



## Helen Mary Wostmann

September 11, 1919 - February 5, 2011

Helen was born September 11, 1919 in Haarlem, The Netherlands. She passed away February 5, 2011 at her home in Red Oak, Texas surrounded by her five children. Helen grew up in Amsterdam and returned to Haarlem to obtain a Bachelors degree in Home Economics. She married Bernard Stephen Wostmann in 1946. Helen immigrated to the United States with her husband and four oldest children in 1955. They settled in Granger, Indiana where she made a home for her family. In 1969 she earned a Master's Degree in Special Education from St. Mary's College. For many years she was a teacher, first at Logan School and then at Head Start. She also taught English as a Second Language and later had a successful career as a real estate agent. She was active in her community as a member of the League of Women's Voters and in her bridge club. She retired for the last time in 1999 and moved with her husband to Red Oak, Texas to be closer to her daughter and grandchildren. Helen was preceded in death by her husband Bernard and is survived by her sister, Thilly Kamphorst-Helmer; daughter Marlene and husband Sid Arrambide; and her sons, Bob and wife Jos Bakker, Jan, Paul and wife Debra, Frank and wife Adriene; 9 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

# Tribute Wall

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“ I want to sincerely thank Mrs.Wostmann for her work related to South Bend Head Start. As education coordinator, she was an early contributor to my academic base. Although it would have been much nicer to show my appreciation while she was still here physically, I believe her spirit is in full receipt of my sentiments.

Thank you, Mrs.Wostmann, and to your family for sharing you with the many children in South Bend Head Start whom you touched.

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Adrian Lloyd - June 26, 2025 at 12:34 PM



“ Dear Bob, Jan, Marlene, Paul and Frank and family;  
We grieve with you for the loss of your mother, but we take comfort in knowing that she is in a better place. We will miss her. I (Ann) have so many wonderful memories of her, how she took me in when I arrived in South Bend as a newly wed and took me to the supermarket to show me what to buy (I had never seen a supermarket before) and where else to shop. The summer picnics and Christmas parties were a high light. To this day I make her famous birthday cake! Her heart and house were always open to us and she was like my mother in the States.We will not lose contact with you. All the best and much strength to all of you in these difficult days. Love from Ann and Hans##imported-begin##Hans and Ann Hermans##imported-end##

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February 13, 2011 at 10:16 PM



“ *My condolences to the family.  
I have so many great memories of spending time in the summer in South Bend when I was young. Sleeping on the floor of the barn in front of the big doors while it poured down rain. Playing basketball. Chasing chickens around. The little bath tub fish pond, the grape vines, the pine tree forest my parents helped plant. Walking across the golf course collecting golf balls, to go swimming. Playing pool in the back room ...  
The purple Mustang! - what ever happened to that? and the pigeons...*

*Peace -##imported-begin##Mark Hermans##imported-end##*

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February 13, 2011 at 09:24 PM



“ *Mrs. Wostmann was like a second mother to me and honestly feel she made a difference in everyone's lives she touched. I will always remember and miss you. God Bless##imported-begin##Tim Janowiak##imported-end##*

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February 12, 2011 at 08:35 AM



“ Some of my fondest memories growing up were with my second family, the Wostmanns. I cherished the thought of going next door for dinner that was always above expectations starting with soup made of vegetable broth and continuing through the courses. (except the smoked cow tongue) Afterwards would be an always stimulating conversation with a glass of Gallo sherry or homemade wine. Mrs. Wostmann was always kind and sharing but stern, I received a few spankings from her deservedly so. I look out my window often at the Wostmann barn and think of how I miss our wonderful neighbors and the loving parents that helped shape my life in a very positive way. I will truly miss your hospitality and kindness. God Bless. Tim Janowiak###imported-begin###Tim Janowiak###imported-end###

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February 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I found myself thinking of Helen right around Christmas time. Maybe it was because I always think of our Dutch exchange student and his Sinterklaas at that time. But Christmas is a time of love, and warmth, and faith and cheer, and family and good tidings. Over the course of 32 years as a reporter in South Bend, nobody better embodied those fabulous qualities as Helen. What a marvelous, beautiful lady. I will always think of her at Christmastime.###imported-begin###Wayne Falda###imported-end###

