



Josephine (Jo) L. Placek, 99, passed away on September 6 at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital. She was born in Westville, Illinois on May 9, 1911 to John and Josephine Redulis. She was the youngest of five children. Jo was a graduate of the University of Illinois with bachelor and masters degrees. She married James F. Placek in Danville, Illinois on January 31, 1942. They enjoyed 64 years of marriage. She was a professor emeritus at Montana State University where she taught in the Commerce Department for 14 years.

After residing in Illinois and Michigan, Jo and her husband, Jim, moved to Bozeman in 1947. She loved the mountains of Montana and was an avid hiker and skier. She was an early member of the BWAGs-- Bozeman Women's Activity Groups and hiked into her 80s. She enjoyed the wildflowers and mushrooms and was labeled the "mushroom lady" by the BWAGs as they would leave mushrooms by the side of the trail for her to identify. Jo was a longtime member and secretary of the Southwest Montana Mycological Association.

Jo and Jim retired in 1975 and traveled extensively throughout the United States, Europe, and China. They enjoyed spending winters in the southwest and resided in Indio, California for many winters. After Jim's passing in 2006, Jo lived with her daughter, Jeanie, and son-in-law, Doug. She remained fairly independent and savored the views of the mountains and sunsets and enjoyed her frequent walks in the neighborhood.

Jo is survived by her daughter, Jeanie Placek-Badenoch, and her husband, Doug Badenoch, of Bozeman; daughter, Judith Placek, and her partner Virginia Evans, of Holliston, Massachusetts. In accordance with her wishes, no formal services will be held.

The family wishes to express their appreciation to Dr. Robert Hathaway; hospitalists and other physicians; staff on 1<sup>st</sup> floor medical and the palliative care team at BDH who participated in Jo's care.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her name may be made to the Gallatin Valley Land Trust, 25 N. Willson Ave., Bozeman, Mt. 59715 or Glacier National Park Fund, P.O. Box 2749, 402 9<sup>th</sup> Street West, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.