



## Helen Grashuis

January 2, 1937 - December 28, 2018

Helen Grashuis, age 81, of Cedarville, Michigan, died peacefully on December 28, 2018, at Cedar Cove Assisted Living. She was born on January 2, 1937, in Groningen, the Netherlands, to Geert and Grietje (Weessies) Vels.

Helen grew up in the Netherlands with her eight siblings, and, in her early 20's, she immigrated to Kalamazoo, Michigan. There she met and married Hendrik Grashuis, also an immigrant from the Netherlands. They moved to Chicago where Helen became an awesome mother to three daughters, and Henk began a career in accounting. As a family, they lived in several places including Georgia, Long Island, NY, and the Netherlands, eventually settling in Grand Haven, Michigan. Helen worked as a public school bus driver for many years.

Helen loved traveling, sailing, and their First Christian Reformed Church community in Grand Haven, where they were both actively involved. Helen and Henk retired there and continued to love family gatherings and twelve grandchildren who knew Helen as "Oma". About five years ago, Helen moved to Cedarville, to be closer to family. We are blessed to know that she continues a wonderful life in Heaven, yet will miss her presence here.

Helen is survived by her daughters, Monique (J. Scot) Bale of Cedarville, Michelle (Troy) Davis of Saginaw, Michigan, and Melissa (Peter) Yates of

Mountain Creek, Australia; grandchildren, J. Eli Bale, Jessica (Matt) Ruffing, J. Seth Bale, Sean Bale, Teya Bale, Meradi Bale, Harrison Davis, Aaron Davis, Jack Davis, Charlie Davis, Amelia Yates, and Levi Yates; brothers, John H. Vels of Kalamazoo, Michigan, Klaas Vels of the Netherlands, Pieter Vels of South Bend, Indiana, Henk Vels of the Netherlands, and Gerald Vels of the Netherlands; sisters, Annie Vels of the Netherlands and Margriet Vels of the Netherlands.

Helen is preceded in death by her husband, Hendrik Grashuis and sister, Evelyn Kramer.

A Memorial Service will be held at a later date in Grand Haven, Michigan.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Helen Grashuis*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Helen Grashuis*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Helen Grashuis*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *Thinking of you Michelle and Melissa during this difficult time.*



**Lisa Rogers (GH/AZ)** - January 22, 2019 at 11:10 PM

JS

“ *My husband and I were members of First Christian Reformed Church in Grand Haven. Helen and Henk were the very first people in the Church to welcome us. They immediately introduced themselves ,and then explained different things about First CRC. They also invited us over for lunch. They made us feel right at home. All during our years at First , they made a point of talking with us every Sunday. We were not the most outgoing people at Church, but we could always count on a conversation with Henk and Helen! They both had a very positive influence on our life. We miss both Henk and Helen, but we are comforted in knowing that they are together in Heaven and that we will see them again someday. We are very privileged to have known them both.*

*Sincerely,*

*Kurt and Judy Sokoly*

*Grand Haven, MI*

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**Judy Sokoly** - January 22, 2019 at 01:50 PM

GS

“ My condolences to you girls, grandchildren, and all those who loved her!! She was my dear friend and fellow church member and I missed her when she left and have thought about her so often, sending a card to her now and then. I'm sure she was glad to see Henk again in Heaven, and I look forward to seeing her there again, as well. Praise the Lord, we will!!



*I can still see her on her daily walk on the bike path along Mercury Dr. and occasionally I walked with her.....even not to long before she left for up north. She always had a positive attitude and loved living on the river!*

*Until we meet again, dear friend.....*

*Love,  
Gloria Scharphorn*

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**Gloria Scharphorn** - January 19, 2019 at 09:16 PM

S(

“ *First of all my condolences to all of the family both here in the States, The Netherlands and Australia.  
My memories of Aunt Helen are many and precious. Gathering around her (their) big oak dining room table drinking "Koffie" met "iets er bij". Staying for lunch and hovering over bowls of steaming Kippe soep and enjoying lively conversation with the the family.  
Aunt Helen was first and foremost a daughter of the King of Kings, her Christian walk exemplified in her day to day living, praising her Saviour to the very end. She also taught us about health, frugality(making do with what you had) living simple, enjoying simple pleasures, laughter and loving those around her.  
Thank you aunt Helen for being one of our teachers. Bye for now.*

*Sharon Dykstra (Vels)  
Kalamazoo, Michigan*

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**Sharon Dykstra (Vels)** - January 14, 2019 at 11:38 AM

AV

“ *Mijn condoleances voor de families Grashuis en Vels. Verschillende keren naar Amerika gereist voor een bezoek, met broer Gerrit, mijn ouders (Oom Egbert en Tante Mart)  
Vaak en veel gelachen als we op bezoek kwamen. Ik wens iedereen heel veel sterkte met het verwerken van dit verlies. We leven in Nederlandet jullie mee.*

*Aafke de Vries,  
Leeuwarden (Fr.)  
The Netherlands*

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**Aafke de Vries** - January 12, 2019 at 10:55 AM