



## Ella M Shepherd

September 14, 1927 - February 19, 2019

Ella M. Shepherd, age 91, of Valparaiso, formerly of Hobart, passed away on February 19, 2019. Born on September 14, 1927, in Belvidere, IL., she was raised in Rockford, IL, as the youngest of nine children of Isabel and Paul Fissinger. Ella graduated from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1951 and married Gordon Shepherd in Gary, Indiana, on June 25, 1955. She taught piano and performed in Northwest Indiana for over 50 years and conducted the Spanish Choir at St. Francis Xavier Church in Lake Station from 1999 through 2009. Ella was preceded in death by her husband, Gordon, six brothers, Paul, Richard, Edwin, Alfred, John, and William, and two sisters, Susan and Isabel. She is survived by two daughters, Adele and Susan, and two sons, David and Kurt (Melanie Adcock), sister-in-law, Margaret Fissinger, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held from 12:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., on Sunday, February 24, 2019, at Burns Funeral Home, 701 East 7th Street, Hobart, IN. A funeral service will take place at 10:00 a.m., on Monday, February 25, 2019 at Burns Funeral Home. We would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to Golden Living Center in Valparaiso, and Dunes Hospice, for their loving care of our mother. Entombment at Graceland Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Hobart Humane Society, a charity about which she cared deeply. [www.burnsfuneral.com](http://www.burnsfuneral.com)



# Cemetery Details

## Graceland Cemetery

1505 E. Morthland Drive  
Valparaiso, IN 46383

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **24**. 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home - Hobart  
701 E. 7th Street  
Hobart, IN 46342  
(219) 942-1117  
info@burnsfuneral.com  
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

## Funeral Service

FEB **25**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home - Hobart  
701 E. 7th Street  
Hobart, IN 46342  
(219) 942-1117  
info@burnsfuneral.com  
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

# Tribute Wall

KO

“ My childhood memories are inextricably woven with my experiences of Ella Shepherd. All the details of her studio are still vivid since I spent so much time at the piano bench under her tutelage! She was such a an amazing gift to all of us who studied with her. I can still see myself sitting in the living room waiting for my turn to play at the student recitals. As the years went on, the music got bigger, and we spent countless hours preparing for performances. Ella continued to mentor me even after she passed me on to her own teacher at the American Conservatory. She and I played the Brahms Liebeslieder Waltzes together accompanying Al Fissinger's choir at the end of my senior year in high school, and it was nothing short of thrilling. Over the years, the quality of training that I was privileged to receive has become even more evident. I think of Ella Shpeherd every time I sit at the piano, and I hope she is pleased that I am making music again.

*Most gratefully,  
Karin Opacich*

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**Karn Opacich** - February 27, 2019 at 07:28 PM



“ My beloved teacher, mentor and friend Ella, always had and always will have a special place in my life. She and her brother Alfred (Al") Fissinger were the greatest influence in my musical education and career. Their passion for and love of music has been an inspiration for me. I deeply admired and adored Ella. The happiest day in the week for me was my piano lesson. I remain as Ella's devoted and grateful student.

*Diana Reichelt (Chirich)  
Vienna, Austria*

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**Roz Opacich** - February 25, 2019 at 12:03 PM



“ *My beloved teacher, mentor and friend, Ella, always had and always will have a special place in my life. She and her brother Alfred (Al) Fissinger were the greatest influence in my musical education and career. Their passion and love of music has been an inspiration for me. I deeply admired and adored Ella. The happiest day of the week for me was my piano lesson. I remain as Ella's devoted and grateful student.*

*Diana Reichelt (Chirich)  
Vienna, Austria Europe*

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**Roz Opacich** - February 25, 2019 at 11:54 AM

JF

“ *Jeff Fusner purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ella M Shepherd.*



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**Jeff Fusner** - February 25, 2019 at 12:37 AM

LF

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Libby Fissinger** - February 24, 2019 at 03:55 PM

EA

“ Edwin M. Fissinger and daughters Ria and Ananda purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ella M Shepherd.



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**Edwin M. Fissinger and daughters Ria and Ananda -**  
February 22, 2019 at 08:47 PM

EF

“ Aunt Ella was like Grammie...she made you feel loved. As a little boy I always looked forward to seeing her. I recall her singing as my dad or Uncle Al played the piano. She really left the world a better place.  
Edwin M. Fissinger

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**Edwin M. Fissinger -** February 22, 2019 at 08:35 PM

MC

“ Aunt Ella was one of the very finest people I was ever honored to know. Her warmth, love and common sense made life much easier for all around her. She was of immense help to me on numerous occasions, and I will never forget her. Cher, Andrew and I are all very saddened by our loss of her.  
Mark Culhane

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**Mark Culhane -** February 22, 2019 at 05:52 PM

EF

“ Aunt Ella, also my godmother, was one of the warmest people one could know. Her musical talent was obvious, but it was her innate sparkle that also made a lasting impression. Not only was she a good sister to Dad, but a wonderful and supportive friend to Mom. If there is solace to be taken here it is that I fully suspect that Aunt Ella is gathering with Dad and Uncle Eddie for one of their rehearsals right now. Move over celestial choir! The Fissinger's are now complete and are giving you a run for your money.

