



Madaline Lizette Benzing

December 7, 1947 - December 10, 2024

Madaline Lizette “Zettie” Benzing (nee Bonnifield), 77, of Oberlin, died Tuesday December 10, 2024 at Safe Haven Elder Care in Avon Lake.

She was born December 7, 1947 in Hastings, Nebraska. She grew up in Montgomery Alabama and attended Sidney Lanier High School, Montevallo University, and University of Maine.

Lizette worked at the Mudd Library at Oberlin College cataloging art for 35 years retiring in 2015. She was also a caregiver for her mother and son, supported wildlife preserves, rescued animals and crocheted innovative afghans. She arranged her affairs so no one would be burdened.

She is survived by her son Warren Benzing and brother Lee Bonnifield. She was preceded in death by her parents West Benson Bonnifield & Madaline Bonnifield (nee Evenden).

Private family cremation services will be held and her ashes will be placed in "Lizette's Preserve" which is 25 acres in the Smoky Mountains adjacent to Cherokee National Forest, to be conserved as old growth wildlife habitat.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Gluvna-Shimo-Hromada Funeral Chapel - December 24, 2024 at 09:19 AM



Zettie was my first cousin. My dad Clayton was her uncle. I met her only a couple of times as a child. She was older than me, so we didn't really have that much in common and didn't really connect. But what I remember of her was that she was very sweet and kind. I am very grateful that I am now in touch with Lee, her brother. We communicate often. On a recent visit, he gave me one of the afgans she crocheted. It is a beautiful heirloom and I will treasure it.

Phil Evenden - July 08, 2025 at 06:38 AM



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Gluvna-Shimo-Hromada Funeral Chapel - December 24, 2024 at 09:16 AM

DS

Lizette and brother Lee were our best friends when our family lived in Montgomery in the 50s. I felt then, like I do now they are my long lost siblings. To know Lizette (Zettie) has left us leaves me sad. But she left some very good memories.

Don Stock - December 24, 2024 at 04:48 PM

DH

“ I'll never forget the adventure Aunt Zettie and I shared when we flew to California together to visit my Dad (William Benson Bonnifield) and Uncle Beau Bonnifield, Dad's younger brother. I was 16 and she was 18. The two guys were hyper active, taking us all over the map touring the sites. All we wanted to do was relax and sunbathe by the pool.

It was a blast!

Zettie was the sweetest lady. She had a fun and optimistic attitude about life. It was a pleasure sharing time and knowing her. Rest in Peace.

Diana Bonnifield Hill

Diana Hill - December 23, 2024 at 02:50 PM

MP

“ Lizette and I worked together for many years at the Oberlin College Library and became friends. Warren, Lizette and I would sometimes go out to eat or see a movie. She was a caring person and I'm happy to have known her. I'm sorry that we lost touch after she left the library and am saddened to hear of her passing.

Michael B Palazzolo - December 18, 2024 at 11:56 AM

BS

“ My wife and I knew Lizette very well. We used to watch her son Warren when he was young. I am so sorry she had to leave us so soon. May you rest in Heaven Lizette. Barry and Brenda Spreng.



Barry Spreng - December 17, 2024 at 08:51 AM