

**Memorial Celebration of  
Mary Louise (Mary Lou) Vogel Diehl  
9/29/1920 - 3/13/2010**



May 30, 2010  
Prairie Unitarian Society  
3:00 pm - 4:15 pm

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**Program:**

- ☞ Opening words & lighting of the chalice  
Rev. Ralph Tyksinski
  
- ☞ "Like a Mighty Stream"  
Combined voices, members of  
Prairie Unitarian Universalist and  
First Unitarian Society Choirs
  
- ☞ Words from Alicia Diehl
  
- ☞ "His Eye is on the Sparrow"  
Patricia Lane Diehl, Pamela Soward, and Reggie Counce
  
- ☞ Words from Mary Diehl Voelker Slocum
  
- ☞ Words from Tanya Cunningham  
"How can I keep from singing?"  
Neil, Tanya, and Jake Cunningham Robinson



☞ Reading

Sita Robinson Diehl

☞ Irish Aire and Reel

Bill Wolfe

☞ "We Shall Overcome"

The congregation

☞ The congregation is invited to share their thoughts, prayers, and memories

☞ Closing words & extinguishing the chalice

Rev Ralph

☞ Recessional

Choir members

*Come and join us at Mary Lou's home at 5729 Elder Place for food and music. Feel free to bring an instrument; the musicians probably will let you join them. Please come and share.*

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## **Mary Lou Diehl**

Mary Louise Vogel (Mary Lou) was born September 29, 1920. That year, her family was living in Hawaii. Her father (Ralph Raines Vogel) was working as a civil engineer, and her mom (Mary Louise (Louise) Giesy) was taking care of her two-year old brother Jack (John Edward Vogel). There is a picture of Ralph with Jack standing on a huge pipe at the work site, taken on September 12, 1920. On September 13, 1920, Ralph died suddenly. Louise, Jack, and Mary Lou returned to Columbus, Ohio to live with Louise's parents.

Louise's brother Ned lived with them at home until Mary Lou was three. He and his friends made much of baby Mary Lou; Ned even wrote special lullabies for her. There were no other little girls in their neighborhood, so Mary Lou tagged after her adored big brother. She loved visiting her cousin Ruthanne's farm. With her characteristic generosity, Louise opened their home to Marjorie Watson and her daughter Marcie (Watson Bader) and they became close family.

After high school, Mary Lou attended Antioch College, in Yellow Springs, Ohio. The college stressed real-life work experience, and Mary Lou spent semesters working as a waitress, as a copy boy at a newspaper, and at a tuberculosis sanitarium. At Antioch, she met the love of her life - John Mc Cormick Diehl, of Gibson City, Illinois. They both were members of the Young Peoples Socialist League with their friends Dorothy Mettler, and Natalie and Ed Fiess.

On August 1, 1943, John and Mary Lou married.

Sadly, Mary Lou's brother Jack died in 1945.

John and Mary Lou moved to Madison, Wisconsin in 1949 where John completed his law degree and became a patent attorney. In Madison, they were active in the Democratic Party and the First Unitarian Society. John's family became Mary Lou's family. The new couple spent almost every holiday with the Diehl's extended family through the rest of Mary Lou's life. John's siblings -- Mary Sudduth Diehl and Hal (Harry Kinyon) Diehl were very much her new siblings, too. She always started letters to John's parents "Dear Mother and Dad."

Before she had kids, Mary Lou was worried about being a mother, but it turned out she was a natural. She was just amazed at her children as they came along: John Vogel, Timothy Hunter, and Alicia Catherine Diehl. She was equally as amazed and thrilled later, when her children brought her new children in the form of spouses -- Patricia Lane Diehl, Sita Robinson Diehl, and Dan Rowe -- and grandchildren Jason Finstrom (and now his lovely wife, Samantha), Roger Christopher Diehl, and Sophia Louise Diehl. She also became a part of Sita's family. Tanya, Neil, and Jake Cunningham/Robinson stood in for her children when none of her children were living in Madison, and Hannah (Sita and Neil's mom) became a dear sister.

Mary Lou loved a lot of people. She was unstinting and nonjudgmental. She was naturally fascinated by a broad range of things, and worked specifically on becoming an excellent listener. She developed a capacity for unconditional love beyond what she started with and helped a lot of people just by loving them. She kept learning and working on being a better person throughout her life. She believed that all people are equally valuable, and worked to make the world a fairer place.

Most recently, Mary Lou worked with Fair Elections Wisconsin (FEW) to try and ensure that everyone gets their vote, and that un-regulated electronic voting does not make a travesty of the concept of a democracy. In lieu of flowers, her children would like any memorial donations to be sent to [blackboxvoting.org](http://blackboxvoting.org).

The world will seem very empty without her overarching benevolent presence. But her gift of love, her memory, and her spirit will continue to enrich our lives.



9-12-20







MARY LOU DIEHL





