



Kathleen "Kay" E. Searl Birkby

August 3, 1919 - May 7, 2013

Kathleen "Kay" Elizabeth Searl Birkby, long-time resident of Fond du Lac, passed away gently with her family by her side, at the Fond du Lac Lutheran Home, on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 at the age of 93. She was preceded in death by her parents, Russell and Kathleen; her first husband of 30 years, Howard Searl; her second husband of 22 years, Fred Birkby; and a son-in-law. She is survived by her children Keith and Mary (McLain) Searl, David, and Kathy; grandchildren Kathleen and Brian, Abraham, Joseph and Anna, Clifford, Morgan, and Holden; and great-grandchildren Anna, Fisher, Myrica and Lain. Kay showed us how to be strong and active for a lifetime, to love the birds and the blooms, to take pride in family history and in crafting our homes and lives, to share with community. She has taught us the importance of gentleness, of tolerance, and of forgiveness. The family is very grateful for the compassionate and tender care that Kay received from Lutheran Homes and Health Services in the last two years of her life, the hospice program in her last days, and caregiving friend, Margaret Jarek. Services will be held at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 51 W. Division Street, Fond du Lac, on May 13, 2013, at 5:00 p.m. with Father Brian Beno officiating. Interment will immediately follow in the church columbarium. Relatives and friends are then welcome for a celebration of Kay's life at 6:30 p.m. at the annex in the Coliseum, 91 S. Main Street, Fond du Lac. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Fond du Lac Area Foundation - Searl Family Scholarship or the Staff Appreciation Fund at Lutheran Homes and Health Services.