



## Dorothy E. McGroarty

July 6, 1941 - February 16, 2024

Dorothy Elizabeth McGroarty, 82, of The Breakers at Edgewater Beach, formerly of Andersonville, Chicago, Illinois, passed away February 16, 2024, surrounded by her loving family.

Born in Dearborn, Michigan, Dorothy was raised on Chicago's South and Southeast sides. After graduating from Calumet High School in 1959, she married Bob White and raised their family of six children while working as a Montessori teacher and completing an Associate Degree in Social Work.

Dorothy always accepted everyone as an individual without applying labels and fought for what she considered right. She and Bob raised their young children for a time in the attic of a church in a largely Black neighborhood where the children had both Black and white friends, while one attended a Jewish pre-school. The family lived in Gage Park at a time of racial tension surrounding the integration of Gage Park high school, and the family bungalow was known as a "safe haven" for Black students harassed on their way home from school. Dorothy was an active parent in the Marquette Park Special Recreation Program where her children were both participants and youth leaders.

She was a founding member and later CEO of Southwest Women Working Together (WWT), a community organization of women empowering women to

reach their full potential. It was at WWT that she met Maryon Gray, who had just opened a legal practice in the neighborhood.

Ten years later, and following Dorothy and Bob's divorce, Dorothy and Maryon found themselves in love. They celebrated their union in a commitment ceremony on November 2, 1986. Dorothy and Maryon bought a two-flat in Andersonville which became a hub for children and grandchildren. Whoever needed a home, or a summer away from home, could find it there. Dorothy continued her activism in anti-war and AIDS rights protests where she often assigned herself a role in the security contingent.

Dorothy was an accomplished artist. She particularly enjoyed nature photography, honing her skills on the many trips she and Maryon enjoyed. She is best known for the individually made greeting cards her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and many friends received each holiday season.

Dorothy's children and grandchildren were the center of her world. She raised her daughters (and granddaughters) to be strong, independent women and her sons (and grandsons) to be the same but also to cook, clean and do laundry.

Beloved life partner of 37 years to Maryon Gray. Devoted mother of Robin (Jeff) Comstock; William (Maria), the late David, and Wesley (Donna) White; Beth (Juan) Rendon; and Julie (Danny) Nelson. Adored grandmother of Dillon (Anna), Trevor (Breeanna), and Hillary Schrock; Eric, Brian (Morgan), and Grey White; Jessica (Ron) Cato, Jason (Sarah) White, Amanda (William) Richards, Sarah (Zach) Dunbar, Travis (Jamie), Wesley, and Salem White; Zachary (Morgan) White, Ryan and Christopher Sullivan; and Rachel Nelson.

Proud great-grandmother of 17 and great-great grandmother of one. Sister of

Virginia Colatriano and former spouse of Robert (the late Ann) White.  
Daughter of the late Clara Lewandowski McGroarty and William Lee  
McGroarty.

A celebration of Dorothy's life will be held Saturday, April 13, 2024, 12-4pm  
(service begins 1pm, luncheon to follow) at The Swedish American Museum,  
5211 N. Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Dorothy's memory to Care for  
Real: [www.careforreal.org](http://www.careforreal.org).

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-370-2959 or [www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com](http://www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com).

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

APR **13**. 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Swedish American Museum

5211 N. Clark St.

Chicago, IL 60640

<https://www.swedishamericanmuseum.org/>

*12noon doors open 1pm service begins*

# Tribute Wall

LA

“ I’ve known Dorothy and Maryon for many years. Our dogs were teammates in a dog sport. For several years we went to their home to watch the Super Bowl. Now we live in the same building and I was invited to watch the game with them. Dorothy was ready for the game and ate snacks and hooted and hollered for every touchdown and exciting catch. I’m so glad for the opportunity to spend that evening with Dorothy having so much fun.  
Linda Anderson



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Linda Anderson - April 12, 2024 at 04:29 PM

MK

“ My sincere condolences to the family and friends. I will keep Dorothy in my prayers. May she rest in peace.

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Margie Kowal - April 11, 2024 at 01:38 PM

AF

“ Ariel F. purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Dorothy E. McGroarty.



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Ariel F. - April 07, 2024 at 04:17 PM

AF

“ Ariel F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dorothy E. McGroarty.

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Ariel F. - April 07, 2024 at 04:17 PM

MA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



**Maryon** - March 11, 2024 at 11:19 PM

CK

“ Dorothy was a wonderful woman who I remember as loving, funny, and wise. The one memory I think of all the time was when I was pregnant with Justin. She said something no one had ever said and would not have occurred to me in a Million years. She said, "just remember like you've never been a mom before, he's never been a human before" that made me understand that Justin and I were going to be ok because I could teach him how to be a person. Love you and thank you for all you did for me and treating my kids like they were your own grandchildren.

**Carol Kirkpatrick** - March 05, 2024 at 05:44 PM

HA

“ Pix of "Mooselips" below, so I will just remember Peach Pie and Croquet! You had to complete a round of croquet before getting your peach pie with ginger crust. It was grand!

**Haysie** - February 25, 2024 at 08:53 AM

LE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



leslie - February 24, 2024 at 06:43 PM

LE

*Mooselips, was a wonderful lodge in Northern Wisconsin, that several us visited annually in the late 1980s. Here are from left to right, woman whose name i can't remember, myself, Haysie, Jean, Maryon, Dorothy and another woman. There were many repeat offenders who attended other years. We brought our own food and cooked wonderful meals. The peach pie is still on my hips. 😊*

leslie - February 25, 2024 at 01:40 PM

JN

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Julie Kay Nelson - February 23, 2024 at 11:43 PM