



Arlene Ellen Brei

October 4, 1934 - April 25, 2010

Gram Brei

Arlene Ellen Brei, 75 of Poplar Grove died at 3:15 am on Sunday, April 25, 2010 in Swedish American Hospital. Born on October 4, 1934 in Chicago, daughter of Emil and Helen Patek. United in Marriage to Fredrick Brei on December 29, 1951. Arlene was a phenomenal woman, who was loved greatly by her entire family. She was wonderful at teaching different skills to her family, building into their strengths and teaching them about love and life. She shared her love of birds, cooking and zest for life. She designed her own home, and worked side by side with her husband Fredrick to build it. Several years later, she designed and built a house on adjoining property, where her daughter-in-law lives. Gram Brei never missed a school or sporting event. She was always ready with snack for her granddaughters and all of their friends. Arlene taught her granddaughters how to spot and identify local birds, participating in the annual Boone County Bird Count. She is survived by her husband; son, Christopher Brei of Belvidere; daughter-in-law, Sherron (Ken) Aspenson of Poplar Grove; granddaughters, Allasia Ellen and Emily Elizabeth; predeceased by, her parents, and son Michael Brei. A private Celebration of Life Service will be held. Cremation rites have been accorded. Grace Funeral & Cremation Services, 1340 South Alpine, Rockford is assisting the family. To share a memory or leave a condolence online, please visit graceFH.com

Tribute Wall



“ Arlene was one of my first adult friends. I met her one summer, many years ago, as we spent the summer sewing industrial aprons in a garage. I was just a teenager then, filled with wild wonderings and questions. We would spend our time philosophizing as we sewed. She gifted me my first Kahlil Gibran book. We remained in contact over the years, sharing stories of birding and boxers, relationships and raising kids. Ever ready with a cup of tea, I loved sitting in her kitchen, watching the birds outside and lost in conversation with my friend. The world has lost a wise and nurturing woman.

Cynthia Kasper - May 04, 2010 at 10:07 AM



“ My gram was a WONDERFUL person! She has touched so many lives with her knowledge, love, and smile. I was so blessed to grow up with her as my hero. Nothing compares to the warmth and determination that fueled my gramie's soul!

Emily Aspenson - April 28, 2010 at 10:03 PM



“ Candle lit by



Steve Turner - April 27, 2010 at 07:42 PM



“ *Arlene was just like a Mother to me. She and Bud treated me like family for close to 30 priceless years. I will cherish her and keep her even closer to my heart than she has ever been. I will miss my favorite meal and sitting out on the porch listening to her advice and thoughts on how to grow as a person. She once told me I was too agreeable.....well, believe me, that changed on that day.*

I love you, Bud!!! Never forget that! I hope to continue our tradition this summer and you all are in my prayers.

Steve Turner & Family

Steve Turner - April 27, 2010 at 07:09 PM



“ *Candle lit by*



James Brooke - April 27, 2010 at 01:35 PM



“ *Candle lit by*



John Bond - April 27, 2010 at 10:39 AM



“ *Candle lit by*



Lori Jones - April 27, 2010 at 08:49 AM



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Lori Jones - April 27, 2010 at 08:49 AM



“ *Candle lit by*



Teresa Ferguson - April 27, 2010 at 08:47 AM



“ *Candle lit by*



Renee Kirchner - April 27, 2010 at 07:59 AM



“ *Candle lit by*



Renee Kirchner - April 27, 2010 at 07:58 AM