



Gertrude V. Jodka

February 18, 1920 - April 24, 2020

AYER: Gertrude V. "Trudy" Jodka, 100, died peacefully on April 24, 2020 at Lifecare Center of Nashoba Valley, Littleton.

Trudy was born 100 years ago in Lawrence, the eldest daughter of Irish immigrants, William and Julia (Minehan) Harnedy. Here she met the love of her life, Albin J Jodka. It was love at first sight. They were married for 47 years until Al died in 1989. They settled in Ayer and raised their family of 5 kids. They were longtime owners of two Ayer businesses, the Melody Shop and Ayer Travel Service. Being avid travelers, Trudy bragged that she and Al had gone to 53 countries, 25 islands and on 15 cruises. Proud of her Irish heritage, she visited Ireland 9 times.

Trudy is predeceased by her son, Robert Jodka and grandson, David Jodka, her brothers William and Richard Harnedy and, recently, her beloved sister Doris Ginchereau.

She leaves her beloved children, daughter Sharon Jodka Carpenter and husband George; her 3 sons, Richard Jodka and his wife Kathy, Thomas Jodka and his wife Kathryn, Jonathan Jodka and his wife Kim; her daughter-in-law Sarah Jodka and her beloved sister and best friend, Marion Richards. She also leaves 11 grandchildren; Meghan, Zachary, Aaron, Emily, Libby, Molly, Anna, Charlie, Maddie, Nick, and Henry. And 8 great grandchildren; Colin, Brenna, Ryann, Reese, Clare, Andrew, Conor and Matthew.

Trudy was an active member of St Mary's Church in Ayer and was the Director of their Minstrel Shows for 15 years. She was a 30 year member of the

Nashoba Hospital Auxiliary and directed the fashion shows for the annual dinner dance fundraiser.

She and Al were members of the Shirley Players, the Harvard Players and Trudy co- chaired the Ayer Bicentennial Celebration, the Ayer Fayer and Ayer Revitalization Committee.

She and Al loved the town of Ayer and Trudy lived here for 65+ years. Special thanks to the staffs at Nashoba Park Assisted Living and Lifecare Center in Littleton for their devoted, loving care for our mom. And a truly heartfelt thanks to Jane Reed R.N. from Nashoba Nursing who made home visits over many years.

Due to restrictions on gathering immediate services will be held privately but a publicly attended Funeral Mass will be scheduled at a day and time to be announced.

Memorial contributions may be made to Loaves and Fishes, PO Box 2, Ayer, MA 01432.

The Anderson Funeral Home, 25 Fitchburg Rd., Ayer is assisting the family with arrangements. For additional information or to leave an online condolence please visit their website at www.andersonfuneral.com

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Cemtery

Bishop Rd.
Ayer, MA

Tribute Wall

DT

“ I met Trudy and Al many years ago when I was an oncology nurse at Nashoba. What a blessing to have met them! Their stories about their store, community theater (especially lil'abner) and their family were always entertaining. They were such a great couple! After Al passed away, Trudy became involved with the ladies at the hospital so I saw her regularly; Trudy and her great purses and crazy sneakers. 10 years ago I named my cat after her. She said "it better be because she's cute and sweet and not because she's growly" while she growled and made cat claw movements at me. What a wonderful woman she was! I am sorry for your loss but so glad she lived to see 100. Doreen Thomas

Doreen Thomas - May 05, 2020 at 08:32 PM

BH

“ Moo

Bob Harrington - April 30, 2020 at 09:24 PM

BF

“ I have met your Mom many times, but my most vivid memory of her is meeting her and your Dad in Germany on the Rhine River Cruise on the Boat Lorelei. They were fun loving and full of life and treated us all so well. She is so blessed to have had a daughter like you to care for her every need. I wish you Peace in this moment.
Love, Boop

Betty Finn - April 28, 2020 at 03:25 PM

SA

“ To the Jodka Family,
I offer my deepest condolences in your loss. Each of you are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

With sympathy,
Stephanie Accetta

Stephanie Accetta - April 28, 2020 at 08:20 AM

RG

“ So very sorry for your loss, your Mom was an amazing and beautiful person. I will always remember her laugh and smile it was contagious.

Robin (Dowey) Grossman

Robin Grossman - April 27, 2020 at 09:03 PM

FA

“ Our sincere condolences to Trudy's family. We knew her as a member of our "tasting" group. She was a very fun loving, lovely. May you be comforted knowing that by her Faith, she is at peace.
Fran & Sig Andersen

Frances Andersen - April 27, 2020 at 06:18 PM



“ Fields of Europe was purchased for the family of Gertrude V. Jodka.



April 27, 2020 at 02:11 PM

CL

“ *Trudy, one of the most gracious, loving, and giving people God ever made. That smile, that laugh, those sparkling eyes. And such an amazing legacy in the children that she loved. One hundred years extremely well-spent <3*

Cyndi Lavin - April 27, 2020 at 12:12 PM

SH

“ *To the Jodka Family,*

I never knew Trudy but my grandmother would speak of their friendship. Keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers as you navigate this difficult time.

