



Diane Kirchen

August 12, 1932 - April 11, 2024

Diane Kirchen, nee Figlesthler, born August 12, 1932 peacefully passed away on April 11, 2024, after a courageous battle with dementia.

Diane led a remarkable life filled with love, adventure, and creativity. Born to Henrietta and Herbert Figlesthler, she grew up surrounded by warmth and affection. She married her beloved husband James Kirchen, and together they shared a lifetime of cherished memories. Diane was a devoted mother to Karen Kirchen (Dennis Shea), James Kirchen (Kathy), William Kirchen (Laura), and Mary Sullivan (Jack).

Diane had a passion for sailing, finding joy on the waters of Lake Michigan and in Door County. Her involvement in the MAST sail club brought her many dear friends and exhilarating experiences at regattas. Diane's adventurous spirit, led her to the top of ski hills, where laughter mingled with the crisp mountain air, and the thrill of the slopes

were some of her happiest moments in life. Diane also enjoyed golf and tennis, finding delight in the camaraderie of sportsmanship.

In addition to her active pursuits, Diane was an avid reader, enriching her life with the worlds found within the pages of books. She had a talent for handwork, including needlepoint, crocheting, and quilting. Her home was adorned with her beautiful creations, each telling a story of love and dedication.

Diane's zest for exploration led her to travel the world, visiting every state in the U.S. and always planning her next adventure. Alongside her husband James, she co-founded and managed an insurance agency, providing support and security to countless individuals and families.

Diane's legacy of love, laughter, and determination will live on in the hearts of her seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Grandchildren include: Allison Schmidt (Rob), Matthew Scharfstein (Alexandra Kardaras), Jeffrey Scharfstein (Emily Lichtenheld), Jaime Morgan (Michael), Eric Kirchen, Michael Sullivan (Aruna Bolisetty), and Joseph Sullivan (Cristina). Great grandchildren include: Natalie and Caleb Morgan, Evelyn and Rose Kirchen, Lillian and Mia Sullivan, and Imogene Scharfstein.

Diane is also survived by her brother William Figlesthaler (Rosemary).

A private gathering to celebrate Diane's life will be held by the family.
May Diane's indomitable spirit continue to inspire us all to embrace life with
courage,
compassion, and a sense of adventure.

Tribute Wall

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“ I knew my mom since I was born 72 years ago. I had a wonderful childhood in a kind loving home with a smart, funny, loving mother. Somehow she made everything we did special. I lived far away as an adult, but my mom came for the births of my sons (and quilted their baby blankets) and for the important milestones of their lives. My home is filled with her beautiful needlework and quilting. As I was losing her to dementia, my siblings assumed her care, but I had the pleasure of talking on the phone with her for dozens of hours and writing down her memories - most from long ago.

Karen Kirchen - May 02, 2024 at 07:06 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Karen Kirchen - May 02, 2024 at 06:54 PM