



Els Hillengberg-Cusic went to be with her Lord on April 6, 2008. She was born October 30th 1923 in Amsterdam Netherlands. She grew up during World War II and it framed her character for life. Els completed nursing school in Holland at the age of 17. She worked as a registered operating nurse in Holland, Sweden and Norway working 2-3 years in each country, learning the language and customs then moving on to the next. She moved to the United States in 1957 to continue her nursing career. Quite an adventurer for a woman in the forties and fifties! She married Dean Cusic in 1959 and raised 4 children. In 1970 she moved her family to Bozeman and began work at the old Bozeman Deaconess Hospital as a registered operating nurse. She retired from nursing in 1980. She then became known in Bozeman for her bread making skills and taught many people to bake bread through Bozeman Adult Education service. Els was very active in her church and loved to celebrate her Dutch heritage by joining in the annual Dutch supper in Manhattan. A woman of many talents, she spoke 5 languages and read opera. She loved classical music and watching public television. Most of all she loved drinking tea and visiting with her many friends. She enjoyed traveling to her homeland to see her many relatives. She also traveled to New Mexico, Alaska and California frequently to visit family. She is survived by her four children, Chip Cusic, (Charlotte), Jeannette Duenow (Andy), Geoff Cusic and Renee Arens (Jim). She has one surviving sister (Han) in Holland, 3 grandchildren (Reece & Teisman, Chelby) as well as numerous nephews and nieces.

Burial services will be held on Thursday, April 10 at 1:30 at the Churchill Cemetery followed by a celebration of life at Bozeman's Christian Reform Church (3224 N. 5th Ave) at 2:30 pm. Visitation with the family from 10am to 12pm Thursday at Dokken-Nelson Sunset Chapel.

Donations in her name may be made to Montana Public Television.