



Barbara (Guzauskas) Hamsmith

February 24, 1950 - August 31, 2012

Barbara (Guzauskas) Hamsmith, 62, of Aurora, IL, died Friday, August 31, 2012, surrounded by her family, after a 2-year battle with a rare form of salivary gland cancer. She was born February 24, 1950 in Aurora to Frank Sr. and Norma (Musso) Guzauskas. Barb felt the best part of life was being a loving wife and mother. She adored her husband; they were best friends since they first met in 1968. Their special times together included breakfast on Sundays after early Mass, antiquing trips, and just spending quality time together. They also bowled together throughout their entire married life, enjoying many spirited competitions. They will be forever united in heart and soul. Barb was most proud of her children. She thoroughly enjoyed being home with them, and all of their friends, when they were young. As they became adults she reveled in their accomplishments and their excellence at school. When her son married, Barb welcomed another wonderful daughter into her family.

Barb also enjoyed baking and gardening, and her family and friends looked forward to her annual Fourth of July parties. Barb managed to visit her favorite vacation spot, Walt Disney World, twelve times during her lifetime (and just recently she made it to Disneyland), and the various people she traveled with made each one a new and exciting adventure. She also treasured her First Friday group, girlfriends who met once a month for conversation and good food. Over the years Barb worked as a secretary, a computer programmer, a

material handling sales specialist, and a bookkeeper. She enjoyed working side by side with her husband for many years in his accounting practice. Barb was very proud of finally graduating from North Central College in 2009 with a B.A. in Accounting, after going back to college part-time for 11 years. She was a church organist for more than forty years, first at St. Peter's Church in Aurora and then at Holy Angels Church. She also served as an Extraordinary Minister at Holy Angels.

Survivors include her beloved husband of 40 years, Jerry; her wonderful children, Matthew (Lisa) with granddaughter Cecilia of Oswego and Rachel of Aurora; her sisters, Karen (William) Oleckno of DeKalb and Jeannie (Daniel) Currie of Aurora; her brother, Frank (Elizabeth) Guzauskas of Aurora; along with many special nieces, nephews and grandnephews; and her best friends Patrick and Mary Dougherty of Aurora. Barb was preceded in death by her parents.

Barb's family would like to thank the doctors who took such excellent care of her in her last few years: Dr. Mark Agulnik, her oncologist at Northwestern; Dr. Par Mehta, her radiation oncologist at River West; Dr. Steven Sapyta, her internist at Dreyer Clinic; and Vitas hospice.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, September 5, 2012 from THE DALEIDEN MORTUARY at 10:00 AM to Holy Angels Church at 10:30 AM. Fr. Michael Burrows, O.S.B. will officiate with interment in Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Visitation will be held Tuesday, September 4, 2012 from 2:00PM – 8:00 PM, with a Liturgical Wake Service at 7:00 PM, at THE DALEIDEN MORTUARY, 220 North Lake Street, Aurora, IL 60506. 630-631-5500. Please visit our new interactive website at www.daleidenmortuary.com to leave condolences for Barb's family or sign the guest book.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Barb's name may be made to the

Rosary High School Alumnae Association.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Olivet Cemetery

278 Ashland Avenue
Aurora, IL 60505

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 4. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Daleiden Mortuary
220 N. Lake Street
Aurora, IL 60506
(630) 631-5500
daleidenmortuary@gmail.com
<https://www.daleidenmortuary.com>

Funeral Mass

SEP 5. 10:30 AM (CT)

Holy Angels Church
120 South Lancaster Avenue
Aurora, IL 60506

Tribute Wall



“ Daleiden Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Barbara (Guzauskas) Hamsmith



Daleiden Mortuary - August 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM

WM

“ I just learned of Barb's passing, and I am at a loss for words. Barb was always upbeat, happy, and full of life. We were grade school friends -- the kind of friends that never forget each other. Every time we saw each other after grade school, the old 'magic' returned and we picked up right where we left off! One of my favorite memories is when Barb and I got to dress up as Dominican sisters for all all-city Vocations Day. I still have the photos, and they will be treasured even more from now on. Jerry, all my love to you and the family. I will be in touch. May God comfort you during this sad time. Love, Wendy (LaFleur) Marcec, Geneva, IL

Wendy Marcec - September 22, 2012 at 08:34 PM

BH

“ *Heaven is a lot more fun now that Barb has arrived!! Party On, Barb...you gave all you had and then some to this world...and now we know you will enjoy your reward. All glory to God for His gift of you for the short time you were here...we are better for knowing you.*

Jerry and family, Bill and I send our most sincere condolences on the loss of this incredible woman...we were out of town and unable to attend her services but we have held you all in prayer these last months...and will continue to do so.

Barb and Bill Hess

Barb and Bill Hess - September 16, 2012 at 11:32 AM

MK

“ *Barb and I went to school together for 12 years. St. Peter's and Rosary have special places in my heart along with the Dominican Sisters who taught us along the way.*

The last time I saw Barb was at a St. Peter's reunion, and she was her warm friendly self just like always. It was as if time had stood still even though many years had passed in between.

