



Sarah "Sally" Charnley

June 14, 1927 - February 8, 2019

CHARNLEY, SARAH "SALLY" BOWEN, age 91, of Rockford, formerly of East Grand Rapids, passed away while surrounded by family on February 8, 2019. She is survived by her son, Morton "Chip" M. Charnley III and his wife, (Susan); her daughters, Beth B. (Brian) Post and Marguerite "Meg" (Charlie) Frantz; and five grandchildren. Sally was born in Boston, MA to Robert Montgomery Bowen and Marguerite (Waldmyer) Bowen. She attended Concord Academy, Cornell University and Katherine Gibbs College of Boston. On September 3, 1949, she married Morton "Pete" M. Charnley, Jr. After a few months in Ann Arbor, while Pete finished his engineering degree at U of M, they moved to Grand Rapids, MI. Sally worked as the first private secretary for Jay VanAndel and Rich DeVos at then JA-Ri Corp (now Amway). She was active in the Junior League, Junior Diet Kitchen Guild (Butterworth Hospital), Latin-American Council, the Advisory Center for Teens (ACT), Operation Second Mile and the East Grand Rapids Traffic Commission (instrumental in establishing the East Beltline to where it is now). She was a longtime member of Eastminster Presbyterian Church where she was president of the church's women's club and its senior citizens group, The 59ers. Later, she was president of Church Women United in Grand Rapids. Sally taught rug hooking through the Grand Rapids Community Education Program and was one of the founders of the Grand Valley Rug Hookers. Her home studio quickly outgrew the basement and in 1976 Sally opened her shop, Burlap 'N' Rags in Rockford, then later added the Candle Shop of Rockford. In 1990, Sally and Pete sold "the red house on the hill" in EGR, the 1880 DeYoung homestead that included the land now known as Heather Downs and moved to Rockford. She was successful in running her store(s) in downtown Rockford for 35 years. Sally shared her passion and talent for traditional rug hooking over the years with Rockford's Divas-by-the-Dam. She had a wonderful sense of design and creative flair, always willing to share her ideas. Sally was a proud member of the Massachusetts Mayflower Society, descended from Richard Warren and John Alden. She enjoyed collecting antiques and valued the importance of history and ancestry. Ever the optimist, when asked "how are you?", Sally was quick to respond "Wonderful, thank you!" She always said that when I'm gone, "Be not sad that it's over, celebrate that it happened... But what a ride!" A celebration of Sally's life will be held 1 – 4pm Thursday, March 7, 2019 at StoryPoint, 2885

10 Mile Road NE, Rockford. Please visit www.pedersonfunerlhome.com to share a memory or leave a message for Sally's family. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Faith Hospice, <https://faithhospicecare.org/donate/> Sally cherished her family and friends and asked us to... "Tell them... I love you all! Good-bye".

Events

MAR **Celebration of Life** 01:00PM - 04:00PM

7

StoryPoint Rockford

2885 10 Mile Rd NE, Rockford, MI, US, 49341

Comments



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Sarah "Sally" Charnley.



February 19, 2019 at 05:31 PM



“ Thanks Meg for being in touch.

Lydia and I have treasured our friendship with your parents for these last 33 years since Pete came to visit us in our former church home and invited us to consider a vocational move to Grand Rapids.

They opened their hearts, and home and pool to our family and we witnessed God's grace in their lives and relationships.

We particularly saw their love for one another when Pete retired from his engineering position at Steelcase and devoted himself to helping Sally with her Burlaps and Rags shop. When Pete suffered with Alzheimer's disease, Sally devoted her life to Pete, keeping him at home, entertaining him with jigsaw puzzles, and celebrating his love and gentle disposition.

In the days following Pete's passing, I asked Sally how she filled the empty spaces in her life. She responded, "These are good days. I spend a lot of time just thinking about Pete."

Lydia and I thank God for the gift of love He entrusted to Sally and Pete: their love for each other, their love of their family and a multitude of friends, and their love and devotion to God in Christ, our Lord.

Even in our loss, let us rejoice in Pete's embracing of Sally, welcoming her into their new Heavenly home. Because Sally and Pete have gone before us, we know that Heaven shall be all the more inviting.

Lydia joins me in sending our love to your family.

John Tobian

John Tobian - February 19, 2019 at 10:32 AM