



Elsa Brammer

September 15, 1915 - October 15, 2005

Elsa Brammer, 90, of Cedar Falls, died Saturday, October 15, at the Cedar Falls Lutheran Home.

She was born September 15, 1915, in Evanston, Illinois, daughter of Albin and Rosalie Malmgren Carlen, and she grew up in Wilmette. She married Edgar August Brammer ("Gard") on March 4, 1943.

Elsa was a partner with her husband over four decades at College Hill Lutheran Church and Student Center in Cedar Falls, which was founded by Pastor Brammer and members in 1941. Elsa assisted in many roles, including directing choirs, playing the organ and sharing in the lives of college students and church families. Many couples considered Pastor and Elsa to have been their match-makers.

Elsa also taught French at Peet and Holmes junior high schools starting in the 1960s. As a youth she had attended Grinnell College for two years, but she had to leave school and work in Chicago during the depression. In her forties she went back to school at the State College of Iowa (UNI) and finished her teaching degree. She also did graduate work at the Sorbonne in Paris.

Elsa was an athletic school girl - a skater and swimmer - and a vibrant adult who loved music and loved people. To the end, one of her most frequent comments to others was, "You're a plus for me."

Survived by: three sons, Richard (Mary) of Cedar Falls, Robert (Marti Anderson) of Des Moines, and Ronald (Inger) of Vasteras, Sweden; six grandchildren, Amy Brammer Hilliard (Matt), and Molly, Gabe, Alissa, Jennifer,

and Niklas Brammer; two great-grandchildren, Megan and Jake Hilliard; two sisters, Christina Carlen Lussy of Spring, TX, and Rosalie Carlen Heinemann of Peoria, IL.

Preceded in death by: her husband, and a brother, Robert.

Services: 10:30 Saturday at College Hill Lutheran Church (following a family committal service at Fairview Cemetery.)

Memorials: may be directed to College Hill Lutheran Church and Brammer Student Center, Cedar Falls.