

Fanchon Marie Ellwood was born on September 16, 1934, in Mankato, Minnesota, the daughter of Carl and Marie (Radtke) Bleck. She grew up in Waldorf and was involved in the jr. and sr. high school plays, played drums in band, and sang in the school choir and in other singing groups. She graduated from Waldorf High School in 1952 and then attended Mankato State College and earned a BS degree in Education, graduating in 1955. Fanchon began her teaching career in Stewart, teaching Home Economics and Health. In 1956, Fanchon was married to Mervin O. Ellwood. They made their home in Stewart before moving to Willmar in 1964. In the early 1970's, Fanchon returned to teaching Home Economics and Health in the Raymond and Willmar school districts. She later worked at the Willmar Community College as a librarian, retiring in 1995. She was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church, Sons of Norway, Red Hat Society, Home Economics Club, and the famous "Ellwood Coffee Group." Fanchon enjoyed playing cards, cooking, sewing, hardanger, crafts, entertaining family and friends, attending Willmar High School athletic events, traveling to Norway, Nova Scotia, Alaska, Washington D.C., and the Canadian Rockies and spending the summers up at the family cabin on Duck Lake near Park Rapids. Fanchon will be best remembered for being a kind and loving person to everyone.

Fanchon is survived by her three children, David Ellwood of Willmar, Donald (and Ann) Ellwood of Victoria and Lynn (and Doug) Urban of New London; five grandchildren, Rachael (and Jamie) Dunsmore, Lauren (and Joel) Obermeyer, Emily Ellwood, Megan Urban and Nicole (and Brett) Petersen; and four great grandchildren, Alexia, Jolie and Nora Dunsmore and Olivia Petersen. Also surviving is one sister, Margaret Ewert of Mankato and one brother, Dean Radtke of Deer River, besides other relatives and friends.

Fanchon was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Mervin in 2019; and one sister, Marian.

Celebrating the Life of



Fanchon M. Ellwood

1934 - 2022



“Her Hands”

*Her hands held me gently
from the day I took my first breath.
Her hands helped to guide me
as I took my first step.
Her hands held me close
when the tears would start to fall.
Her hands were quick to show me
that she would take care of it all.*

*Her hands were there to brush my hair,
or straighten a wayward bow.*

Her hands were often there to comfort the hurts that didn't always show.

Her hands helped hold the stars in place, and encouraged me to reach.

Her hands would clap and cheer and praise when I captured them at length.

Her hands would also push me, though not down or in harm's way.

Her hands would punctuate the words, just do what I say.

Her hands sometimes had to discipline, to help bend this young tree.

Her hands would shape and mold me into all she knew I could be.

Her hands are now twisting with age and years of work,

Her hands now need my gentle touch to rub away the hurt.

Her hands are more beautiful than anything can be.

Her hands are the reason I am me.

In Loving Memory Of

Fanchon M. Ellwood

September 16, 1934

Mankato, Minnesota

September 15, 2022

Willmar, Minnesota

Celebration of Life Service

Friday, September 23, 2022 - 11:00 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church

Willmar, Minnesota

Officiating

Pastor Leanne Thompson

Music

Pianist: Jill Boeyink

Congregational Hymn:

No. 488 - “I Was There To Hear Your Borne Cry”

Pianist & Vocalist: Tim Cayler

“On Eagle’s Wings”

“The Lord’s Prayer”

Interment

Cloverleaf Memorial Park Cemetery

Willmar, Minnesota