

*Ramona Selma Phebus* was born on October 9, 1931, in Baker, Montana to Flace and Selma (Gregerson) Phebus. She grew up and attended school in Baker, graduating from Baker High School. She later attended Billings Business College, graduating in two years. Mona returned to Baker, where she met the love of her life, Ronald Shepherd. The couple married in Baker on May 27, 1951, living and loving side by side for almost 73 years. They were blessed with three children, Lana, Lance, and Chad. Together, the couple raised their family in Baker. Mona taught at Mill Creek Country School and Willard Country School while Ron served in the military. She also taught kindergarten at home and worked as an assistant at the public school. In the late 70s, she started Mona's Floral and Wedding Boutique. She operated it for the next twenty years. Water coloring and playing bridge were favorite pastimes. Mona taught Sunday school, was active in ALCW, and was the first woman to serve on the church council. She served as a state officer for the Jayceens. Mona began the Golden Girls and called them every week to remind them when and where they would gather. She did the same for the Bible study ladies and enjoyed coffee time with the women at Superior Care. Mona and Ron had numerous friends and family members live with them in their home throughout the years. She left a strong legacy of inclusion that had a positive impact on many people, especially "Yogi" Eugene Bird. Mona is survived by her loving husband, Ron; children, Lana (Dan) Buerkle of Plevna, Lance (Jackie) Shepherd of Baker, and Chad (Christina) Shepherd of Ekalaka; grandchildren, Bradn (Natasha) Buerkle, Bryan (Karen) Buerkle, Britt (Nicole) Buerkle, Brook (Michael) Newell, Selma Shepherd, Lane (Fiancée Caroline) Shepherd, Kendall Shepherd, Danica Shepherd, Allie Shepherd, and Landry Shepherd; 12 great-grandchildren; and sister, JoAnn (Francis) Madler of Spearfish, SD. She is preceded in death by her parents; brother, Drury Phebus; sisters, Gloria Dietz, Beverly Hill, and Sharon Helgeson.



# Ramona Shepherd

October 9, 1931 - April 7, 2024



## The Dash Poem

by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak  
at the funeral of a friend.  
He referred to the dates on the  
tombstone from the beginning to the end.

He noted first came the date of the birth  
and spoke the following date with tears.  
But he said what mattered most of all  
was the dash between the years.

For that dash represents all the time  
that they spent life on Earth.  
And now only those who loved them  
know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not how much we own,  
the cars, the house, the cash.  
What matters is how we live and love,  
and how we spend our dash.

So, think about this long and hard.  
Are there things you'd like to change?  
For you never know how much time  
is left that can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough to consider  
what's true and real, and always try to  
understand the way other people feel.

Be less quick to anger and show  
appreciation more, and love the people  
in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more  
often wear a smile, remembering that this  
special dash might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy is being read with your life's  
actions to rehash, would you be proud of the things  
they say about how you spent your dash?



# Mona Shepherd

## FUNERAL SERVICE

Wednesday, April 17, 2024 11:00 a.m.

American Lutheran Church  
Baker, Montana

## PRAYER SERVICE

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 6:00 p.m.

Stevenson Funeral Home  
Baker, Montana

## OFFICIATING

Don Buerkle

## MUSIC

Libby Almy

Julie Stanhope

Robin Menger

## PALLBEARERS

All of Mona's Grandchildren

## HONORARY PALLBEARERS

All of Mona's Great-Grandchildren

## INURNMENT

Bonnievale Cemetery  
Baker, Montana

## ARRANGEMENTS BY

Stevenson Funeral Home  
Baker, Montana

*Lunch will be served at the church  
following the funeral service.*

*Everyone is welcome.*