

Katherine Jenny “Katie” Buchmann

May 13, 1916 (Beloit, WI) October 17, 2008 (Rockford, IL)

Katherine Jenny "Katie" Buchmann, 92, of Rockford passed Friday, October 17, 2008, in Rockford Memorial Hospital. She was born in Beloit May 13, 1916, to Sebastian and Maria (Sammartano) Alis. She married John Buchmann April 26, 1941; he died November 19, 1957, at age 42.



Katie was wife, mother, daughter, sister, mother-in-law, aunt Katie, nana, Tina, Katie, Katherine, friend, neighbor, confidant, patient, client, Democrat, life-long student, cook, sports lover, dancer, patriot, advocate, gardener, seamstress, wood refinisher, reader, community advocate, coffee drinker, and “party girl” - a spark plug who loved being in the action.

To help someone, Katie disregarded controversy. She believed in education and fairness, and when Rockford public schools were accused of not being fair and equitable to all students, she joined a committee to

research the issue.

Education was sacred, but times were tough. So, when the family needed additional income, her parents asked her to quit school at the end of her junior year. She was devastated and vowed she'd finish high school. It was a proud day Thursday morning, June 8, 1961, at the Coronado Theater when our Classmates, Frank Buchmann and his future wife, Julie Hesler, graduated from West High School. On that day Kate also graduated when she received her General Education Diploma (GED. When Rock Valley Junior College opened, Katie went to college, and the whole family studied at the dining room table.

Katie would always remember these two life events: one was the Perry Como concert. She could hardly contain herself throughout the concert, and then she met him, and he kissed her. Katie was on Cloud 9! The other event was meeting the newly elected United States Senator Barack Obama at the Rockford Public Library. An Associated Press picture of Katie and the future President appeared in newspapers all over the country even seen by her Arizona godson.

That was Kate: she didn't want to be forgotten, and she won't be. She's a part of so many people in this world -touching so many like a thread in the quilt of life. This world is a better place because Katie was in it.

Katie worked for Rockford Public Schools, Head Start, Lenz Pharmacy, and Ingersoll Milling and Machine. She was a member of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Lithuanian Club Auxiliary, Montague House Mothers Club, YMCA, Edgewater Neighborhood Association, and the Wesley Willows band.

Katherine Jenny Buchmann is survived by Children, **Frank (late Julie) Buchmann**, Kathie (Ronald) Mattison, Marie (David) Mattison, and Tom Buchmann; Grandchildren, David-John Mattison, John Buchmann, Patrick Mattison, Alison (Nick) Njoro, Rebecca (Bill) Cartwright, and Katherine (Jay) Tillmann; Great-grandchildren, Abigail and William Cartwright, Wanjiru Njora, and “Buddy” (Tom's dog); Sisters, Dee Povalitis and Jo Baranauski; Sister-in-law, Bernice Falzone; many nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, and grand-nephews; the Giuseppe Ales family in Marsala, Sicily; the Bob Sharp family; and her beloved Chicago cousins. She was predeceased by Husband, John, and his Parents, Bernice and Frank Buchmann; Brother, John Alis; many brothers-in-laws and sisters-in-law; and Tom's dog, “Archie.”

Visitation will be from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday, October 24th in the Rockton Chapel of Fitzgerald Funeral Home and Crematory, 3910 North Rockton Road, Rockford. The Rosary will be recited at 7:30 p.m. that evening and again at 9:00 a.m. Saturday before Mass. The Funeral Mass will be 9:30 a.m. Saturday, October 25th in Rockford's St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, 1010 Ferguson Street, with the Franciscan Friars officiating. Burial will be in Calvary Catholic Cemetery.



Obama fixes goals on home

U.S. Sen.-elect Barack Obama, a Democrat, is greeted by Katie Buchmann, center, and other constituents in Rockford, Ill., during a post-election trip across the state.

Associated Press writer Christopher Wills contributed to this report.

References:

- [Katherine Buchmann Obituary \(2008\) - Buchmann, IL - Rockford Register Star \(legacy.com\)](#) *Rockford Register Star* from October 22 to October. 28, 2008
- [Honolulu Star-Bulletin Hawaii News \(starbulletin.com\)](#), November 14, 2004
- www.fitzgeraldfh.com