



Marilyn Troyer

November 12, 1940 - February 14, 2024

Marilyn McGrath Troyer, 83, of Chicago's Ravenswood Manor neighborhood, passed away peacefully on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2024, after suffering a stroke in January.

Raised in Chicago's Englewood and Hyde Park neighborhoods, she graduated from Parker High School, Roosevelt University (where she met life-long friends), also and studied at the American Conservatory of Music.

She loved Italy and lived in Rome, where she studied voice, learned Italian and taught English at Shenker Institute. She took her Roman cat "Jesse James" back home when she returned to Chicago. Marilyn worked for years as a public servant for Cook County and the State of Illinois as an employment counselor. She developed many friendships with co-workers through the years.

She was a loyal "best" friend to many, avid reader (despite visual handicap), history buff, and singer who loved opera, WFMT, and classical music. Marilyn was strong-willed, stubborn, opinionated, and a staunch Democrat who didn't hesitate to argue her point. She had a big, dramatic personality with a good heart. She often entertained family and friends with "fabulist" tales and fables.

Marilyn was spiritual and believed all religions lead to God. She studied world

religions, astrology (was a Scorpio), reincarnation and was a devotee of Swami Satchidananda. Her Sanskrit name was "Manisha". She loved animals and was an animal advocate. Her dogs Zumi and the late Sonny were rescues from PAWS.

She was a devoted step-mom to her late husband Art's children: Sherry, Joel, and Sharon. She was a wonderful, loving aunt to Larry, Lisa, and Leila-- they shared many good times.

Beloved spouse of the late Arthur G. Troyer. Loving sister of Kathleen (the late Fathi "Frank" Tal) McGrath of Houston, and Rosemarie (partner Gene Kulichenko) McGrath.

Beloved aunt of Lawrence (Amy) Tal, Lisa Yasmin Tal, and Leila (John Thayer) Tal Thayer. Devoted step-mother of Sheryl "Sherry" (David) Crisp, Sharon (Marco) Spudic, and the late Arthur Joel "Joe" Troyer. Daughter of the late George Andrew and Mildred Irene (nee Goodrie) McGrath.

She will also be deeply missed by her devoted caregiver Sabria Koshaba, longtime friend Mitchell "Mike" Winthrop, and many others.

Family and friends are gathering privately.

Donations may be made to PAWS. www.pawschicago.org

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-370-2959 or www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com.

Tribute Wall

AP

“ I fondly remember Marilyn, a gifted Scorpio, cherished for her psychic and astrological powers.

Who among us -- while seeking self-realization -- remembers sending our date, exact time, and place of birth to her so she could chart our very existence in this vast incomprehensible universe or, more currently, “multiverse”?

In return, Marilyn produced a web-like natal chart, a unique and veritable biography with oneself as the central character surrounded by other characters who would play major roles in different areas of our lives. She explained the plot in unfamiliar terms like “ascendent”, “aspect”, “cusp”, “element”, “house”, and “ruling planet”; their significance made our heads swim. But there was Marilyn – truthful and gentle, concisely explaining every detail. Thanks to her, our Divine destiny lay before us, and whenever life’s path zigged as we zagged, we could refer to our natal chart for a reality check.

But Marilyn’s wise counsel didn’t end there. Didn’t we need her valuable advice at other times like when we hit rock bottom or felt unsure about taking the plunge: Is this “Mr. Right”?

Marilyn has ascended 8,000 light-years to join her fellow Scorpios in their mother constellation at the heart of the spiraling Milky Way. Constellations and stars have been important from the earliest of times, and Marilyn has taken her place among them.

Anna L. Pearman

ANNA LOUISE PEARMAN - May 27, 2024 at 11:52 AM

GK

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



George Kapellas - February 25, 2024 at 02:23 PM

IL

“ I don't know how we all came together. But there we were at Montrose Beach -some of us, like me, from other countries. We were like-minded and liked sun and each other. I recognized Marilyn as the smart, outgoing, tolerant and beautiful human being she was. We got together often and shared confidences. When I got married and moved to the suburbs, we did not see each other so often, but talked on the phone. She got married pretty much at the same time. In 1972 my family and I moved to Florida. Eventually I traveled extensively and shared my experiences with her. I was so happy when Rosie told me that she read my letters to Marilyn, and that she enjoyed my stories. Marilyn and I talked on the phone now and then to reminisce about old times. And when I visited Chicago, we got together and talked and talked. After my brother, who also lived in Chicago, died in September 2021, Marilyn was my last connection to the city I loved. Marilyn will be missed by all who were fortunate to have met her. She will live on in our memories.

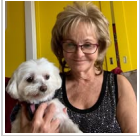
Ingeborg Larsen

Ingeborg Larsen - February 24, 2024 at 05:40 PM

MM

“Marilyn demonstrated her generous nature when she saw a picture of my mother and remembered having met her years before and said such nice things about her.
When I was her successor at the Illinois Department of Employment she couldn't have been more willing to spend time to teach the ins and outs of the job,
She was such a good wife to her husband, such a good sister to her siblings and such a good friend to her chums. She will be missed!

