



## Lois Evelyn Verdonk

May 12, 1944 - October 1, 2020

Lois Evelyn (Bregger) Verdonk passed away on October 1, 2020 surrounded by loved ones. She had battled colon cancer. Lois was born on May 12, 1944 to Evelyn (Root) Bregger and Louis Blake Bregger. She grew up on her parent's farm in Bangor, Michigan, the youngest of 5 siblings. During her childhood on the farm she developed a love for nature and animals, including her beloved three-legged dog Cindy, and many parakeets and cats. She would often pack a lunch for herself and go birdwatching, and remained an avid birdwatcher all her life.

While attending Bangor High School, she began dating her future husband, John W. Verdonk, after they had both been in the school play. Their dates included activities such as fishing, swimming and water-skiing. They both graduated from Bangor High School in 1962. They wrote letters and visited each other frequently while John attended the University of Notre Dame and Lois attended Michigan State University. After they both graduated from college in 1966, Lois with a B.A. with honors in elementary education, they married on August 13th of that year.

After their marriage, they settled in the Detroit area, where Lois taught elementary school for three years while John attended law school. Their daughter Tara was born there in 1969. In 1970, they moved back to Bangor and bought a home where they have lived ever since. Their sons John and David were born in 1972 and 1973 respectively. Lois received her Master's degree in counseling in 1981 from Western Michigan University. She worked as an outreach counselor for many years providing counseling services to families in their homes. She also worked as a substitute teacher and volunteered for hospice and many church activities.

In addition to birdwatching, Lois enjoyed gardening and turning her beloved yard into a "wildlife sanctuary" as she liked to call it, that attracted a wide variety of birds, butterflies and other animals. She also enjoyed fishing with her family on Lake Michigan and on smaller Michigan lakes, spoiling her pets which over the years included many dogs, cats, and birds, playing Scrabble, at which she excelled, playing handbells, and raising her

children, which she always called her most important job. She created a loving home where her children's friends and her many nieces and nephews often congregated to swim and play. She also enjoyed many family trips that often included national parks, which she loved to visit. Her children have fond and vivid memories of her dancing with joy in the living room, especially to 70's tunes. In later years she was so excited to become a grandmother and enjoyed many visits with her grandchildren.

Lois was preceded in death by her son David in 2018, and by brothers Allan Bregger in 2016 and Don Bregger in 2017. She is survived by her husband, John W. Verdonk, daughter Tara (William) Rougle of Alexandria, Virginia, son John L. (Jennifer) of Simpsonville, South Carolina, grandchildren Ashley and Joshua Verdonk, Eliana Rougle, step-granddaughter Wolfie (Michael Smith) Rougle, sisters Alice Steinbach and Doris Finn, and many beloved nieces and nephews. In a last act of giving, Lois donated her body to Western Michigan University School of Medicine. A small memorial service will be held on Saturday, October 10th at the Congregational Church in Bangor, MI at 1 pm. Due to the times, the service will be video-taped and the video posted online for those who cannot attend. Please contact the family for more information about either attending the service or accessing the video. Donations may be made to the Bangor Congregational Church or Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan.

# Cemetery

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## Arlington Hill Cemetery

56838 - 28th Avenue

Bangor, MI,

# Events

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**OCT** **Memorial Service** 01:00PM

**10**

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First Congregational Church

12 Charles Street, Bangor, MI, US

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**D.L. Miller Funeral Home** - October 07, 2020 at 04:01 PM



“ So many wonderful memories of a loving family.

**Kathleen E. Hutchins** - October 07, 2020 at 07:18 PM



“ What a beautiful tribute! Tara, your mother's smile was like sunshine in the garden. The love she planted in your hearts will keep giving!

**Eija Rougle** - October 08, 2020 at 09:34 PM



“ Aunt Lois was a kind and loving soul. Her faith shined in the way she lived her life of love and service to others, especially her family. I have wonderful memories of being a "mother's helper" to her when my cousins were little. The Verdonk home was an oasis of love and laughter where friends and family were welcomed with open arms. Aunt Lois, I will forever remember our shared talks and your unwavering faith in God and in the power of prayer.  
Sue (Bregger) Juzwiak

**Susan Juzwiak** - October 10, 2020 at 04:02 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Lois Evelyn Verdonk.



October 09, 2020 at 09:21 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Lois Evelyn Verdonk.



October 08, 2020 at 11:32 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Lois Evelyn Verdonk.



October 08, 2020 at 12:54 PM

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“ Lois and I were roommates at MSU for a year in Van Hoosen apartments in 1965. She was such a bright and energetic student. So sorry for your loss.

**Shirley Moeckel** - October 08, 2020 at 09:59 AM

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“ Wheat a beautiful tribute of Lois' life! Although I did not know her well she always had a smile ready and was so kind. She is now with all those who went before her. The memories of her live on in all who knew her.

