

Obituary

Joan Oberle

01 April, 1932 - 28 August, 2024



In the care of
Squamish Funeral Chapel

The family of Joan Oberle (nee Johanna Kistner) sadly shares the news of her death on the night of Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at the age of 92 years. She died at home – suddenly and without suffering.

Joan was predeceased by her sister Cilli Butz, her parents Emil and Berta (Rimmelspacher) Kistner and her son-in-law Michael Vaira. Joan is survived by: Frank Oberle, her husband of 71 years; daughters Ursula Vaira (Gordon May) and Isabell (Gary) Hayes; sons Frank (Debbie) Oberle Jr. and Peter (Kelly) Oberle; grandchildren Mario (Robyn) Vaira and Jess Vaira, Lisa Hayes (Jordan Townsend), Jennifer Hayes, Kevin (Leanne) Oberle, Sadie Oberle (Tyrell Johnson) and Asia Oberle; great-grandchildren Kaden, Aria, Zai, Grady, Henley, Emersyn; her brother Rudi Kistner; and many nieces, nephews and their families.

Joan (Mom, Grandma or Oma to her family and Hanna to her friends and relatives in Germany) was born in Forchheim, Germany. She immigrated to Canada in 1953, one year after her husband, Frank. Although they moved many times, Joan and Frank raised their family primarily in Chetwynd, where Joan was active in many businesses and freely gave of her time and energy to the community. Joan and Frank moved to Ottawa when Frank was elected as a member of parliament, but Joan always longed to return to the beautiful mountains of BC.

When they retired, Joan and Frank found their place in Nanoose Bay and built a home overlooking both the ocean and mountains. There, Joan was happiest in the amazing garden she created. They spent many winters in Ajijic, Mexico which also held a special place in Joan's heart – especially the children in the Lake Chapala orphanage. She visited the orphanage many times with donations of food, money and items she knitted.

Joan was also an artist. Aside from sewing beautiful clothes and knitting sweaters, she created so many stunning crafts – particularly quilts and wall-hangings. Her love language however was cooking and she loved nothing more than having her family around a big table to enjoy a specially prepared meal and amazing desserts. She lived a full and varied life and we are so blessed to have shared in her journey.

Rest in peace mom. We will love you forever and miss you every day.

A private family celebration of life will be held at a later date. Donations in Joan's memory may be made by sponsoring a child through Plan Canada (Plancanada.ca) – one of many charities that Joan supported because they help children in crisis around the world.