



Paula Sue Harsch

October 11, 1951 - January 27, 2026

Paula Sue Harsch, 74 of Zanesville, passed away, surrounded by her family, on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at Altercare of Zanesville. She was born October 11, 1951, to Paul Glenford and Betty Marie Ford Harsch in Zanesville, she was raised at 808 Fountain Square, and graduated from Zanesville High School in 1969.

Paula went on to study at The Ohio State University, and matriculated to Ohio University receiving her bachelor's degree in education, summa cum laude, in 1973, and master's degree in library science in 1984. Her summer jobs included work in the Reading Program at Pioneer School with Jean Glenn; working as a hanker at Essex Wire; and working at Y-City Office Supply, her dad's store.

She was honored to have been employed with Tri-Valley Schools for over thirty years starting at Nashport School, and finishing at the Middle School in Dresden. Paula was always grateful for the friendships she shared with her colleagues, (the OFFN'S Group), and with the wholesome families of the community. She also wrote a book about Nashport School. She was a recipient of the Women of Achievement Award in 2023.

Music was an important part of her life having taken violin lessons from Helen Morgan, piano from Jerry Hoffner and Betty Lou Wilson, and organ from

Bernice Gillespie. She frequently substituted as organist at local churches, and shared old tunes with residents at care centers. For over 25 years she served as the rehearsal accompanist for "The Messiah" here in Zanesville. She volunteered for many years at Good Samaritan Hospital, and was a member of several organizations including The Genealogy Society, Friends of the Library, Ohioana Library Association, Red Cross, Zanesville Civic Chorus, Muskingum County Retired Teachers, Friends of the Pioneer and Historical Society, and Phi Kappa Phi.

Paula's family was active in St. John's Lutheran Church in Philo and she later transferred her membership to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zanesville.

Paula is survived by her sister Beth (George) Sandlin of Clayton, and special friend, Dorothy Montgomery, and many other special and treasured friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her uncle and aunt John and Florence Harsch Hartman, her grandparents Arthur and Clara Harsch and Robert and Beulah Ford, and treasured friends, John Montgomery and Jean Glenn.

Calling hours will be held Tuesday, February 3, 2026, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM, at Hillis Combs Funeral Home, 935 Forest Avenue, Zanesville, and one hour prior to services from 10:00 AM till 11:00 AM on Wednesday. Funeral Services will follow at 11:00 with Rev. Pastor Larry Kudart officiating. Burial will follow in Zanesville Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, Paula requests contributions be made to the Muskingum County Library System, 220 North Fifth Street, or Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 128 South Seventh Street, Zanesville. To sign the online guestbook or leave a personal note of condolence please visit www.hilliscombsfh.com

Cemetery Details

Zanesville Memorial Park

1475 Military Road
Zanesville, OH 43701

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 3. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Hillis Combs Funeral Home
935 Forest Avenue
Zanesville, OH 43701
(740) 452-5494
directors@hilliscombsnestor.com
<https://www.hilliscombsnestor.com>

Visitation

FEB 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Hillis Combs Funeral Home
935 Forest Avenue
Zanesville, OH 43701
(740) 452-5494
directors@hilliscombsnestor.com
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Funeral Service

FEB 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

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935 Forest Avenue
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Tribute Wall

TW

“ To Mrs Harsh
I'm very very sorry that you lost your sister
My BIG heart is with you during this hard time



Troy Wylie - February 22 at 12:12 AM

BM

“ So sorry to see of Paula's passing. I did miss seeing her at our last 1969 ZHS Class Reunion, but understood she was ill with something, then. She and my Sister-in-law were teachers at old Nashport School, on St. Rt. 146, for only 1 year, then my Siter-in-law moved back to Circleville, Ohio, for an elementary teaching job there. She unfortunately only taught there until her untimely death due to cancer. always enjoyed Paula's smile wherever our paths crossed, particularly at the front desk on a Sunday at Good Samaritain Hospital. So long old friend you served well. Bruce McConnell

Bruce McConnell - February 20 at 04:39 AM

KB

“ I knew Paula through our shared friendship with Jean Glenn. My husband taught with Paula at TriValley Middle School for years. She always made him feel welcome in her library and had the Times Recorder ready for him to read every morning. Beth, my sincere sympathy to you as I know how tough it is to lose a sibling.
Kelli Downey Brownfield
Jim Brownfield

Kelli Brownfield - February 02 at 08:37 PM

LW

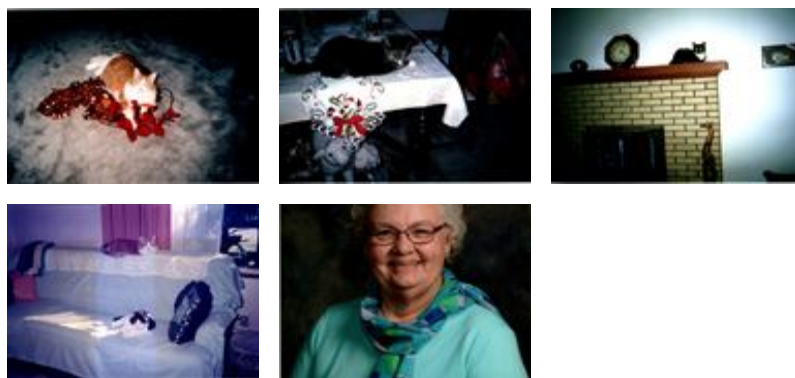
“ Laurie West purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Paula Sue Harsch.