*Fondly,
Stephanie Hebb, Polly Hebb's granddaughter*

Stephanie Hebb - April 27, 2020 at 11:55 AM

NS

“ *Nancy Sherwin lit a candle in memory of
Gertrude V. Jodka*



Nancy Sherwin - April 27, 2020 at 09:04 AM

LB

“ *I don't know you I'm so sorry to hear about
your mother's passing she is now resting in
peace may god be with you and your family
you are all in my prays always remember the
good times you had with her*



Lorraine Butler - April 27, 2020 at 12:47 AM

MC

“ Sharon, Rich, Tommy, Jonathan and the entire family, I was so sorry to hear of your mothers passing. 100 years, what a wonderful life. Your mother had such a great smile and always made everyone feel so comfortable when speaking with her. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. RIP Trudy.

Mary Craft - April 26, 2020 at 10:33 PM

MJ

“ 1 file added to the album Tribute to Trudy



Maddie Jodka - April 26, 2020 at 09:39 PM

DM

What a wonderful tribute, for a great lady ❤️🙏

Denise M - April 26, 2020 at 10:03 PM

CL

Lovely. I am just crying <3

Cyndi Lavin - April 27, 2020 at 12:35 PM

PM

What a Beautiful Tribute to a wonderful lady. She and my mom had a lovely friendship at NP. Rest in Peace sweetie, Love you BIG Trudy and remember: You will always have a special place in my heart.

PM - April 27, 2020 at 12:47 PM

PD

Maddie - this is a beautiful tribute!!

Peg Donnelly - April 27, 2020 at 03:45 PM

KM

Fabulous!

kathleen mahoney - April 28, 2020 at 06:36 AM

AD

What a beautiful tribute indeed! Emily this is for you as well as everyone in your family that mourning the loss of this beautiful lady. Her life was full of precious moments, family moments, people that loved her...think of all the stories she could tell...one hundred years...that is amazing! God himself promise that our names could be "written" in his memory and gives us hope that we will see our loved ones again...isn't that wonderful?

You are so special to us. Sending you a big hug, hoping to see you soon.

Abigail

Abigail Deschamps - April 28, 2020 at 08:51 AM



Maddie,

Thank you for sharing this wonderful tribute to Trudy. Growing up in Ayer, I have fond memories of Trudy, Al and the entire family. She will be missed dearly by my mother Ann Laggis. My sincere condolences to the Jodka family!

Cynthia Laggis Smith

Cindy Laggis Smith - April 28, 2020 at 05:15 PM

GL

Thanks for sharing this. She was a beautiful woman!

Gail Lollis - April 29, 2020 at 11:00 AM



What an endearing tribute to Trudy, my mother will offer her the grand tour in heaven and show her all the hot spots to visit. Your family is in my thoughts

Paula Mahoney Phillips

Paula Phillips - April 29, 2020 at 01:36 PM

KC

What a wonderful tribute!

I knew Al and Trudy through the St. Mary's Minstrel Shows, as an employee at the Melody Shop, and their son Jon was a visitor at my house as he enjoyed visiting with my mom and dad, Jim and Roberta Curtin. I enjoyed working with Sharon and playing songs over the loudspeaker at the Melody Shop.

I still use so many of the expressions I learned from Al, and of course, have always considered Trudy to be "one of the oldest street-walkers in town" as Al fondly referred to her.

I saw her at Nashoba Valley when my son was a boy scout singing carols and when I began waitressing at Tiny's, I often saw her there for lunch.

As a matter of fact, when I heard that Trudy had passed, I was in denial because I had just waited on her in late February/early March and she was in great spirits.

There will always be a place in my heart and my memories for the Jodka family. I can only hope that once they were reunited, Al and Trudy immediately began to arrange a production once again!

*With love,
Kelley Curtin*

Kelley Curtin-Wilson - May 07, 2020 at 07:10 PM

SP

“ *I'm so sorry to hear about Trudy she was truly one of my favorites!What a beautiful life she had'Rip!Love sue@dr helds*

sue paul - April 26, 2020 at 07:28 PM

LC

“ *I was saddened to hear about Mrs. Jodka. I have some very fun memories of her and your entire family growing up. She certainly was a lady with class and will always thought of fondly in my heart. Prayers to your entire family.*

Linda Coke - April 26, 2020 at 05:39 PM

L(

“ *Lisa Maillet (Flagg) lit a candle in memory of Gertrude V. Jodka*



Lisa Maillet (Flagg) - April 26, 2020 at 04:51 PM

RR

“ *Trudy you will be so missed by all...always a smile and a story to tell. I'll always remember our Christmas luncheon with wonderful memories of you, Doris and Marion, the Three "Wendy Girls". May you rest in peace ...love RuthAnn and Danny..*

RuthAnn Richards - April 26, 2020 at 02:51 PM

AC

“ *So sorry for your loss of your mother or grandmother. You are all in my prayers. Rest In Peace Trudy .*



Ann Carson - April 26, 2020 at 01:01 PM

DS

“ *Sharon, Tommy, Johnny, Richard, Sarah & all your family, I am so saddened to hear of Trudy's passing. Memories of her go back to the Melody Shop days with your father. Trudy was without a doubt one of the loveliest ladies that always had that beautiful smile. My sincerest sympathies to all of you*

Denise Stepleton - April 26, 2020 at 12:07 PM

CS

I loved you so much, Aunty Trudy. What fun times we all had at many family gatherings over so many years. You were my confidant and supporter, especially through my mother's struggles in her last years. Please give my Mom and Dad a huge hug from me, Frank, Julia, and Gail. Love you forever. Colleen.