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February 10, 2011 at 11:41 AM



“ Tante Helene, wij zijn bedroefd dat uw tijd gekomen is, maar het verheugd ons dat u nu van boven de zaken beter kunt zien en ons allemaal in de gaten kunt houden. Wij wensen de familie veel sterkte.###imported-begin###Lucas & Riet###imported-end###

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February 10, 2011 at 06:02 AM



“ *Thirty years ago we had an accident and Helen was there the next day. She took six children for the day. I will never forget and will always appreciate her thoughtfulness.##imported-begin##Charlotte Stockbridge##imported-end##*

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February 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Helen's Family,  
Our condolences to all of you on your loss. Helen is one of the kindest, nicest people we have ever known. We loved her and appreciated her generosity and wonderful dinners many times. We are so sorry she is gone, but will always treasure her memories as well as her recipes! We feel blessed to have known her.##imported-begin##Harry & Joyce Kevorkian##imported-end##*

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February 09, 2011 at 08:52 PM



“ *Blessings and Prayers to all the members of Helen Wostmann's family.  
Sincere sorrow for the loss of their Mother and Grandmother.##imported-begin##Anita McCollester##imported-end##*

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February 09, 2011 at 06:15 PM



“ *We cannot be present in the flesh but we are present in thought. We wish her transition to be tranquil and a happy reunion with all she missed in this earthly life.*

*All our love.*

*Jeen and Isabella##imported-begin##isabella&Jeen Ottens Helmer##imported-end##*

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February 09, 2011 at 03:32 PM



“ *Dear all,*

*Ik sluit me helemaal aan bij de mooie woorden van Michiel. Tante Helen was een warm persoon. Hoewel ze voor ons ver weg woonde, bleef ze toch in contact met ons. Bij grote familiegelegenheden kwam ze over naar Nederland, of als dat niet mogelijk was, dacht ze aan ons in de vorm van een mooie brief of geweldig cadeau. Ze stond altijd positief in het leven en we bewonderden haar om haar enorme drive. Wij wensen jullie heel veel sterkte in deze tijd, en hopen dat jullie een goede steun aan elkaar hebben.*

*Groet,*

*Niek, Astrid en Kids##imported-begin##Niek en Astrid Helmer-Meijers##imported-end##*

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February 09, 2011 at 03:20 PM

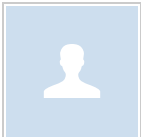


“ Dear Marlene, Bob, Jan, Paul and Frank (and families).  
I'd like to express our condolences. to you all.  
Although she was already ill for a long time and maybe her death came as a relief to her, we know (from our own experience) that is is a hard time for the direct family. Although we haven't seen your mother very often (in the Netherlands) we liked her and the way she spoke with warmth about the family very much. She also tried to convince us to come over to the states and visit our family overthere. Unfortunately it never happened.  
We wish you all very much strength for the coming period and hope that you will have good support of each other and the direct family and friends.

Josje & Michiel Helmer##imported-begin##Josje & Michiel Helmer##imported-end##

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February 09, 2011 at 01:44 PM



“ great memories growing up with the wostmann's as neighbors playing in the barn, tennis court,and in the house chatting in the living room by the piano. She was a wonderful person and great neighbor and will be missed.##imported-begin##joe janowiak##imported-end##

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February 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *My family and the Wostmanns were neighbors for many years in Indiana. I knew Helen ("Mrs.") Wostmann from about the age of five when their family moved in to the next house down from us in what was a very rural area at the time. My brothers and I spent many hours at their house and they were almost a second family to us. Our mothers agreed from the beginning that each could discipline the others' children as they saw fit so we all knew what to expect and felt right at home. I have many, many, many wonderful memories of time spent with the Wostmann family and their eclectic and very intelligent collection of friends from all over. They were the best neighbors in the world and Helen was a kind but strong matriarch. She will be missed.*

*Bob, Jan, Marlene, Paul and Frank, please accept my deepest sympathy and kind regards.*

*Jim###imported-begin##Jim Janowiak###imported-end##*

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February 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM