



Georgia Ann Mackinder

September 1, 1940 - January 18, 2026

Georgia Ann (Freestone) Mackinder
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Georgia Ann (Freestone) Mackinder, age 85, of Hartford, Michigan, passed away January 18, 2026. Georgia Ann was born in Bangor, Michigan on September 1, 1940. She was raised by her loving parents, Flora and Harold Freestone, with her brother and lifelong friend, Donald Freestone. Ann met the love of her life, Douglas Mackinder, when she was just 12 and he was 14. They were together for 68 years until his passing in 2020.

From a very young age, Georgia Ann was extremely creative. She was always a maker and collector of beautiful things. She took up piano and sewing in her childhood home. She started piano lessons at the age of 4 and was the church pianist/organist at the First Congregational Church in Bangor for over 75 years. These and other artistic passions developed into a Bachelor of Art degree, with a focus on Education, graduating from the University of Michigan in 1962. Georgia Ann began her teaching career in Marshall, Michigan before moving to High School Senior English at Hartford Public Schools. Later she started and ran QUEST – a Gifted and Talented program in the Elementary and Middle School and taught K-5 Art for 20+ years, retiring in 2000.

While Georgia Ann educated and impacted thousands of young people throughout her career, she was passionate about her own lifelong learning. She was a truly curious soul. She was an avid reader, herbalist, gardener,

cook, pianist/organist, artist/painter/sculptor, and animal lover (she raised chickens and roosters along with 8 Shelties). She shared her peaceful home, expansive gardens, walking trails and special treasures with her family and friends. Georgia Ann always surrounded herself with the people she loved (many were life-long friends for 60+ years).

Georgia Ann is survived by her daughters, Heather Valenziano and Rebecca (Brian) Wells, granddaughter Francesca Valenziano, and grandsons, Jack Valenziano and Aiden Wells, her nieces Jennifer (Freestone) Hescott, Jeanine (Freestone) Jacobcic, Tonda (Mackinder) Dimond, and Tammy (Mackinder) Ridenour.

Georgia Ann lived her life to the fullest and it ended on her terms – in her beautiful home – surrounded by her artwork, collections, family, friends and spiritual end-of-life doula, Miriam.

According to her wishes, cremation has taken place and a private burial will occur at a later date. In lieu of flowers or gifts, the family requests that all donations go toward starting an artist in residency program that will occur in Georgia Ann's home on an annual basis; allowing her spirit and love of learning to continue on for years to come. More information can be obtained by emailing Rebecca at rwells7373@gmail.com or call/text 312.543.0133.

Also, if you have stories or memories to share of Georgia Ann, please send them to Rebecca.

Arrangements entrusted to the Bangor Chapel, D.L. Miller Funeral Home, www.dlmillerfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Hoppin Cemetery

55490 28th Avenue
Bangor, MI

Tribute Wall

DF

“ Just happened on to this obituary... "Ann" as I knew her, was a gifted musician and artist. Many times Ann invited me to sing for the Congregational Church, and did the accompaniment. During the years that Ann was the Elementary Art Teacher, in Hartford, our classrooms were in the same hallway, which was delightful. Ann and Doug blessed many people and I am honored that I was able to know them.



Diane K Freestone - March 13 at 04:04 PM

EF

“ The Herb Society at Fernwood Gardens will sadly miss Georgia and her contributions to the herb garden. Georgia was a member for many years and she added her creative and gardening expertise to the design and maintenance of hundreds of different herbs. Her love of herbs is a thread that is woven into the herb and sensory garden and will continue for years to come.

Elaine Fletcher-Janzen - January 26 at 09:49 AM

CF

“ Such a lovely, sincere creative friend whose house was always cluttered with her favorite treasures and it was one of our favorite places. We are very sad we won't have our visits with her now but treasure those we have had.

Claireen Fellers - January 22 at 03:36 PM

LF

“ We are so saddened to learn of Georgia Ann's passing. we have fond memories of her playing at the Congregational church. She was always such a classy lady and she shall remain so in our memories. Dan and Lynne Farmer

Lynne Farmer - January 22 at 10:11 AM

CM

“ Ann was my piano teacher when I was small. She even played the organ at my wedding! She was a true class act, and I was inspired to become a kind and creative teacher because of her. I know she is singing with the angels today. Life well lived ☐ 🙏

Carol Miller - January 21 at 05:39 PM

MS

“ Ann was such an amazing gardener, I have fond memories of visiting her beautiful property with my grandparents (Richard and Joyce Freestone). She had the most gorgeous peony garden! She was also so supportive of my grandpa (her cousin) when grandma moved to assisted living and eventually passed away, bringing him meals and calling him on a regular basis. She was so so special and will be greatly missed!

Megan Spangenberg - January 21 at 01:24 PM

DM

“ Sending our deepest condolences to Ann's family. She had a beautiful life as a wife, teacher, mother, grandmother, pianist and artist. Her love for music and art will always remain close as her talents were shared with so many! May she rest in eternal peace. Matt and Darcy Miller



Darcy Miller - January 20 at 06:54 PM

PR

I only knew Ann for about 4 years, she was so special to me, she will be truly missed! I loved her so much! So sorry for your loss! She was so special to anyone who knew her!

Pat Ratzlaff

Patty Ratzlaff - January 20 at 08:56 PM

AW

When Doug joined the law office, she was introduced to us as "Georgia." Soon I asked why he was getting phone calls from an "Ann.". She was so good to everyone; treating us in their new home on Van Aiken Lake in which pieces of straw were embedded in the front room walls. Just a part of her special talents. She was so thoughtful; especially of old Bill Siebenmark. Too cold for him in his cottage, she provided a room...and care... for him in their house.

Arlene Ward - January 21 at 09:18 PM

DB

Ann was our piano teacher and I too remember the straw in the wall plaster. Her style was authentic and memorable.

Deborah Bian-Lingle - January 30 at 08:45 PM

BW

“ *Barbara Wells lit a candle in memory of Georgia Ann Mackinder*



barbara wells - January 20 at 04:17 PM

BW

“ We have known Ann for over 30 years and her youngest daughter Rebecca has been our daughter in law for almost 25 years. Ann and Doug welcomed us into their lives and home and we became immediate friends. It was always a pleasure to be in her company. We will miss Ann!☐❤️



barbara wells - January 20 at 04:15 PM

BW

❤️Barbara and Larry Wells

barbara wells - January 20 at 04:17 PM

MH

Ann was my Godmother and a dear friend to my mom, Dot. They met as teachers in Marshall. I admired Ann throughout my life and always appreciated her love of life, ease of being, and creative spirit. She was a gift to so many. May her love continue to shine through her beautiful and loving family. With love, Marcee Hansen

Marcee Hansen - January 21 at 04:00 PM

CH

Ann was a very devoted person to her Church for all her life, Pianist/Organist/Choir Director/Bells, Board Member--she was always there. The First Congregational Church will miss her devoted involvement. Don, so sorry. Carolyn Watkins Herndon

Carolyn Herndon - January 21 at 05:03 PM

CH

“ Mrs. Mackinder was my English teach in the 60's. I really liked English probably because of her.

Cathy Shirley Homola - January 20 at 12:01 PM