



## Marjorie June Lehtinen

*July 26, 1947 - September 8, 2026*

Traverse City, Michigan

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Marjorie June Lehtinen died in Traverse City on September 8, 2026. She was seventy-nine. Born there on July 26, 1947, she grew up knowing cherries as a rumor that paid and a lake as a weekday neighbor. She learned a packing line before she learned a highway. A lug, she said, is a kind of promise: it has to arrive cool or the whole story is late.

She spent twenty-five years in a cherry plant that started before daylight, first as a helper, later as the woman who could tell, from the sound of a grader, whether a lot would hold through a late boat. She kept extra coffee for the sorter whose morning had already been too long. She would not let a buyer invent a grade that made the scale a liar. After a bad afternoon she sat in the stairwell with the radio off until her hands were quiet.

She married Nils Lehtinen in 1969. They bought a bungalow in a neighborhood that later became expensive around them. They stayed. A son and a daughter went through public schools she trusted more than she trusted waterfront talk. After Nils died in 2017 she kept the garden of rhubarb and the habit of walking a neighbor's child to the bus when a shift ran late.

Neighbors remember a woman who swept her sidewalk and yours if the wind had been unfair, who kept a coffee can of measuring spoons labeled in two languages, and who could sit through a graduation without making it about herself. She liked the bay early, before the heat, when the dunes still looked like a place a person could walk. She died in Traverse City, the only city she had ever needed. The extra coffee is still in the thermos. That would have pleased her more than a eulogy.

### Services

A memorial in Traverse City with tea afterward. In lieu of flowers, a gift to a packing-house workers' fund is welcome.

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