



**REMEMBERING**  
**Selma Sawatzky**

October 24, 1937 - May 2, 2024



Our dearest Selma (Semp) was called to be with her Lord on May 2, 2024. Despite the challenges of dementia in her later years, her spirited personality, deep love for Jesus, determination for life, and strong character continued to shine brightly.

Selma was born in 1937 in Neuhorst, Ukraine. In 1944, during a tumultuous time, her family fled through Poland to Germany, joining many other Mennonite families seeking refuge. While as a child she held fond memories of living in army barracks as refugees, there were also painful memories such as losing her only sister, Lydia, at the age of six. In 2015, Selma found closure by visiting Lydia's gravesite in Munich. In 1947 Selma's family moved to Paraguay and later to Buenos Aires, Argentina. It was here that she met Heinrich Sawatzky. They married in 1962 and began their family, immigrating to Canada in 1965.

In Vancouver, Selma and Henry raised four boys. A seamstress by trade, Selma learned her craft in Argentina and utilized these skills throughout her life. Additionally, she assisted with Henry's Home Heating Business and was actively involved in numerous community and Church initiatives, including the Verein, City Hall prayer sessions, hosting family gatherings, and supporting the Spanish Church. She was a source of friendship, love, and guidance to many.

Selma leaves behind her husband of 63 years, Heinrich; her sons: Rob, Herb (Lorrie), Rudy (Joanne), and Heinz (Cheri) as well as her brother, Arno (Jenny). She also joyfully cherished her seven grandchildren; Kennedy, Brooklynn, Aleah, Colton, Avery, Aaron, and Audrey. She will be missed by extended family and in-laws in Canada, Brazil and Germany including many nieces/nephews and grand-nieces/nephews whom she cherished and was proud of. Selma was

predeceased by her siblings Victor (Mussit), Hans (Lenit), Walter (Agnes) and Lydia.

Selma was known for her strength, humor, and fearless spirit, teaching us above all to pray and love Jesus with all our hearts. Though we say goodbye, we are comforted knowing she is rejoicing in Heaven.

A graveside service will be held at 11:30 AM on Friday, May 24, 2024, open to all who wish to attend. This will be followed by a memorial service at 1:00 PM at Peace on 52nd (FUMC), with a time of food and fellowship to follow.

We invite all whose lives were touched by Selma to join us in celebrating her remarkable life and legacy.