Laurie West - February 02 at 05:30 PM



“ 57 files added to the album Life Tributes



Hillis Combs Funeral Home - February 02 at 04:06 PM

RR

“ Our acquaintance with Paula was with Jean Glenn. Our condolences to the family

Rich and Diana Ross - February 02 at 06:52 AM

ML

“ I met Paula Sue in the fall of 1969 when we both started college at OSU. We were both 17 and a bit nervous about this new undertaking, and living with 15 other girls in the suites at Morrill Tower.

But those feelings passed quickly and we became fast friends. We lived together for two years until Paula transferred to Ohio University. Our birthdays were only 3 days apart, I'm the older one and we never failed to contact each other on our special day, 56 years now.

Paula was such a special person, always kind and generous and happy to see me or lend an ear when I needed to talk. We took a few trips together to visit our other college friend, Katie, who lives near DC and saw the sights there. I always enjoyed Paula's dry sense of humor and she often left me laughing. We visited the pottery shops in Zanesville, and Tom's Ice Cream Bowl, of course

😊 Paula loved books and often came to Columbus to a special book store here, the name of which eludes me now, but we would meet for lunch or visit at my house while she was here.

She was a loyal, good friend for over 56 years and I will miss her greatly.

Marianne Leddy - February 01 at 07:22 PM

BW

“ Paula always had a smile for me. She was such a good person. I'm so sorry for your loss. Such a good kind lady.



Bobbie Walter - February 01 at 02:05 PM

DY

“ I'll miss Paula. She's been my friend at dialysis for the past couple years. We used to ride the bus together in the mornings during the winter months when she would stop driving herself. She was such a pleasant person and fun to talk to. She always made sure to wave bye to me in the morning when I would leave treatment . I know she will be greatly missed by everyone at Davita .

Dianne Younker - January 31 at 06:43 PM

DY

“ Dianne Younker lit a candle in memory of Paula Sue Harsch



Dianne Younker - January 31 at 06:38 PM

KM

“ Paula was a great friend of mine. Not only did I know her from Messiah practices, she was my son's teacher at Nashport Elementary. At the Messiah practice, she always wore her orange hunting vest. So, one time I pulled a trick on her and came down the aisle of the church in my orange vest saying " she finally did it" I presented her with a stuffed animal-a deer! What fun. Karen McCabe

Karen McCabe - January 31 at 02:50 PM

RM

“ A good Christian, and fine musician. We'll miss her! May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Rob Morris - January 31 at 12:40 PM

VN

“ Paula was a gem, being her housekeeper for many years, our wonderful talks, her kindness and generosity was heart felt! Her kitty Abigail was her treasure. Will miss you deeply dear friend!

Vickie Newell - January 31 at 11:29 AM

MH

“ Paula was one of my greatest memories from being a member of the Zanesville class of 1969, I always looked forward to seeing her at our reunions, she will be missed.

Michael Holbert - January 31 at 09:36 AM

JM

“ So sorry to hear about such a loss to our community. Paula was such a positive community spirit as an educator, musician, volunteer leader and just a “fun” human being. She was accompanist to the rehearsals of the Zanesville Civic Chorus preparing their annual Messiah concert for over a quarter century. Her humor often appeared during deer hunting season when she appeared at the piano dressed as a hunter. She filled in for most of the community church organists whenever they needed a substitute to play a worship service. Personally I found her as a most generous person with giving excellent advice and faithful service to any project to support the Zanesville community.
Jim McLaughlin

James McLaughlin - January 30 at 10:23 PM

PM

“ Miss Harsch was my first grade teacher and someone who always made me feel special and loved. She and I kept in touch through the years (for 45 years!) and always exchanged Christmas cards and yearly updates. She was a special person and a hug from her could make any kid (especially this one) feel like they could conquer the world. I will miss her and am so grateful that my life was touched by her. Rest in peace, Miss Harsch. And, thanks again for everything. It meant more than you know.

Paul McLoughlin - January 30 at 10:00 PM

GC

“ Beth, we were sorry to read of Paula's passing. For many years we would chat with Paula on Sunday afternoon at the information desk at Good Samaritan as we finished our volunteer shift and she replaced us for the evening.

She was cheerful and pleasant and generous with her time. We were always happy to see her. Peace and comfort to you and your family, Beth.

Gail and Nick Calcasola

Gail and Nick Calcasola - January 30 at 09:13 PM

VW

“ Beth, So sorry to see this. I don't think I ever met your sister but you talked about her many times. I know the pain of losing a sister. Will be praying for you during this difficult journey. Hugs

Valeria Wright - January 30 at 08:10 PM

TK

“ Tony and Eric Reese & Beth and Ed Kauh purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Paula Sue Harsch.



Tony and Eric Reese & Beth and Ed Kauh - January 30 at 05:39 PM

PT

“ Paul and Darla Turner purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Paula Sue Harsch.



Paul and Darla Turner - January 30 at 04:31 PM