



**OBITUARIES FROM PURSEL-DAVIS FUNERAL HOME  
MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA**

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Berta I. (Kaatiala) Abrahamson



Born: December 07, 1911

Died: July 19, 2004

Services will be held at: at 2:00 P.M. Friday, July 23 at Pursel-Davis Funeral Home & Crematory in Marshalltown. Private family burial will follow services at Riverside Cemetery.

Visitation times are: 12:00 P.M. until time of service on Friday at Pursel-Davis Funeral Home & Crematory. Berta's family will also receive friends at The Embers, located at 1211 W. State Street after the funeral services. Memorials may be sent to The Embers Memorial Fund, 1211 W. State St., the First United Methodist Church, 202 W. Main, or Iowa River Hospice, 206 W. Church St., all in Marshalltown.

Berta was born Dec. 7, 1911, in Chisholm, Minnesota, the daughter of Emil M. and Sanna (Hallila) Kaatiala. Berta was raised and educated in Chisholm where she graduated

from the Chisholm High School in 1928. Upon graduation she had one year of teacher training, then taught school in a one-room schoolhouse in Meadow Brook, Minnesota at the age of 17. Berta graduated from St. Cloud Teachers' College in 1932. During the 1930s and 1940s, she taught in schools in Minnesota and in Hastings, Nebraska, and was a substitute teacher in Chariton, Iowa, and Marshalltown from 1948 to 1971. Berta also attended Drake University and Iowa State University. Berta married Philip S. Abrahamson in 1933 and lived in Minnesota and Nebraska before moving to Marshalltown in 1951 where they were active volunteers in the community. Berta was a member of the First United Methodist Church. She sang in the choir for many years and was a member of the Women's Society of Christian Service and most recently of Esther Circle at The Embers, where she had resided since 1991. Berta led more than 30 vespers services at the Embers and presented travel and devotional programs to several civic groups. She also sang in the Civic Chorus in Chariton. In Marshalltown, she was a longtime member and former president of Twentieth Century Club, former chairman of the American Cancer Society, former member of Elmwood Country Club, Eastern Star, White Shrine, Elks Ladies Lodge, several bridge clubs, bowling leagues, and was active in the PTA. She enjoyed reading, bridge and card games, golf, bowling, swimming, dancing and attending her children's and grandchildren's sporting events. Berta enjoyed traveling throughout the United States with family and Marshalltown Y groups. She also visited her parents' homeland of Finland three times and traveled to Ireland with the Friendship Force in 1977. Berta is survived by her four children, Richard S. Abrahamson of Marshalltown, Gerald A. Abrahamson (Judy) of Las Vegas, Nevada., Susan M. Vaughn of Lynchburg, Virginia., and James W. Abrahamson of Bentonville, Arkansas.; 10 grandchildren, Kirk Abrahamson, Kim Abrahamson, Todd Abrahamson, Kari (Abrahamson) White, Kristin (Abrahamson) Flood, Kent Abrahamson, Katie Abrahamson-Henderson, Jeanne (Vaughn) Sananikone, Matthew Vaughn and Alex Abrahamson; 11 great-grandchildren; two brothers-in-law and two sisters-in-law; two nieces and two nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband in 1977, her son, Lee, in 1980; her brothers, Arthur Kaatiala and Donald Kaatiala, and two sisters-in-law.