



JULIA F. BARNHILL-POLISHER

Family, friends, former students and co-workers are saddened by the unexpected death of Julia Polisher, age 70, in Corvallis, Ore., on Saturday, Nov. 3, 2012.

Julie Barnhill was born on May 26, 1942, as the second child to Kathryn and Elliott Barnhill in Jacksonville, Ill., and grew up in Circleville, where Elliott and Frank Barnhill owned Barnhill Dry Cleaning.

After Julie's graduation from Circleville High School, she studied classical piano and obtained an associate of arts in music from Virginia Intermont College, a bachelor of science in K-12 music education from The Ohio State University and attended Temple University's music program.

Julie moved to Philadelphia in the late 1960s to teach K-6 grade music. During her time there, she met and married Charles Polisher. In the mid-70s, Julie, Charles and their daughter Lisa relocated to Colorado where Julie taught pre-school for several years and worked briefly in the Boulder County Clerk's Office.

She returned to teaching in 1991, where she excelled in guiding and encouraging at-risk teens in the Boulder Valley School system. After retirement — but unwilling to retire — Julie taught at Catalyst High School and developed an innovative and individualized program for teen students. Many former students remained in close contact with Julie well into their adulthood.

In 2009, Julie finally did retire and moved to Corvallis, Ore., to be closer to her daughter Lisa,

son-in-law Dan Leventhal and the new shining love of her life, her baby grandson, Sam.

As the loving step-mother of four, Julie leaves son, Jamie Polisher; daughter, Rachel Polisher; and son, Charles Polisher Jr. She also leaves her brother, Rev. Terry Barnhill; her cousins, Sue Barnhill-Nogawick and Cindy Barnhill and family; cousin, Susan Bailey-Levi; and Julie's niece and nephew, Heidi and John Saunier.

Julie was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; step-son, Edward Polisher; sister, Nancy Elliott; and brother, Jay Barnhill.

A memorial service will be held at Catalyst High School at 2 p.m. on Jan. 13, 2013. A second service for family and friends will be held next spring.

Contributions can be made in Julie's name to Catalyst High School through its Web site at www.catalysths.org.

Julie will be remembered for her enormous heart, her warmth and boundless compassion, humor, courage, acceptance, insight, sense of justice, intense interest in politics and persistent curiosity. Her passing leaves a tremendous space in our hearts and lives.

Stories, comments and photos may be emailed to her family at ForJulie2012@gmail.com.