



Vivian Hill

June 30, 1930 - August 21, 2024

Vivian L. Hill, 94, of Cedar Falls, died on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at NewAldaya Lifescapes.

Vivian was born June 30, 1930, to Henry and Bessie (Goranson) Blasjo. She grew up on a farm near Sturgeon Lake MN, lived in various places in Minnesota, and lived in Cedar Falls since 1967. Vivian married Donald Gray in Barnum MN in 1953. They raised a family together, lived in various places in Minnesota and eventually moved to Cedar Falls IA. They later divorced. Vivian married Dwight Hill in Cedar Falls IA in 2006. Vivian and Dwight remained together until Dwight's death in 2015.

Vivian began her education in a one room school, graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth, and began a career as an elementary school teacher in Canby MN and Cambridge MN. She continued to teach for several years, and later pursued interests in business, all while leading a busy life as a wife, mother, community member and avid gardener. Vivian is still remembered as the owner of The Fine Line gift store on Main Street in Cedar Falls from 1980 to 2000. The Fine Line helped keep Main Street a lively and interesting place and was the place to go for Beanie Babies!

Vivian lived an adventurous life. She was the first of her circle of friends and family to go on RAGBRAI in 1974. Vivian travelled widely. She attended

events such as the Rose Bowl parade, Mardi Gras in New Orleans, Winter Olympics in Calgary, and visited friends and family in US and abroad. She visited all 50 US states, and also Iceland, Sweden, and Italy. Vivian and her husband Dwight went ziplining together in Costa Rica when they were both in their 80s.

Vivian published three books. To borrow a phrase from her third book, Vivian had "a profound respect for all of creation, even rutabagas."

Vivian is survived by son Kelly Gray; daughters Joni (Johann) Gray and Karen (James Beal) Gray Beal; stepchildren: Kathy (Gene) Jackel, Lois (Stu) Main, Linda (Dan) Ristow, Judi Gerold, Doug (Linda) Hill, Mary Hill; brothers Merle Blasjo, Wesley Blasjo; sister Connie Doty; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Vivian was preceded in death by an infant daughter, former husband Donald Gray, husband Dwight Hill, parents Bessie and Henry Blasjo, and brother Richard Blasjo.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Friday, August 30, 2024, at First United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls with visitation one hour prior. Interment at Fairview Cemetery in Cedar Falls.

Memorials may be directed to the church or the Cedar Bend Humane Society.

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery

12th and Division Streets
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 273-8628

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 30. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
718 Clay Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
<http://aboutfirst.com>

Funeral Service

AUG 30. 10:30 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
718 Clay Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
<http://aboutfirst.com>

Tribute Wall

PP

“ I have nothing but fond memories of Vivian, as well as Don, Joni, Kelly and Karen (Gray), who we in the Park family were so fortunate to have as our next door neighbors on Acorn Lane from the time they moved to Cedar Falls in 1967, when I was only 4 yrs. old, until we eventually had all moved away some 15 yrs. later. All of the Gray family were invariably kind to us, perhaps especially Vivian, who always treated our many children as though we were her own. Vivian always made us feel welcome and loved on every occasion when we would visit their home, and it was always a pleasure when I got to see her again on the (too rare) occasions when I visited Cedar Falls or vicinity in the years that followed. In memory of Vivian, my love to all of you. Your old friend, Phillip Park of Columbus, Ohio.

Phillip Park - September 10, 2024 at 11:41 AM

JP

“ Jenny Palmen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vivian Hill.

Jenny Palmen - August 29, 2024 at 07:26 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Vivian Hill.



August 29, 2024 at 07:26 PM

HB

“ Heather and Heidi Blasjo purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Vivian Hill.



Heather and Heidi Blasjo - August 29, 2024 at 12:12 PM

HB

“ Heather and Heidi Blasjo planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vivian Hill.

Heather and Heidi Blasjo - August 29, 2024 at 12:12 PM

MG

“ Marcela Garro purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Vivian Hill.



Marcela Garro - August 29, 2024 at 12:07 PM

TF

“ The Manternach and M.Beal Families purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Vivian Hill.



The Manternach and M.Beal Families - August 28, 2024 at 01:03 PM

TF

“ The Manternach and M.Beal Families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vivian Hill.

The Manternach and M.Beal Families - August 28, 2024 at 01:03 PM

BS

“ Bruce Beal, Margaret Beal, Tricia Snyder purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Vivian Hill.



Bruce Beal, Margaret Beal, Tricia Snyder - August 28, 2024 at 11:52 AM

BS

“ Bruce Beal, Margaret Beal, Tricia Snyder planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vivian Hill.

Bruce Beal, Margaret Beal, Tricia Snyder - August 28, 2024 at 11:52 AM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Vivian Hill.



August 27, 2024 at 02:00 PM

NI

“ So sorry for your loss Joni. I remember your mom as such a fun mom when we were little.

Natalie (Tolly Schaefer) Iverson

Natalie Iverson - August 27, 2024 at 11:33 AM

“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Vivian Hill.



August 26, 2024 at 01:50 AM

CE

“ Connie, Elisabeth, David and Eileen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vivian Hill.

Connie, Elisabeth, David and Eileen - August 26, 2024 at 01:50 AM

AN

“ I sorry for your loss i forgot what name of book she wrote

Anna - August 25, 2024 at 07:18 AM

JG

Hi Anna! "I sat on a grape" was the name of Vivian's third book.

Joni Gray - August 26, 2024 at 11:42 AM

FB

“ I have such fond memories of Vivian. She was one of the first people I met when we moved to Cedar Falls in 1968. We were in Newcomers Club together and became good friends quickly. She had such a great sense of humor and we had a lot of good times together. When she owned The Fine Line Hallmark Store, she was responsible for me becoming a Manufacturing Rep in 1986. We made a lot of fun car trips together to Minneapolis for the gift shows. She was so much fun and such a dear friend, and I will never forget her or her wonderful children.

Fran Beal

Fran Beal - August 24, 2024 at 10:34 AM

JG

“ I have such special memories of Vivian. She was my good mother Joni and I grew up together and were the same age. I loved going to their house when I was growing up. It was always such a fun adventure. I will hold these memories forever. Always such a happy and joyful person. My condolences go out to the family Janis
Anderson Gillam

Jan Marie Gillam - August 23, 2024 at 05:08 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Vivian Hill.



August 23, 2024 at 04:01 PM

LB

“ *I have fond memories of Vivian. She bought my Mother's Hallmark store, after my Mom passed away. I shopped there often and even worked for her at different times, when extra help was needed. She has a special place in my heart. I loved her laugh! Sending thoughts and prayers to all of her family and friends, in this time of loss.*

Lynn (Janssen) Van Brocklin - August 23, 2024 at 09:42 AM