



## Sadie Haff

August 31, 1951 - August 31, 2020

Sadie Jo Haff, of Kennewick, WA, passed away on her 69th birthday, August 31, 2020.

She was born in Richland, WA to John and Olive Haff who impressed upon her a devotion that would continue long after their passing. Sadie's ceaseless preservation of her parent's memory was not lost on her family and friends. Those who knew her best were familiar with fond childhood stories, some mischievous, of her family dog Penny and the infamous stray cat Wampus. It may have been these early memories that forged her lifelong love of animals, and prompted the charity she provided for those less fortunate creatures in need of a helping hand and a loving heart.

Sadie was a devoted Christian all her life, smart, and fiercely independent.

She worked her way through school where she earned an undergraduate and master's degree from the University of Washington. This accomplishment would lead to a thirty-year career teaching language, arts, reading and history at Park Middle School. She loved to pass on her knowledge to those students who were willing to learn, and perhaps to some who were not so willing along the way. Upon retirement she worked several more years tutoring grade school children.

Sadie was a reflection of her ancestry and heritage. She helped organize two reunions in Oklahoma with descendants of her great-grandmother, a Delaware "Lenape" Indian. Proud of her Delaware/Dutch/German ancestry, she became an accomplished genealogist in its study. She spoke German and would continue a fifty-year relationship with a pen pal friend in Deutschland. Wiedersehen, Lieber Freund.

Sadie's love of music knew no bounds. She has played her dulcimer, mandolin, and violin with the Three Rivers Dulcimer Society. She participated in various recorder groups and even owned bagpipes that she endeavored to play. There were no lonely instruments in Sadie's home, they all deserved attention and care in her eyes.

She loved to read, play board games, and travel until her health slowed her down. She would beat cancer twice but suffer from its remnants afterwards. Sadie is survived by her brothers, Lenard, Louis, and Stan. To her niece, nephews, grand-nieces, grand-nephews, and perhaps some younger friends, she was a notorious bear-hugger. Some of us that have been fortunate enough to know her for decades will remember her asking, "you're not too old for a hug are you?" We were never too old Aunt Sissy, and we never will be. We love you, and we miss you.

To all her loved ones, family and friends, in lieu of flowers please send donations in Sadie's name to the Benton-Franklin Humane Society.

The family invites you to sign their online guest book at [www.muellersfuneralhomes.com](http://www.muellersfuneralhomes.com)  
<<http://www.muellersfuneralhomes.com>>.

# Cemetery

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## **Riverview Heights Cemetery**

1200 South Olympia Street

Kennewick, WA, 99337

# Comments

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“ I knew Sadie through my mom, Wilma Robison Burgess. I first met her during my mom’s fun-filled years teaching at Park Middle School. We had many visits at the school in the hallways, at our house during my mom’s annual Teacher’s parties and then at various retirement gatherings. I also remember being impressed with how intelligent she was about so many things.

In reading the obituary, it warmed my heart to see that she worked several years after retirement tutoring grade school children. That sounds just like her... having a love to educate. I wasn’t sure yet of her connection to Oklahoma, but have enjoyed reading further about her Delaware Indian heritage.

I was at Sadie’s to visit just days prior to her passing. I had made a few masks for her. I had remembered my mom telling my daughter what an accomplished violin player Sadie was, so I was excited to sew her a mask from some musical material I had. She commented with a smile, “Oh, I don’t have a musical mask.” That of course led us to talk about the rest of her musical accomplishments and the many instruments she enjoyed playing.

We spent a couple hours just catching up... talking about each of my kids, our recent adventure to Oklahoma for my mom’s burial service and how my brother and I were holding up. She spoke of admiring and loving my mom since the 3rd grade. She took time to tell me about losing her mom when she was just 20 years old. She said she thought of her mom and dad often, still missing them. Sharing that while you miss them, you find your way. She hoped that might ease my worries and sorrow some. She shared with me that while her life hadn’t gone as she imagined as a young girl, she had a HAPPY life, speaking of her faith, music, family and her teaching years. We talked briefly about her past health frustrations, but she was handling them straight on.

When I left that day, she insisted on getting her exercise walking out to the garbage bin. She was feeling good and getting around well with her cane. It was the start of a beautiful day and she wanted to enjoy it. We agreed to have lunch soon and I would bring her some fall season masks. She said, “Let’s not become strangers. I think your mom would like us to stay close.”

I’m so VERY grateful for that visit. You joined the Teacher’s Party in Heaven. God bless you Sadie.

Marjzon Lopez-Wade - September 13, 2020 at 08:32 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Marjzon Lopez-Wade** - September 13, 2020 at 05:11 PM

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“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



**Marjzon Lopez-Wade** - September 13, 2020 at 05:02 PM



“ Sadie wrote two really nice articles that are really worth reading. I would invite you to take a look. You can find them at the DelawareTribe.org site 12/22/2013 and then on the Tri-Cities Cancer Center site for June 2013. What a bless life!

