



Barbara Purtell

July 20, 1931 - October 2, 2019

Barbara Lee Chase Purtell, 88, died on Oct. 2, 2019 in Tulsa, Okla. She was born July 20, 1931 to E.L. “Lee” Chase and Elizabeth Vesper Chase of Edmond, Okla. In October of 1940, Barbara’s birth mother died of cancer and in 1941, Helen Hubbard Chase became her second mother. All three of her parents preceded her in death, as did her brother Joe Howard Chase in 1986, and her sister Margaret Ann Chase in 2018.

Barbara considered Edmond, Oklahoma, to be her home town. Barbara graduated in 1949 from Edmond High School and has remained close to her class members through the years, helping to organize several reunions in recent years. Since 2005 she has sent a newsletter several times a year to the remaining classmates and has become the “information central” for the class. She assisted in helping the class produce a book called “These Are Our Lives” in 2005. She received a B.A. degree in English from Southern Methodist University in 1953 and a M.Ed. degree from Central State University, now UCO, in 1972.

The young Barbara loved horses and spent many happy childhood hours drawing them and exploring outlying areas of Edmond with her equine buddy, a white horse named Rags. She enjoyed rodeo and barrel racing, and in 1949 she was Queen of the Edmond Roundup Club. Barbara loved music and singing and had a beautiful bell-toned soprano voice. She was a talented

musician and classically trained in voice and piano. She shared her music by singing and playing for church services and was many times featured by local rodeos singing the national anthem. She inspired a lifetime love of music in her three children.

In 1951 she was married to Clint Purtell; they were divorced in 1979. In his capacity as a United Methodist minister, they lived in Hastings, Duncan, Walters, Bristow, Madill and Henryetta before moving to Broken Arrow in 1969.

Barbara taught secondary English for two years in Broken Arrow and Coweta and worked at Oral Roberts University and The University of Tulsa as a departmental secretary for 30 years. She loved teachers and students. In addition, she was the organist for St. Stephens United Methodist Church in Broken Arrow for 30 years.

In later years she became interested in genealogy and history and researched her three families, putting together books of documents and pictures for each of them. In the process she found several second cousins with whom she became good friends.

Barbara is survived by her three children, Keith and Jeff of Broken Arrow, and Claire of Tulsa. Also surviving her are nieces Robin LePage and her husband Philip of Claremore, Jennifer Chase of Claremore, and Claudia Russell of Texas, as well as nephew Justin Chase and his wife Renee of Broken Arrow, Okla., and their families. Her two sisters-in-law, Paula K. Hire and Louise Miller and a large extended family also survive her. She is also survived by her children's father, Rev. Clint Purtell of Tishomingo.

Visitation will be 2-8 p.m., Sunday at Hayhurst Funeral Home, 1660 S. Elm Place in Broken Arrow, Okla. Family will be present 6-8 p.m. Memorial gifts

may be made to St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, the Tulsa SPCA or a charity of your choice. Memorial service will be announced at a later date.

Previous Events

Viewing

OCT **6.** 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home
1660 South Elm Place
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 258-9623
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

Visitation

OCT **6.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home
1660 South Elm Place
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 258-9623
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

Memorial Service

OCT **25.** 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Stephens United Methodist Church
400 W. New Orleans
Broken Arrow, OK 74011

Tribute Wall



“ *Barbara Purtell*

October 23, 2023 at 01:21 AM



“ *Barbara and her family lived next door to my family for years. She was so beautiful, an excellent mom and had a wonderful zest for life. I was fortunate to be close friends with her daughter, Claire. Barbara was a precious part of our lives and will be missed dearly!*

Lori Burns - October 23, 2019 at 04:04 PM



“ *3 files added to the album Memories Album*



Keith Purtell - October 07, 2019 at 01:13 AM



“ *I met Barbara when I was searching for Hubbard relatives, and we had many wonderful communications as she developed her excellent history and genealogy of Joseph Wells and Anna (Young) Hubbard. In 2015, I had a delightful visit with her when she welcomed Hubbard cousins to her home. She produced some delicious meals and created a genuine down-home family visit for all of us. I really enjoyed her company during that visit and all of our communications during the past few years. Elizabeth (Liz) Edmonds*

Elizabeth Edmonds - October 06, 2019 at 12:49 PM

JH

“ I worked with Barbara in the #Sooner State Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society for several years. Being fellow organists together we enjoyed church music as well as theater music. She was Secretary of our chapter for several years and always did a super job. Joyce Hatchett

Joyce Hatchett - October 05, 2019 at 11:30 PM

SA

Barbara's birth mother and my grandmother were sisters on the Vesper side. Everyone always spoke highly of Barbara, however I did not reconnect with her until 10 years ago while researching family history. She was a wealth of knowledge. I regret not living closer, visiting more, as despite our 20 year age difference she was an amazing person with an exceptional personality-intelligent, accepting, encouraging, and fun. She will be missed.

Susan McGuinn Aasby - October 07, 2019 at 02:33 PM

LM

“ Such a wonderful lady, her legacy will go on with the many students she taught.



Lyndal McMillan - October 05, 2019 at 04:44 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara Purtell.



October 04, 2019 at 07:37 PM

KP

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Keith Purtell - October 04, 2019 at 06:58 PM

KP

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Keith Purtell - October 04, 2019 at 06:56 PM

CF

“ Cousin Joy Chase Haight and Family purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Barbara Purtell.



Cousin Joy Chase Haight and Family - October 04, 2019 at 06:41 PM

HH

“ It is our honor and privilege to serve the Purtell family and to provide this permanent tribute website in memory of Barbara.



Hayhurst Funeral Home - October 04, 2019 at 10:38 AM