



## Bernice Jean Isham

March 30, 1929 - February 4, 2017

Isham, Bernice Jean 87 Mar. 30, 1929 Feb. 04, 2017 Bernice Jean Isham passed away Feb. 4, 2017 in her home. She was born March 30, 1929 at Salem Memorial Hospital. Bernice is survived by one niece and three nephews. Her early years were spent on the family homestead in Lake Labish. Born into a musical family she grew up loving the sound of her father's guitar and her aunt's piano. When the family moved to Salem she readily adapted to the music programs offered in the public schools. She joined the Salem All Girl's Revue and won a National award for selling War Bonds. Bernice continued her education at Willamette University. She was a member of the University Choir. Became a member of Mu Phi Epsilon, the music honorary, an active member of Alpha Chi Omega, and starred in a number of Willamette's dramatic productions, most notably State of the Union. After graduation Bernice accepted a teaching position at Taft High School and two elementary schools. At Taft High she was highly regarded for the operettas and musical performances she directed. She continued to study music and completed a master's degree at the University of Oregon. Bernice taught music at Beaverton High School where she is well remembered for her production of the Mikado Brigadoon and others. Bernice sought new challenges in California. Her period at West Hills College in Coalinga inspired new creativity. Her productions ranged from Broadway hits such as The Sound of Music, to opera favorites like The Merry Widow. She earned a doctorate in music from the University of Oregon while teaching in Coalinga.

Bernice retired to Lincoln City where she quickly "unretired" to lead the Lincoln City Community Chorus and the Choir of St. Peter the Fisherman Lutheran Church. A Celebration of Life Will be held at 2 p.m. March 26, 2017, in the Activity Building at St. Peter the Fisherman Lutheran Church, 1226 S.W. 13th Lincoln City, OR 97367. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Samaritan North Lincoln City Hospice.

# Tribute Wall

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“ I was privileged to teach with here at West Hills College for more than 20 years. She was a super teacher and person. I learned a great deal from her. She kept the music program alive and the school and I will miss her

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**Bernice** - February 24, 2017 at 12:00 AM