**Marjzon Lopez-Wade** - September 13, 2020 at 05:07 PM

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“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



**Marjzon Lopez-Wade** - September 13, 2020 at 02:56 PM

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“ Sadie and I met when she first started teaching at Park. She did not have a car so I gave her rides to and from school until months later when she got a car. Every payday we went for dinner, usually Artic Circle. Later, we went to O'Henry's and progressed to Pizza, Chinese Food, Spaghetti, Steaks, etc. The most relaxed I ever saw Sadie was during our summer picnics in Fish Hook. We swam, read and picnicked with hamburgers gilled on a hibachi. We both loved reading and shared books. Another favorite past time was playing games - Shanghai, Cribbage, Backgammon, Dominoes, Scrabble, Rummy Tiles, Fast Track & Pegs & Jokers. During the pandemic, we would sit outside my house (social distancing) visiting, eating dinner together, or just drinking iced tea. Sadie loved traveling, cooking, music, history, reading, learning, socializing, cats & dogs, helping out the Humane Society, friends, and especially her family. I miss you, Sadie.

Sandy Hansen

Sandy Hansen - September 11, 2020 at 01:48 AM

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“ Sadie was one of my mom's very closest friends since, I believe, junior high. She meant so much to my mom and our family. She was an incredibly intelligent, independent woman. I remember loving hearing about her travels. Also I remember her Christmas trees and all her ornaments. I thought they were so cool. Sending prayers of comfort for your family and for all who called her friend.

Kate (Roddy) Torelli - September 09, 2020 at 05:39 AM

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“ Mrs. Haff was one teacher that I learned to love and respect. While I had the usual differences as a student I learned as an adult to appreciate what she taught me. I relished the meetings I would have with her over the last couple decades. She always would take time to find out what was new in my life. I will miss her dearly. My prayers to all of her family.

Matthew Bishop - September 07, 2020 at 07:15 PM

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“ Sadie and I shared an honors English class in high school. While we lost touch afterwards, I remember the trip to the opera in Seattle. She was a lovely person with a smile for everyone. Rest in Gods love dear Sadie.

**Loyce Long** - September 05, 2020 at 06:17 PM

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“ Condolences and prayers of comfort to Sadie's family and friends. I will remember her fondly as we had a lot of happy conversations about our genealogy and love of animals. When my husband passed and I came back to work, Sadie never failed to stop in my office, give me a hug and check on me. Her presence will be missed.

**Jo Cluck** - September 05, 2020 at 12:44 PM

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“ Heaven has gained an angel. Miss Haff was my 7th grade language arts teacher. She gave you tough love and I was a better student because of that! At the end of the year, I wrote her a thank you card and told her she was one of my favorites. Thank you for teaching me. Rest in Peace Miss Haff.

**Monica Gutierrez Soto** - September 05, 2020 at 01:57 AM

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“ Sadie and I met in Orchestra at what was then Park Junior High where she was later a teacher for 30 years. We have remained close friends over the years even when we lived far apart. We have enjoyed getting together usually every week for dinner or coffee or just for her to come over to play with my little dog and waiting for my cat “Button” to come in for the kitty treats she always brought with her. I will truly miss her.

**Patti Rogers** - September 05, 2020 at 12:27 AM



“ I am Wilma Burgess' daughter, Marjzon. In going through some items at my mom's just this past week (days after Sadie's passing), I came across the article from the Tri-Cities Cancer Center with Sadie on the front. It was such a touching story about the quilt. You are the maker of that quilt... how very wonderful!!!!

**Marjzon Lopez-Wade** - September 13, 2020 at 02:51 PM

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“ Miss Haff was the ultimate example of tough love in a teacher. As an educator myself, I often find myself reflecting on being her student and remembering the gentle toughness ( if that’s even a thing) she displayed and I strive to be as gentle and tough as she. Rest In Peace, your love lives on.



**Jennifer Collins** - September 04, 2020 at 06:31 PM



“ Sadie was such a strong and determined person. When obstacles arose, she faced them head on, finding solutions and executing a plan. All while being hopeful, engaged, and kind. I am grateful for the stories she shared with me of her music, her friends, her genealogy. She inspires me to live life fully, passionately, and with love for those close to me. I am grateful for the one last hug she gave me last year, and will never forget her.

**BethAnne France** - September 06, 2020 at 12:28 PM



“ Sadie and I met in the German Dept at the U of W in 1969 and have remained fast friends for 50 years. We shared adventures that made us laugh over and over throughout all those years. Our mutual love of animals, books, music and cooking made our long distance phone calls like marathons--there was always more to share. We would wait till 10PM on Sundays when the rates were cheaper. What a benefit when we got cell phones with unlimited "talk". Sadie was an inspiration for her fortitude, intelligence, talent, dedication and love for her family, her students and her friends. Saying I will miss her is just not enough.

**Kathie Baker Torgison** - September 06, 2020 at 10:33 PM



“ We got to know Sadie after she retired. She loved playing her games and talking about her mentoring. We enjoyed sharing meals with her. We will see Sadie again. PEACE

**Karen** - September 06, 2020 at 10:34 PM



“ I am the German pen pal of more than 50 years. Sadie and I even met in person when I was in Kennewick in 1972. Her death came as such a shock to me. My condolences to her family. I will always remember Sadie fondly and cherish the longstanding relationship that we had in our letters.

Ute Hecht, Germany

**Ute Hecht** - September 07, 2020 at 07:16 AM



“ I was introduced to Sadie by her longtime friend, Kathie. Sadie, deep into genealogy, couldn’t believe she hadn’t mentioned she knew another Haff! Although we didn’t know each other well, I was impressed by her warmth, talents, and generosity. I introduced her to my father, a fellow genealogist, and they had a wonderful friendship, sharing info and tips. I’m only sorry they never discovered a link between the families—I would have been pleased to be related to Sadie!

**Kimberly Haff** - September 08, 2020 at 02:17 PM