



Mrs. Bette Samsel

September 28, 1926 - July 26, 2021

Bette Samsel, 94, of Pittsfield, passed away peacefully at her home on Monday, July 26, 2021, after a few years of declining health. Born in Brooklyn, NY, on September 28, 1926, the daughter of the late Elmer C. and Elizabeth Stickel Muller, she graduated from Radcliffe College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics.

After college, Bette worked at General Electric in Schenectady, New York where she met her husband. While dating, Bette and her future husband went on a vacation trip, and got snowbound away from home! That started a flurry of speculation at the office.

After her youngest child began school at Berkshire Country Day School, Bette taught middle school math at Berkshire Country Day School for several years, before retiring.

She loved playing bridge with her friends and was a lifelong fixture at the Pembury Bridge Club in Pittsfield. She served as a member of the Pembury Board of Directors for many years. She earned recognition in the bridge community as a Silver Life Master. Bette has passed the love of bridge on to her children, who are now actively running the bridge club and teaching bridge.

She was a long time member of the First Church of Christ in Pittsfield, Congregational.

She loved to visit the ocean, primarily Cape Cod and Maine, and to travel. She enjoyed trips around the United States including Alaska and Hawaii, and

to Canada, Europe, and China. An important family trip, with her husband and all children, was a driving trip visiting many National Parks throughout the western US. Later, one of her more memorable trips was with her husband to see the polar bears on Hudson Bay. On a driving trip to Alaska, Bette talked about the forest fire that came to life with 100 foot flames next to the vehicle. In her last few years, the family visited Cape Cod many times, staying in a room overlooking the ocean. Bette was a devoted bird watcher, and kept track of all the birds she could identify locally and on her trips.

Bette was predeceased by her beloved husband of 60 years, Richard Warren Samsel who passed away in 2011. She is survived by her three children, Peter Samsel, Peg Samsel, and Dick Samsel (Nadine), as well as her grandson, Tanner Morgan (Brittany). Bette leaves behind her brother, Richard Muller, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Bette's family would like to extend special thanks and gratitude to the staff of Home Instead and Hospice Care of the Berkshires, especially to her primary aides Nicole, Jill, and Laurie, for their help in the final years of her life.

Funeral Notice:

Funeral services for Bette Samsel will be Saturday, August 7, 2021 at 11 a.m. at the First Church of Christ in Pittsfield, Congregational. Calling hours will be held on Friday, August 6, 2021 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home, 220 East Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201. At the family's request, all who have not received a COVID-19 vaccination will be asked to wear a face mask. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the First Church of Christ in Pittsfield, Congregational or Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity in care of the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home, 220 East St, Pittsfield MA 01201, in her memory. Donations CANNOT be made online, but may be made through the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 6. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Dwyer -Wellington Family Funeral Home - Pittsfield
220 East St.
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 445-4064
info@dwyerfuneral.com
<https://www.dwyerfuneral.com/>

Service

AUG 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Church of Christ in Pittsfield, Congregational
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Tribute Wall



“ 43 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - August 05, 2021 at 09:11 AM

SR

“ *Though I knew Bette only slightly, I found her to be charming, intelligent, and ruthless at the bridge table. I will remember her lovely smile and her graciousness to a new player. I so admire the care Peter gave her in her declining years and my sympathies go out to him and his siblings. Susan Radner, Pittsfield MA*

Susan Radner - July 31, 2021 at 05:45 PM

KK

“ *Thinking of you during this difficult time. So very hard to lose a parent. Bette certainly lives on through the Pembury Bridge Club*

Kathy Kilgus

kathy Kilgus - July 31, 2021 at 04:13 PM

SW

“ My sincere condolences to Peter and Peggy on the loss of their mother. Bette taught me several conventions on my way to learn duplicate bridge after I retired. I was such a newbie but Bette encouraged me. Bette hosted the Tuesday afternoon duplicate bridge ladies which I often attended as a sub so she could continue playing while her husband was housebound. She was a gracious host.

About four or five years ago, Bette and I traveled to the Boston area to participate in a swiss team event at a duplicate tournament. We had a wonderful time and many laughs. We will all miss her grace and dignity at the bridge table.

Sandy Walters

sandy walters - July 31, 2021 at 08:59 AM

JG

“ Our sincere condolences to Peter and Peg on the loss of their dear mother, Bette. We remember her fondly as a friendly and intelligent woman who loved bridge and would forget to use the bidding cards on occasion towards the end of her bridge career. Peter would always remind her “there’s a card for that”, a quote we use often reminding us of Bette.

Judy and Dan

Judy Gowdy - July 30, 2021 at 12:25 PM