU ALL HAVE MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY MY GOD KEEP YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES IN HIS LOVING CARE!!!!*

**Maryjo Harrahill** - February 19, 2022 at 12:26 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Judith A. Marco.*



February 18, 2022 at 12:52 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Judith A. Marco.*



February 17, 2022 at 08:45 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Judith A. Marco.*



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February 17, 2022 at 10:28 AM



“ *Rest In Peace Judy. Wonderful memories at Central City Schools with you. God bless*

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**Janet Weidner** - February 17, 2022 at 09:11 AM



“ *Len and Family,  
Hugs, prayers and heartfelt sympathy to all of you. I'm so sorry for your loss. Judy was a special cousin, we had a lot of good times together when we were young.*

*Treasure the many special memories you made together.*

*Mary (Hahn) Vankat*

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**Mary (Hahn) Vankat** - February 16, 2022 at 10:55 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Judith A. Marco.*



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February 16, 2022 at 09:01 PM

RD

“ Len and family, we’re very sorry to hear about Judy’s passing. I hope that time will help heal the pain but make the memories brighter

Ron Dahlke - February 16, 2022 at 08:35 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Judith A. Marco.



February 16, 2022 at 06:37 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Judith A. Marco.



February 16, 2022 at 05:54 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Judith A. Marco.



February 16, 2022 at 03:45 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Judith A. Marco.*



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February 16, 2022 at 02:43 PM



“ *I'm so very sad to learn of Judy's passing. She was such a special person who gave so much to so many as a teacher, librarian, community volunteer & friend. My mom Lucy thought the world of her, and and we are ever grateful for the wonderful "Lucy's Garden" literacy project for young children at the CC Library that Judy created in memory of Mom. 💜 Sara Hudgens Burczy*

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**Sara Hudgens Burczy** - February 16, 2022 at 02:35 PM



*Sara, this picture of her was taken of her in front of Lucy's Garden. This was her happy place and she was so proud of Lucy's Garden, and hoped Lucy would be too!*

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**Melissa Gragg** - February 16, 2022 at 04:01 PM



“ *Judy was my Art and English teacher in Junior High back in the 70's. She was wonderful. She allowed lots of creativity and fun. I was a student aide for her in high school as well. I feel this is a blow to the community. She kept in touch with her presence through the library. Her information on the little rural schools was a great skip down memory lane for my Mother. She will be greatly missed.*

*Teri Kelso  
Class of 1980*

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**Teri Kelso** - February 16, 2022 at 01:26 PM