My Dad was very ill and off work for over a year when I was about 8 years old. My Mother struggled through this time on little money. I remember her sending me to Mr. Gusauskas grocery store for a few things. Mr. Guzauskas let her run a tab and pay when she was able. As a child, I looked up to him as a hero. He was so warm kind. Barb lived what she learned from her wonderful parents.

*May God help her family through this time of sorrow.
Mary (Ingraham) Kackert - Rosary Class of 1968*

Mary Kackert - September 06, 2012 at 07:39 AM

PM

“ I remember how infectious Barb's personality was during all the time I knew her. I especially remember our card games at the lunch table each day at school. Wow! Yes, I too will miss the get togethers at Barb's and look forward to the day we can all be together again and play some cards! I am sure she is enjoying the peace and comfort of resting in our Lord's arms. Barb was a very caring, loving person who cherished life to the fullest. Let us all be reminded of how she lived life to the end. My deepest sympathy to Jerry and family. It is painful to have your best friend go before us. Pat Nickels Mauk Class of '68.

Patricia A. Mauk - September 05, 2012 at 03:22 PM

TH

“ To Jerry and the Family

My sister who still lives in Aurora called to inform me. I am truly sorry for your loss.

Tom Huntoon

Thomas P. Huntoon - September 05, 2012 at 01:07 PM

JG

“ Every Saturday morning, Aunt Barb would come to Prisco's for weekly groceries and the next few night's dinners. She would stop at the cafe to see me. Each week I would make her a small, mocha latte with soy milk, not filled to the top and warmed to drinkable temperature. It was one of the highlights of working Saturdays, and allowed me to become closer with her; more than before. I guess it was my drink to her after all the Kool Aid I got. She loved birthdays, and always made them special no matter what the age. On my Thanksgiving birthday, between all the Turkey fuss she did not forget to make me feel special.

One of the last things she had was her mocha latte, but with 2% milk instead.

I'm proud to say that I made it for her.

She is truly the most selfless, inspiring, amazing woman and it will not be the same without her.

Words can't express our love for you Aunt Barb!! Enjoy some more ice cream with grandma & grandpa. You deserve it.

I love you!

Jacquie

Jacquie Guzauskas - September 04, 2012 at 11:41 PM

MV

“ I remember Barb as so positive and energetic and a great leader. Her enthusiasm for whatever she was doing was contagious.! As she continued her dedication to Rosary through the alumni association she gave of herself so unselfishly. We have lost her way too soon..... My deepest condolences to all of her family. Rosary will truly miss her.

Sincerely,

Mary (Maxson) Vogel

Rosary 1968

Mary Vogel - September 04, 2012 at 08:25 PM

JW

“ *Jerry and Family:*

Jill and I wish to offer our deepest sympathies for the passing of Barb. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Peace be with you and your family.

Jerry and Jill Weber

Jerry and Jill Weber - September 04, 2012 at 06:31 PM

MR

“ *Jerry -*

I am very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Mark Riley

Mark Riley - September 04, 2012 at 02:26 PM

MM

“ What can I say about Barb that will provide any comfort to her family and friends – she was a spark, a flame that drew people in, a go-getter, the center of family and friend parties and get-togethers, the glue that held Rosary’s class of ’68 together? I am just so happy that Barb had the time after her diagnosis to continue her whirl of family activity to create more loving and happy memories with her family – I know that was really important to her from our conversations during that time. I wish she didn’t have to leave us so soon – I know we all have some Barb memories that bring a smile to our faces. Let that be how we remember Barb – smiling and laughing and have a grand time bringing people together! She set a high standard for living life to the fullest. Hope we all can say the same. Love you Barb. Mary Meister, Rosary Class of '68 - Seattle, WA

Mary Meister - September 04, 2012 at 11:38 AM

SO

“ May Prayers continue for Barb and for the family. We will certainly miss her smile and energy around Rosary as she was so loyal and so full of loving care for all of us.
I will be present for the prayer service - and hopefully offer my sympathy in person then.
I talked with Father Peter Witchousky this morning and he is offering a Mass and prayers for his friend.
Prayerfully, Sr. M. Alberta

Sister Mary Alberta, O.P. - September 04, 2012 at 10:09 AM



“ *Simply Lily was purchased for the family of Barbara (Guzauskas) Hamsmith.*



September 04, 2012 at 09:57 AM



“ *To Barb's family:
I remember Barb and the rest of the Guzauskas family growing up, when their parents (Frank Sr. and Norma) owned the small neighborhood grocery store on the corner of Oliver and Arnold Avenues in Aurora years ago. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family during this difficult time. May God give you comfort and peace as each new day begins anew. Take care.
The Weaver's
Montgomery, Illinois*

Gary Weaver - September 04, 2012 at 06:49 AM



“ *Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Barbara (Guzauskas) Hamsmith.*



September 04, 2012 at 05:03 AM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. You & your family our in our thoughts & prayers.

