Judy Mae Schlawin

COCHRANE, Wis. - Judy Mae Schlawin, 71, of Cochrane died Thursday, Dec. 24, 2009, at Luther Hospital in Eau Claire, Wis.

She was born in Houston, Minn., on May 3, 1938, to Charles and Frances (Randall) Wilsey. On Sept. 3, 1966, she was united in marriage to Charles Ray Schlawin of Cochrane.

Judy was a retired professor of art at Winona State University, serving there from 1964 to 1996. During her career, she held many positions, including IFO faculty president and president of the Pump House Regional Arts Center in La Crosse, Wis. From 1991 to present day, she also served on the Winona State University Foundation.

Her presence in the art community was also very extensive. During her career and into her retirement, she was an active artist showcasing her works in many art galleries. Judy was also an active volunteer for the Winona Art Center.

Judy loved to travel and was known for her world travel throughout England, Russia, Norway, the Netherlands and many other countries, with her two aunts, with her close friends and even by herself. Judy's zest for travel took her to the intriguing and eccentric reaches of the United States, to which she mainly drove herself. While on these travels, Judy made a point to visit friends, family, immediate and extended relatives at least monthly and often times more frequently. Judy loved art, entertainment, dining out and driving.

Judy's love for her granddaughter Brianna gave her a new inspiration in her retirement years as she was able to pass on her art, cooking skills and other trades while spending countless hours in her art studio with her pal Brianna. Brianna named and referred to Judy as "Dee" when she was learning to talk, and would often accompany Judy dining out and while on her social visits of an official or unofficial nature. Judy spent many hours creating beautiful works of art that will be cherished by her family and friends. Judy will be remembered by her family for her passion for education, her wisdom on betterment for the next generation, her unique ability to travel on a moment's notice, and her selfless attitude when it come to taking care of family. She was a member of Central Lutheran Church in Winona.

Judy is survived by her husband, Charles of Cochrane; her daughters, Annette Schlawin of Chippewa Falls, Wis., and Susan (Krist) Beseler of Buffalo City, Wis.; and one granddaughter, Brianna Beseler. Judy has one surviving brother, Roy (Edna) Wilsey of Winona; and many nieces and nephews. Preceding her in death were her parents and one brother.

Visitation for family and friends will be 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at Talbot Family Funeral Home in Cochrane, and one hour prior to the service on Thursday. Funeral service will be 11 a.m. Thursday at Central Lutheran Church in Winona, with Pastor Jeff Franko officiating. Burial will be at a later date. The family requests memorials be directed to the Winona State University Foundation or donor's choice. Posted in Obituaries on Monday, December 28, 2009 12:15 am Winona Daily News.