Barbara P. Ricciotti,

70, of Winona passed away at the Bethany Riverside Nursing Home on Monday, May 3, 2010, after a lengthy battle with dementia.

She was born in New York City on Nov. 21, 1939, to Benjamin and Rose (Schindler) Thomas. She studied painting at Washington University in St. Louise, Miss., where she met her husband, Dominic Ricciotti. They were married in New York City in 1966.

Barbara had a love for dogs. She had shown and bred German shepherds for many years. It was one of Barbara’s shepherds, Apollo, that became the first police dog for the Goodview, Minn., police K-9 unit.

In addition to her husband, Dominic, of Winona, she is survived by one sister, Sheila (Richard) Hahn of Moriches, N.Y.; one brother, Steven (Melne) Thomas of Moriches, N.Y.; three nieces; one nephew; and grand-nieces and grand-nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents.

In keeping with her wishes, Barbara was cremated. A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Thursday at the Winona Arts Center, located at the intersection of Fifth and Franklin streets.

Memorials may be given in Barbara’s memory to the Alzheimer’s Association, 4550 W. 77th St., Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 55435.

Schumacher-Kish Funeral Home of La Crosse, Wis.