Colleen da Silva - April 26, 2020 at 01:27 PM

SM

“*Dear Jodka Family,*
Trudy was a fabulous woman with an amazing zest for life. I am not at all surprised that she lived such a long life. I was honored and thoroughly enjoyed working with her on the St. Mary's Shows. Her energy was contagious and we spent those Winter months of rehearsals, planning and laughing as the show would slowly come together that first weekend in May each year.
I had such admiration for her. She reminded me of my own mothershe loved Ireland, her family, her church, the Arts, walking and LAUGHING. Her smile was infectious and she would light up the room when she entered. She truly was "One of a kind". Heaven is smiling bigger now that Trudy Jodka is residing there. Rest in Peace dear Trudy...with Al. Perhaps the two of you are now performing together and directing the HeavenlyThespian Players.
Sincere condolences.
Susie and Joe Michaud and family

Susan Michaud - April 26, 2020 at 11:59 AM

GL

“ Sending all the love in the world back home, from the Lollis family. Aunty Trudy was always such a joyful spark, a light and a presence. I always always enjoyed the times I got to spend with her, and loved witnessing her relationship with Grammy and Aunty May. With much love.



- Gail, Jon and Connor Lollis

Gail Lollis - April 26, 2020 at 11:59 AM

TJ

“ Trudy was such an amazing person. She glided through life with such grace. A beautiful spirit, with a smile on her face, and a twinkle in her eyes. I feel blessed to have known her. She will be missed. Fondly, Tammy Jewett @ HQHS

Tammy Jewett - April 26, 2020 at 11:14 AM

BL

“ Dear Jodka Family,
There are too many fond memories to share of your mother to focus on just one. She was an amazing woman who I greatly admired. In the last several years, I would bring my students to Nashoba Park to sing with the residents and sit awhile with your mother. Of course we would talk about the old St. Mary's shows. She is someone who has definitely left an impression on those she encountered in her life. Please accept my condolences during this difficult time.

Beth (Horgan) Lewis - April 26, 2020 at 08:33 AM

FE

“ I am so very sorry to hear of Trudy's passing. A very lovely lady. . . always a smile!

Frank and Jackie Esielionis - April 26, 2020 at 08:10 AM

TM

To the family we would like to say how deeply sorry we are to hear of Trudy's passing. She truly was a person who left an amazing memory in all who knew her. She was always so cheerful and she made you feel so comfortable when she saw you no matter where or when. Both your parents were a corner stone in the Town of Ayer that is for sure. I am sure dad was there with open arms as she entered heaven.

Tom and Kathy (Woicek) McDowell

Tom and Kathy McDowell - April 26, 2020 at 09:18 AM

DS

To the Jodka Family, My sincerest condolences on the loss of your lovely Mother. My memories of Trudy began at the Melody Shop and continued into our 30+ years together working and supporting Nashoba Hospital as she volunteered countless hours for so many events and fun filled times. God Bless and RIP Trudy!

Deb Jurga Seeley

Deborah Seeley - April 26, 2020 at 11:11 AM

KE

Richard, Sharon, Tom, Jonny,. I am so sad about Trudy's passing. I have loved your mother since I was a little girl. I have so many great memories of Trudy right up to the lady she was in her latter years. We so enjoyed talking over the rock wall catching up. Trudy was the best neighbor anyone could have had, and I will always remember her and miss her. Trudy, you have a lot of Nashua St folks that will greet you. Love always, Kerry

Kerry - April 26, 2020 at 12:36 PM

DW

Job well done Trudy. We had a lot of fun being in the minstrel show with you as the director. Say hi to Al....he was fun God bless.....Phine and Donnie Wallace

Donald Wallace - April 26, 2020 at 03:17 PM

KH

To the Jodka Family, I am so very sorry for your loss of Trudy. My sincerest condolences to you all at this difficult time. May she rest in peace. God Bless

Kathy Hebb

Kathleen Hebb - April 27, 2020 at 04:32 PM

RA

To the Jodka Family, I am sorry for your loss. What a wonderful person for so many people to have had the privilege to know. May she rest in peace.

Rosanne (Tessier) Allen

Rosanne Allen - April 29, 2020 at 01:05 AM

MM

Our family was so very blessed to have had Trudy and Al in our lives. So many wonderful memories May God keep both of you.

Mike Marr

Mike Marr - April 29, 2020 at 11:40 AM