



## Joyce B. Diaz

June 28, 1925 - March 1, 2011

Joyce Bonathan Judd Diaz, of McKinley Manor in Sault Ste. Marie, MI, passed away at War Memorial Hospital on March 1, 2011. She was born June 28, 1925 in Baraga, MI with the assistance of a midwife from the L'Anse-Baraga Reservation, the fifth child of Florence (Bonathan) and Emmanuel Charles Judd. She is survived by her children, Janine (Jerry) Parish and Jon (Jan) Diaz; grandchildren Jeremy (Judith) Parish, Jennifer Parish, Justine Diaz, and Carolyn Diaz; and great-granddaughter, Willa Parish. She is pre-deceased by her parents, Florence and Emmanuel Judd, sisters Dorothy Judd, Ethel Gorthy and Isabel Weesner, and brother Dr. Alvin E. Judd; and by her dear friend, Virginia Dunham. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Elaine Judd, and several nieces, nephews and cousins, who remembered her frequently through caring communication. Joyce served as an educator in Michigan Public Schools and Universities for over 37 years. She graduated from Michigan State College in 1947 with a B.A. in Journalism and Literature, wrote for the Michigan State News, and taught English as a graduate teaching assistant. She received an M.A. in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Michigan in 1968. Her tenure included teaching English in Davison High School (1950-52), teaching and counseling in Birmingham High School (1952-56), and as an English teacher at Whittier Junior High School in Flint, MI (1960-1985). During her years in Flint Public Schools, she was a co-founder of the United Teachers of Flint and the Sarvis Food Program, assisting student welfare. She was recognized for her energy in curriculum

development, and for organizing student projects and writing contests. Joyce loved to write and sought a career in publishing in New York and Chicago immediately after college. She continued to write poetry and essays, and engaged her students in every aspect of spoken and written language, from remedial reading instruction to poetry, essay and novel writing. She encouraged all of her students to realize their full potential, and often said, "If I reach one student each day, I will have done my job." She enjoyed nature, poetry and music, and the company of friends and family. Visitation will be held from 9 a.m. to 11 AM, with a Funeral Mass following at 11 AM on Saturday, March 5, 2011, at St. James' Episcopal Church, Sault Ste. Marie, MI. An internment will be held at a later date at Sunset Hills Cemetery, Flint, MI. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to St. James' Episcopal Church Music (Organ) Fund. Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

# Tribute Wall



“ Joyce B. Diaz

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ Joyce B. Diaz

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ Joyce B. Diaz

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *When I first met Joyce I thought she was the sweetest person I had ever met. She was so nice, smiled always and seemed to be ready to assist anyone who need help. I still believe after all these years that she stayed true to herself. She was a caring Mom to her children and to all that came in contact with her. Although I had not seen her in a long time, I hope her senior years were filled with joy. She deserved the very best life has to give.*

**Mary Ann Kiesler** - March 27, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *I never had the opportunity to meet Joyce, but her son, Jon, would always talk about her when he and I met for business or socially. She must have been a great mom because she raised a great son. My condolences to all the family and my prayers are with Joyce and the family.*

**Jack McElroy** - March 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JW

“Joyce was one of my favorite people. She always smiled, even after telling a sad story. I love her not only because she was my Great Aunt. She reminded me of her sister Isabel, had a good bit of Alvin's humor, and really was an ever present part of a whole branch of my family. She was smart, raised great kids, had opinions, and was uncommonly good to be around. I miss her.

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**Jeff Weesner** - March 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DS

“Our hearts and prayers are with you and your family in these difficult days. Don, Maggie, Chris of Wells Fargo in Birmingham

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**Donald Simpson** - March 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MF

“Jon, My heart felt sympathy go out to you and your family on the passing of your Mom. I remember how kind and pleasant a person she always was anytime I spoke to her. Deepest sympathy, Mike and Enid Fanfair

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**Michael Fanfair** - March 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM