



Joanna Misnik

September 6, 1943 - September 3, 2025

Joanna Marie Misnik, of Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood; activist and socialist; passed away at Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines, IL on September 3, 2025; three days before her 82nd birthday.

Joanna was born in Cleveland, Ohio, the oldest of four children, two of whom died early. Her mother was a "stay at home" mom; her father owned and ran an auto parts yard. She attended Case Western Reserve before earning her undergraduate degree in History from Wayne State University in middle age. She lived in Paris, Brussels, Nashville, New York City, and Detroit, before coming to Chicago.

Her entire life was devoted to social causes, from racial and sexual equality, to opposition to the Vietnam war and other foreign wars, and to the economic and social improvement of the lives of working people. In Chicago, she was a communications specialist for SEIU Local 73 and hosted a public access cable TV interview program to publicize, among other things, fights that her union was waging to improve the lives of their diverse members. She was devoted to the members of her union, be they traffic guards, toll collectors, or employees of the Chicago Public Schools or the University of Illinois at Chicago.

She played a leading role in strategizing how to amplify political expressions

to the left of the Democratic Party, such as the Jesse Jackson and Bernie Sanders campaigns, formations like the Labor Party Advocates and the Democratic Socialist of America and sought to unify left currents who shared goals but had separate organizations. Her strategic insights and incisive written analyses will be missed by many.

Joanna was preceded in death by younger siblings Marcia, Joseph, and Ruth Misnik and her parents Joseph Sr. and Sophia (nee Siemienkowski) Misnik.

She is survived by nieces Lenore Nicastro and Shawna Misnik and great-nephews Nick and Jadon Misnik.

Services are being planned. Please check back to this website.

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-318-1305 or www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com.

Tribute Wall



“ Going to miss Red. She worked hard, took time to educate people, but she also knew how to have fun and was always quick to deliver a little rib. She must've busted my chops more times than I can count but each everytime she did, it always made me laugh. It was an honor and pleasure to know and work with her.

AI G - September 13, 2025 at 07:28 PM



“ An irresistible source of wit and immensely sociable, Joanna may also have been one of the last and most attractive representatives of a certain type of 1960s radical activists: The type who gave no forethought to pursuit of a personal career but could function effectively for decades, playing a variety of roles, in a Left organization.

Alan Wald - September 08, 2025 at 03:10 PM