Eileen Fissinger - February 22, 2019 at 01:52 PM

EF

“ Eileen Fissinger purchased the Magnificent Life S pray for the family of Ella M Shepherd.



Eileen Fissinger - February 22, 2019 at 01:46 PM

NF

“ NEO Family purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Ella M Shepherd.



NEO Family - February 22, 2019 at 01:17 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ella M Shepherd.



February 22, 2019 at 09:47 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Ella M Shepherd.*



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February 21, 2019 at 11:39 PM



“ *Dearest Family of Ella's,*

*Ella like all of her family raised us up with joy, music, laughter and kindness and unbridled achievements. Aunt Ella will forever live in our hearts. Ella will be missed everyday on this earth and remind us each what a great example we have to look up to in this life. Thank you Dear Ella for strengthening us all. We know how fortunate we have been to dance on this earth together. Now is time to sing and dance with your family at the pearly gates. We'll see you at the gates, RIP Jack's Libby.*

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**Libby Fissinger** - February 21, 2019 at 06:12 PM



“ *Libby (Fissinger) and husband Rick purchased the Care and Compassion Spray for the family of Ella M Shepherd.*



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**Libby (Fissinger) and husband Rick** - February 21, 2019 at 06:03 PM

AF

“ Aunt Isabel's Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Ella M Shepherd.



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**Aunt Isabel's Family** - February 21, 2019 at 03:02 PM

LF

“ Love, Aunt Margaret & Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ella M Shepherd.



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**Love, Aunt Margaret & Family** - February 21, 2019 at 02:32 PM

WM

“ With heartfelt condolences, Mona purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ella M Shepherd.



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**With heartfelt condolences, Mona** - February 21, 2019 at 01:04 PM

JF

“ So sorry for the loss of Aunt Ella. Sending lots of love to Adele, David, Kurt, and Noonie. I'm sure her extraordinary eight siblings were there to greet her to the after life - my dad in the front of the pack! Keeping you all in our prayers. Love, Julie

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**Julie Fissinger** - February 21, 2019 at 11:19 AM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Ella M Shepherd.*



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February 21, 2019 at 07:42 AM



“ *I remember taking my two daughters to Mrs Shepherds home for Piano lessons. Mrs Shepherd and our Mom were good friends. She had wonderful piano recitals. She just had a very sweet way about her and had such patience. RIP Mrs Shepherd you will be missed. Scott and Pat McLeod*

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**Patricia McLeod** - February 20, 2019 at 08:30 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ella M Shepherd.*



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February 20, 2019 at 07:32 PM



“ My daughter, Karin took piano lessons from Ella Shepherd from the time she was 7 yrs old through the 9th grade. Ella then sent her to the American Conservatory in Chicago to continue her studies with Bruno Glade. Ella was a beautiful soul with a kind heart. Our friendship endured all these years. I am so grateful to David for arranging a reunion with Ella, Karin, and Diane Chirich, another prodigy of hers, this last summer. They had a wonderful visit together and shared many memories, Thank you David for doing that.

*Rosalyn Opacich*

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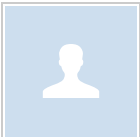
**rosalyn Opacich Opacich** - February 20, 2019 at 06:15 PM



“ *"Cover me with soft Earth... jasmine, lillies and myrtle; and when they grow above me... they will breathe the fragrance of my Heart into space." -- Kahlil Gibran*

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**Susan Torbush** - February 20, 2019 at 05:56 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Ella M Shepherd.*




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February 20, 2019 at 05:10 PM

JF

“ I will never forget traveling to Hobart to see Aunt Ella, Aunt Bernie and Uncle Al and the cousins with my Dad and Mom in tow! My heart sank when I heard the news of Aunt Ella's passing. I remember her playing the piano and Uncle Al singing at the service for Uncle Eddie. The sound of the music and singing came over me - it was beautiful and very moving. The depth of love was palpable.

*I will hold that feeling in my heart when I think of Aunt Ella, and I will remember her strength, her compassion and her love.*

*Love,  
Jeannie Fissinger*

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**Jeannie Fissinger** - February 20, 2019 at 05:01 PM