**Jan Kucirka** - October 07, 2020 at 08:12 PM

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“ 51 files added to the album LifeTributes



D.L. Miller Funeral Home - October 07, 2020 at 11:31 AM

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“ My condolences to John and family . I wish you peace during this time.  
I met Lois in ninth grade when I started at Bangor High School. She was one of the first people I met there. Being a newbe was made easy by some who had been there from kindergarten. Lois was one of the friendliest. So sweet and kind.  
I will remember her charging down the hall, papers flying from her arms and smiling the whole way.  
Rest in Peace . You are well remembered.  
Gail Brewer-Millard

Gail Millard - October 07, 2020 at 12:38 AM

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“ I was a childhood friend and graduated from BHS with Lois and John. Although many years have passed, I recall a very smart, sweet, and kind person, I'd like to offer my sincere condolences to her family and friends and may her memory be a blessing to all those who mourn.

Susan Barker Pollard

susan Barker Pollard - October 06, 2020 at 11:34 PM

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“ Losing a childhood friend is tough and I have particularly fond memories of overnights on the Bregger farm. Lois was a bright, well educated woman and though many years have passed since classmates John and Lois were part of my life, Bangor school memories remain vivid. For you especially, John, may you find peace. With sincere condolences, Gail Garrison Weisgerber.

Gail Weisgerber - October 06, 2020 at 04:45 PM

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“ Lois was a sister in law of mine that I enjoyed spending time with when in Michigan . We always reminisced about our families farms which were a few miles apart. I also have fond memories of Lois being a sweet older bus mate in the long rides home in the afternoons. Her family will miss her gentle smiles as I will too.

**Susan Hills Verdonk** - October 05, 2020 at 10:14 PM



“ Thank you for sharing those fond memories.

**Tara Verdonk Rougle** - October 06, 2020 at 07:36 AM



“ What a special lady Lois was! I sure enjoyed working with her at Christian Service luncheons at Sacred Heart. Please know I will be holding your family close to my heart and remembering all of you in my prayers. I send you my deepest sympathy.

Most sincerely, Patti Henry

**Patti Henry** - October 06, 2020 at 10:53 AM

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“ We enjoyed many a summer in Bangor with family and close friends. Aunt Lois was always so full of love and joy. Everything she was about was everything positive. Aunt Lois loved having family around... over this past summer she and I became closer than ever, Aunt Lois and I laughed together, shared stories, I learned so much more about our family ... Will miss her laughter, her kind heart, and love for all of humanity. May you rest in heaven, Aunt Lois... Your spirit will live on.

**Stephanie Gilbert** - October 05, 2020 at 06:07 PM



“ Thank you dear Stephanie.

**Tara Verdonk Rougle** - March 19, 2021 at 08:41 PM

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“ Love our childhood and earliest memories with Aunt Lois. A happy soul and friend to everyone. Surely, this is who Christ had in mind as his energetic evangelist.

Peace and love to Uncle John, cousins Johnny and Tara.

David and Nelda Bregger

**David Bregger** - October 05, 2020 at 05:51 PM

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“ Lois, was a long friend of mine, that I meant through Our husbands. We always had Good time dinners Out & enjoyed Our Children together at times. I Will MISS her kind ways & Smile! Vicky Sosnowski

**Vicky Sosnowski** - October 06, 2020 at 03:05 PM

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“ Dear John, Jenn and all of Lois's family,  
We extend our deepest sympathies at the loss of a wonderful wife, mother and woman. She was blessed to have her family with her at the end and will watch over her loved ones from heaven.  
Peace and love,  
Peter and Lizanne Olyarchuk

**Lizanne Olyarchuk** - October 05, 2020 at 05:15 PM

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“ Tara, I am so very sorry to hear about your mom. Thinking of you and your family and sending my love and prayers. Kim Moxley (Yates)

**Kim Moxley** - October 05, 2020 at 01:05 PM



“ Thank you.

**Tara Verdonk Rougle** - October 06, 2020 at 01:54 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Ashley R Verdonk** - October 05, 2020 at 10:26 AM



“ Beautiful!!!

**Lizanne Olyarchuk** - October 05, 2020 at 05:12 PM

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“ I extend my deepest condolences to my family and Lois's friends. Lois was one of the most loving, caring, kind, compassionate, and generous persons I have ever known. I have so many happy memories of time spent with her at family gatherings for 50+ years. I hope that all of you can find comfort in knowing that some of her goodness lives on in everyone whom she loved. I pray for the repose of her soul, and that you find peace and solace in the Promise of the Resurrection.  
With Love,  
Chris

**Christopher W Verdonk** - October 05, 2020 at 09:55 AM



“ Thank you for those beautiful words.

**Tara Verdonk Rougle** - October 06, 2020 at 01:54 PM

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“ Judy Pote lit a candle in memory of Lois Evelyn Verdonk



**Judy Pote** - October 05, 2020 at 09:42 AM



“ Thank you.

**Tara Verdonk Rougle** - October 06, 2020 at 01:53 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the Verdonk and Bregger families. So much of my growing up was influenced by both of these families and the love and support they gave so freely. Teresa and I had the pleasure of seeing Lois at hardings over xmas and it was if no time had passed at all and she treated us like the twins of younger years. May she rest in peace and be free of pain. God Bless.

**Tim Wiles** - October 04, 2020 at 10:15 PM



“ Amen Timmer

**David Bregger** - October 05, 2020 at 05:51 PM



“ Aunt Lois was a special lady: strong, creative, companionate, smart and empathetic. She cared about the well-being of others, and loved John and her kids passionately. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. With love and fabulous memories.

**Sandi Redman** - October 04, 2020 at 10:12 PM



“ John im very sorry for your loss prays

**Brian J Horan** - October 04, 2020 at 10:08 PM



“ A woman who has made an impact on many lives including my own. I hope all of you find peace and comfort knowing she will always be with you. Sending you love and prayers today as always.

Love  
Cathie

**Cathie Schorer** - October 04, 2020 at 09:50 PM

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“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Lois Evelyn Verdonk.



October 04, 2020 at 09:46 PM

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“ Fond memories of growing up with our families sharing special times together. Much love and strength be yours.

**peter wiles** - October 04, 2020 at 08:11 PM

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“ From Jack, Margaret, and Louis purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Lois Evelyn Verdonk.



**From Jack, Margaret, and Louis** - October 04, 2020 at 07:11 PM

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“ Luanne Reeves lit a candle in memory of Lois Evelyn Verdonk



**Luanne Reeves** - October 04, 2020 at 04:09 PM

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“ We had such good times. Swimming in the pool, talking, laughing and she loved the birds and wildlife. We shared a lot of good talks and she had so much faith. I'm going to miss you Aunt Lois. Love, Luanne

Luanne Reeves - October 04, 2020 at 04:04 PM

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“ RIP. Lois thank you for for being such a good friend of ours.we love you. To the family so sorry for your loss. She was a amazing woman. Prayers to John and family.



Deb&Del Hooper - October 04, 2020 at 02:26 PM

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“ Betty Dykstra lit a candle in memory of Lois Evelyn Verdonk



Betty Dykstra - October 04, 2020 at 10:58 AM



“ Prayers for the Verdonk families!

Betty Dykstra - October 04, 2020 at 10:59 AM



“ So sorry!

Betty Dykstra - October 04, 2020 at 11:00 AM

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“ Judy Rose-Rainey lit a candle in memory of Lois Evelyn Verdonk



**Judy Rose-Rainey** - October 04, 2020 at 09:58 AM

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“ I'm so very sorry to hear of this, sending prayers for comfort for the family



**Melissa Clayton** - October 04, 2020 at 08:59 AM



“ Thank you.

**Tara Verdonk Rougle** - October 04, 2020 at 01:33 PM

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“ What a very special person Lois was as I remember times spent with her at church. She enjoyed music, family and parakeets. She was pleasant and sweet and memories of her live on. My heartfelt condolences to her family. -Melanie Thompson  
Walantyn Zeiger

**Melanie Zeiger** - October 04, 2020 at 07:11 AM



“ Thank you.

**Tara Verdonk Rougle** - October 04, 2020 at 01:33 PM

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“ My prayers to Lois' family. Knew her from HS. Robert Grimes

**Robert Grimes** - October 04, 2020 at 07:10 AM



“ My condolences to the family of Lois. She was a very sweet person. So sorry to hear of your loss.

**Gerilyn Waldschmidt** - October 03, 2020 at 11:34 PM



“ Thank you.

**Tara Verdonk Rougle** - October 06, 2020 at 01:51 PM

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“ Carma lit a candle in memory of Lois Evelyn Verdonk



**Carma** - October 03, 2020 at 07:25 PM



“ Thank you.

**Tara Verdonk Rougle** - October 06, 2020 at 01:52 PM

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“ I was so sorry to hear of my Aunt Lois's passing. I still remember driving from a piano lesson to her house in Bangor one Tuesday night to pick out my first parakeet, Meeko. I was only eight years old at the time. Were it not for the fact that she spent several years breeding parakeets, I may never have had one for a pet, nor learned what delightful creatures they are. I have my Aunt Lois to thank for teaching me about them and beginning my lifelong love of birds. May she rest in peace.

Sending prayers and so much love to you all.



**Emily Verdonk** - October 03, 2020 at 06:26 PM



“ Thank you for sharing that sweet story Emily.

**Tara Verdonk Rougle** - October 06, 2020 at 01:53 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Lois Evelyn Verdonk.



October 03, 2020 at 02:00 PM