



## Birgit Ely Schwartz

August 8, 1942 - January 20, 2025

Birgit E. Schwartz, age 82, passed away peacefully on January 20, 2025, in Plymouth, Michigan. Born on August 8, 1942, in Svendborg, Denmark, Birgit was the cherished daughter of Hans Christian Nielsen and Marie Katherine Nielsen. She grew up surrounded by the beauty of her father's fruit orchard, which instilled in her a lifelong love of nature and gardening.

A brilliant scholar, Birgit earned her Ph.D. from the University of Copenhagen, showcasing her unwavering dedication to learning and achievement. She moved to the United States, where she found love and companionship, marrying Douglas Schwartz on June 5, 1976, in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Together, they built a life filled with love, laughter, and devotion to their family. Birgit was especially proud of her two stepsons and their families, treasuring the joys of being a stepmother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

Birgit had a deep appreciation for gardening and found solace in tending to her plants, a reflection of her nurturing spirit and her connection to the earth. Her kindness, intelligence, and warmth touched all who knew her, and she will be deeply missed by her family and friends.

Birgit is survived by her beloved stepchildren, Michael (Amber) Schwartz and Christopher (Fran) Schwartz, as well as her many adored grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Hans Christian and Marie Katherine Nielsen.

Dear sister of Bitten, Gunild, Dorte and Jimmy in Denmark.

A visitation will be held on Monday, January 27, 2025, from 2:00 PM until 4:00

PM, with a Funeral Service to follow at 4:00 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, located at 46401 Ann Arbor Road West (between Sheldon and Beck) in Plymouth. Friends and family are invited to gather to celebrate Birgit's life and share their memories.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Michigan Humane, 2937 E. Grand Blvd., Suite 800, Detroit, MI 48202, to honor Birgit's compassion for animals and her generous heart.

To share condolences or personal reflections, please visit the "Share a Memory" tab on this webpage.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Gathering

JAN 27. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth  
46401 Ann Arbor Road West  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 459-2250  
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

## Memorial Service

JAN 27. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth  
46401 Ann Arbor Road West  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 459-2250  
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

# Tribute Wall



“ Vermeulen Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Birgit Ely Schwartz



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**Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home** - January 27, 2025 at 11:59 AM

AN

“ Doug,  
We are so sorry to hear about Birgit's passing.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

--Gus and Andrea

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**Andrea** - January 27, 2025 at 11:15 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Birgit Ely Schwartz.



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January 23, 2025 at 07:39 PM

LM

“ As a former neighbor and friend, I am so sorry for Doug and the rest of the family. I always enjoyed Birgit’s company, and her gorgeous backyard. She was an exceptional person, to say the least. I know that her current neighbors will miss her. Please accept my sincere condolences.

*Loretta Mackenroth*

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**Loretta Mackenroth** - January 23, 2025 at 12:41 PM

MB

“ We are saddened by the loss of our beautiful friend, Birgit. Our memories are full of shopping excursions, cups of coffee (the best!) while admiring Birgit and Doug's glorious back yard gardens. A little touch of Denmark.

*Birgit had many serious health issues which she endured with dignity, bravery, and smiles. She was my roll model and my hero. A true Viking.*

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**Mike and Kathy Best** - January 22, 2025 at 09:10 AM