



Ardelle Brown

December 16, 1936 - February 28, 2026

Ardelle Evelyn Brown, 89, of Cedar Falls, passed away peacefully in her sleep at her home on February 28, 2026.

She was born on December 16, 1936, at home on the family farm near Estherville, Iowa, the daughter of Henry and Augusta (Ziemer) Klein. She graduated from Estherville Junior College and taught in the Spirit Lake and Terril schools. On June 16, 1957, she was united in marriage to Donald Eugene Brown in Estherville. Ardelle and Don came to Cedar Falls to attend Iowa State Teachers College (UNI). She graduated with her bachelor's degree in 1960. She taught kindergarten, first and second grades in the Cedar Falls and Waterloo schools, with most of her years at Irving Elementary.

She was a proud member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) since 1964. She was also a member of Keepsake Quilters since 1990. She was a charter member of the Quilts to Share nonprofit group. She was a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity since 1995. She also volunteered for many other organizations and was in several book discussion groups. She was an active member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and active in Memory Circle at the Community Center.

Her hobbies included quilting, sewing, knitting, gardening, reading, Bridge, and puzzles. She loved to be involved in family activities and loved her cats.

Ardelle was a high-energy, very active person until her last day. She was friendly and outgoing. She would talk to anybody and everybody – especially children. She had a heart for social justice and service to others.

Survivors included her daughter, Elaine (Bill) Brown of Cedar Falls; son, Jeff (Lynette) Brown of West Des Moines; grandchildren, Anne (Steve) Wilmoth of Iowa City, Tyler Peterson of Lawrenceville, GA, Zach Brown of Des Moines, Jackson Brown of Des Moines, Kyle Brown of Cedar Falls, Tyler Brown of Gilbertville; great grandchildren, Penelope and Stevie Wilmoth of Iowa City; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Don; sister, Arlene Weir, brothers, Loren and Bob Klein; and son-in-law, Dave Peterson.

Memorial services will be 11:00 a.m. Saturday, March 21, 2026, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls with visitation one hour prior.

Memorials may be directed to the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Scholarship Fund.

Previous Events

Receiving of Friends

MAR 21. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
4000 Hudson Road
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-3541
<http://bethlehemcf.org>

Family Directed Memorial Service

MAR 21. 11:00 AM (CT)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
4000 Hudson Road
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-3541
<http://bethlehemcf.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *To the family of Ardelle Brown:
From John Focht*

I am saddened on two fronts: I am saddened by Ardelle's passing and also that her obituary and service got by me.

Your family has always been special to me..through you children at school and also as a special friend of Judy.

Judy always spoke highly of Ardelle. Several times in the months that Judy has been with dementia at Martin Center, she has mentioned Ardelle. In fact on a couple of occasions she has thought she had seen her there.

I am deeply sorry for your loss and also feel badly that her passing got by me.

Even though late, I am sending your my love and deepest sympathy for your loss. With Love: John

John Focht - April 05 at 10:26 PM



“ *Ardelle was in my CFPL book club. Her energy was contagious, as was her love of books! She will be missed in our discussions.*

Marnell Lyle - March 21 at 09:46 AM

MW

“ 4 files added to the album AAUWPhotos



Marcy Seavey, AAUW Webmaster - March 20 at 09:54 PM

MW

Just the very best person in the world. Kind, hard working, generous, and fun. Always willing to try new things. The kind of person you want to be on a team with because she has great ideas, pitches in, follows through, is willing to lead but also is willing to follow and support. I will miss her dearly. - Marcy Seavey, CF AAUW & UNI

Marcy Seavey, AAUW Webmaster - March 20 at 10:02 PM

FK

“ From Brother Bob's kids purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Ardelle Brown.



From Brother Bob's kids - March 19 at 08:12 PM

SB

“ We were all taken back yesterday when Mary told us of Ardelle's passing. My wife and I have been attending the Tuesday Memory circle at the community center for a year or so. and have had allot of great times and discussions with Ardelle. She was the life of the party and will be missed for sure !

Steve and Pam Bailey

Steve Bailey - March 04 at 09:31 AM

GN

“ I was fortunate to know Ardelle, first, as student at UNI, then later, as a fellow member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Her concern for others and her forthrightness were always appreciated; she made the world a better place for many.

Glenn Nelson - March 03 at 10:14 AM

CS

“ Ardelle and I were friends since 1951 when my family moved to Estherville. As we got older, we became more like sisters. Our long visits by telephone were the highlights of my days. I will miss her so very much. Please accept my sympathy on your loss. Have been praying for your family ever since I got the news. Carol Swartz

Carol Swartz - March 03 at 07:46 AM

CM

“ Ardelle was one of the first teachers I met at Irving when I started teaching there, and she was so welcoming. We had lots of laughs (about students' antics so much more) over the 40+ years I knew her. So many others and I really loved her sense of humor! She had a real passion for noble causes near and dear to her heart, and that's one thing I always admired about her. What a loss to us all that she is gone now, but also what a legacy!

Chris Murphy - March 02 at 10:53 PM

MI

“ Ardelle was one of the first people I met in my new neighborhood over 13 years ago. She introduced me to AAUW, her wonderful garden and many great books over the years. I loved her feisty spirit and passion for wanting to make this world a better place. She will be truly missed. My condolences to all of her family. ❤️

Mary Ingamells - March 02 at 07:25 PM

MB

“ Just last week, I was at Ardelle's house being “gifted” two flats and one tub of fabric pieces. She showed me her favorite quilts, which were impressive in craftsmanship and artistry. She was an amazing quilter. And so proud of the painting above the couch, done by her grandson (If I understood correctly).

Ardelle fed our Habitat Women's Build group two seasons ago, and was part of the gang. She never stopped caring for others and looking out for the larger cause.

I will miss her so much. Her plant knowledge. Her easy smile. Hearing about her family... my deepest sympathy to all of you. We were lucky to have her in our lives for so long.

Warmly, Moria Brown

Moria Brown - March 02 at 05:16 PM

AH

*Ardelle was one of the best humans! She possessed the perfect balance of sweetness and snark. I loved laughing with her and chatting with her, always energetic with a snappy comeback. I saw her at Aldi the week before she passed and her wit was as quick as ever. I told her I wanted to be like her when I grew up. She will be so missed.💔
Peace, love and hugs to all who knew and loved her.*

Amy Hoyer - March 02 at 08:39 PM

PH

Peggy and Wayne Hook

Arielle was in our Water Class at the YMCA in Cedar Falls , our class will miss her sweet smile and dancing eyes! 💔

Peggy and Wayne Hook - March 03 at 09:41 PM

MC

We at the YMCA will sure miss Ardelle. Holding Ardelle and her family in my heart and in my prayers.

Michelle Cook - March 04 at 01:09 PM

CB

“ I was honored to be her and Don’s pastor in the early 90’s. She and Don were faithful, spirit-filled folks.

cindy breed - March 02 at 05:14 PM

LM

“ I will miss so much our Wednesday lunches and gin rummy games and her exclamation "This is the worst hand I've ever had!"

Linda Morgan

Linda Morgan - March 02 at 03:56 PM

GT

“ *Ardelle and I have been good friends since 1960 when we both worked on the CF summer playground program. Since then we have enjoyed book and bridge clubs. Her leadership in our University Women’s Assn. will be dearly missed.*

Gloria Tollefson - March 02 at 03:45 PM