*Robert & Geraldine Grivetti Sr. & Family
Custer Park, IL*

LeAnn Grivetti - September 03, 2012 at 10:17 PM

QL

“ QLP purchased the Multicolor Bright Sympathy Standing Spray for the family of Barbara (Guzauskas) Hamsmith.

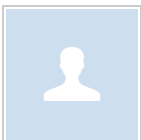


QLP - September 03, 2012 at 07:24 PM

SK

“ My memorires of Barbara are from St Peter's 4th -6th grade. Jerry you were there also. It was my gift to have Barbara as a piano/organ student. She was great. Please accept my sympathy and prayers for her and all of you as you adjust to her being with our God. May she know the fullness of God's presence. Sister Mary Thecla

Sister Mary Thecla Kuhnline - September 03, 2012 at 05:32 PM



“ Red & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Barbara (Guzauskas) Hamsmith.



September 03, 2012 at 12:56 PM

DF

“ To Uncle Jerry, Matt & family, and Rachel, We have many fond memories of Aunt Barb... especially her great sense of humor, and when she played the piano so beautifully for our outdoor wedding. Sending much love and our thoughts and prayers. Hugs, Dan, Lisa, Corey, Jamey, & Trey Hamsmith



Dan Hamsmith Family - September 03, 2012 at 12:17 PM

KL

“ We were sorry to hear about Barb's passing. I do remember Barb trying to teach me how to bowl better during those early years at AU. A number of faculty and staff went to Valley bowl on Friday afternoons. She was an excellent bowler and a lot of fun to be with. Ingrid and I will keep you and your family in our thoughts and prayers.

Ken and Ingrid Leask

Ken Leask - September 03, 2012 at 10:56 AM

ER

“ Edward & Renee Rethwisch lit a candle in memory of Barbara (Guzauskas) Hamsmith



Edward & Renee Rethwisch - September 02, 2012 at 10:26 PM

ER

Jerry & family,,,, you are in are prayers!!!!!!!!!!

Edward & Renee Rethwisch - September 02, 2012 at 10:28 PM

BH

“ Jerry: Please accept Rita's and my deepest sympathy on your loss. Barb was clearly your soul mate and we can't imagine a tougher row to hoe for you and your family. You are in our prayers. Bob Herrick

Bob Herrick - September 02, 2012 at 08:10 PM

HW

“ Jerry: My sincerest condolences on your unimaginable loss. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Hol Wagner

Hol Wagner - September 02, 2012 at 12:52 PM



“ Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Barbara (Guzauskas) Hamsmith.



September 02, 2012 at 11:46 AM

SS

“ Very sad to hear the news of Barb's passing. I have many wonderful memories of her years as a Holy Angels band mom. Thoughts are with her family and friends.

Stan Smith

Stan Smith - September 02, 2012 at 10:23 AM

MS

“ *Barb would not complain of her health and would always be thinking of others. I am sorry for your loss, but am thankful to have known her.*

Mary Ellen Berns Smith - September 02, 2012 at 09:12 AM

MS

“ *Mary Ellen Berns Smith lit a candle in memory of Barbara (Guzauskas) Hamsmith*



Mary Ellen Berns Smith - September 02, 2012 at 09:10 AM

TG

“ *Since I met her when I was in fifth grade and new to the neighborhood, Mrs. Hamsmith was always welcoming & warm to me. She's always made me smile, wished me well, and loved me as a sister in Christ. Thank you, God, for blessing us all with Barb's life & memories we will cherish.*

Tiffany Guthrie - September 02, 2012 at 08:59 AM

PM

“ *To Jerry, Karen, Jeannie, Frank and Families, I am so sorry to hear of Barb's passing. Even though I had not seen her in several years, I have fond memories of trips to Aurora and family reunions and the fun we had in our younger days. We can rest assured that she is in the arms of our Lord, though she will be dearly missed by all. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers. My love to you all in this time of sorrow.*
Pam Musso

Pam Musso - September 02, 2012 at 12:12 AM

JM

“ Jerry; Matthew and family; Rachel; Karen and family; Jeannie and family; Frank and family:

We were so sorry to hear of Barb's passing. At this most difficult time, may all of you find strength, peace and comfort in all of your warm and loving memories. She was certainly a sweet lady and will be greatly missed. We sure enjoyed our visit with her last summer at the reunion. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Jacqui and John McDaniel

Jacqui McDaniel - September 01, 2012 at 04:29 PM

HR

“ Barb was the most gracious person I worked with at Holy Angels. I was an Organist/Pianist and came to play at Holy Angels years ago when Bonnie Worthman was the choir Director. Barb was always helpful and caring. The organ was difficult to play at first, had an unusual touch, as it would play just by barley touching a key, but Barb gave me the confidence that I could do it. An extremely lovely person. I am so sorry for your loss.

Harold Russie

Harold Russie - September 01, 2012 at 04:02 PM