Mark & Toni Martin - February 23, 2024 at 02:27 PM



“I had the pleasure of knowing Marilyn when we lived in Rome and taught English at the same school many years ago. She was vibrant, happy and curious about life. Her music was so important to her, and she shared her enthusiasm. We strolled through the piazzas of Rome, sampling food, shopping at open-air markets, laughing, and enjoying Italian life. I was glad to see her again many years later when I happened to be in Chicago. As I read all of your memories of her, I could feel how much she was loved by all. She will be missed. My sincerest condolences to Rosemarie and the family. Laurie Padolf Mokriski

Laurie Mokriski - February 22, 2024 at 05:35 PM

ST

“ *Marilyn's life - full of grace -*

*Through my more than
25yr. friendship with Rosemarie,
Marilyn's extraordinarily loving & devoted sister, I got to know
Marilyn*

*Marilyn's life embraced
love of and loyalty to family,
life long friends, and animals,
a spiritual & political commitment to the well being of others, and a
deep appreciation for classical music, especially opera*

*All her adult life she had season tickets to Chicago's Civic Opera
House*

*Lucky me, joining her & good friends Yolanda & George to many
Sunday afternoon opera performances.*

*Thanks to Marilyn's generosity,
I shared in the beauty & magic of the world of operas she loved.*

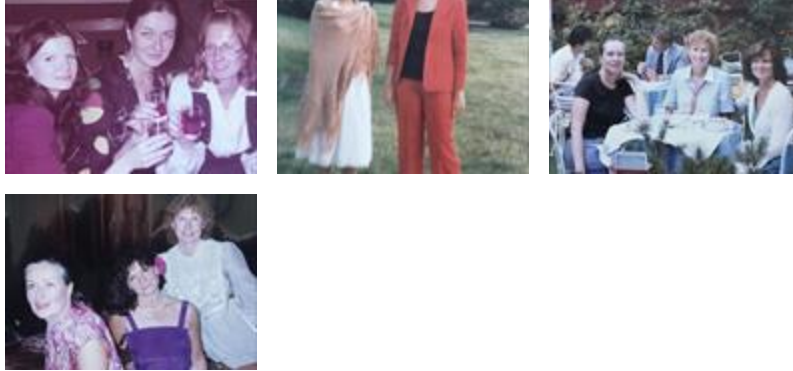
*Thank you, Marilyn.
Your generous spirit,
loving, kind, caring ways touching many,
is expansive, living on .*

*Spirit blesses & holds you close always
with love,
Stephanie*

stephanie - February 22, 2024 at 01:11 AM

SH

“ *Marilina Pamela and Sharron ~ thru the years enjoying each other's company at Marilina's favorite places !*



Sharron - February 21, 2024 at 05:39 PM

NA

“ *Marilyn was an extended family to me, will always cherish the occasions when we met, will remember her sense of humour and intelligence. RIP.*

NASSER AL-TELL - February 21, 2024 at 02:16 AM

YT

“ My dearest freind, Marilyn, beautiful, smart, kind and loving, and who I knew for 54 years. My husband, George, knew Marilyn even longer. I remember meeting Marilyn at the bus stop going to work in Chicago. Her love of opera led to many years of enjoying opera together. Every opera Sunday for over 40 years, Marilyn, George and I started our day with brunch and then the afternoon Sunday opera. Marilyn knew just about every opera and could sing the lyrics to many operas in Italian. I spent a two-week vacation in my mid-twenties in Italy with Marilyn. I remember well our good times. We all had such fun times. Many parties shared with Marilyn and many conversations, thoughts and wishes,

Marilyn was my Maid of Honor at my wedding. George and I will so miss Marilyn. There is pain missing Marilyn who was a huge part of our lives.

I do believe our souls live on, and Marliyn will be there always, and we will meet again..

Yolanda and George Treiguts

Yolanda Treiguts - February 20, 2024 at 05:03 PM

HK

“ When Vicki was born, Marilyn came to see her and me in the hospital. She was my only friend who came. It meant a lot to me.

Helene Keers - February 20, 2024 at 09:40 AM

SH

“ I remember a story Marilyn told me from her Hyde Park childhood ~ she was out playing in the garden and her little boy playmate decided to water the flowers with you know what and then boasted about it ~ she ran inside and told her mother ~ her mom then gave her a watering can ~ Marilyn went outside and started watering the flowers and boasted ~ yes but mine has a flower on it ~ I love that story it shows how spunky she was and come to think of it artistic as well ~ I met Marilina as our dear friend Pamela and I always called her when we were in our 20s and at a state training function ~ I knew instantly that she was the one person in the room that I wanted to talk to and we have been friends ever since sharing all our trials and tribulations ~ I love and miss you Marilina

Sharron - February 19, 2024 at 04:55 PM

LF

So many fond memories of Marilyn! She and Frances visited us in a Norwegian mountain cabin and she loved eating brown cheese on toast with a dab of strawberry jam. And the visit to a MN lake home with a piano, where I brought my book of Schubert Lieder; we played and sang the whole afternoon! Marilyn was a wonderful friend and a woman I long admired.

Linda Forsberg - February 26, 2024 at 05:18 PM

LT

“ I remember Aunt Marilyn as our very caring babysitter when we were much younger, and living up north. I have many wonderful memories of our "marathon" Monopoly games; which would last for days. A fabulous storyteller, and a wonderfully spiritual Aunt. I will miss her tremendously.

Lisa Y Tal - February 19, 2024 at 02:40 PM

LT

“ I also have many fond memories of Aunt Marilyn going back to earliest childhood. She was a frequent visitor and babysitter and made the time to come and stay with us wherever we were living. In recent years, we had many wonderful times going to the Lyric Opera together and reminiscing. Marilyn was often the "life of the party" and entertained the entire group at every gathering with her colorful stories! I also respected her for her introspective side, love of knowledge and longstanding spiritual beliefs. She will be greatly missed by her family and many loyal friends.

Leila Thayer - February 19, 2024 at 01:27 PM

LT

“ Aunt Marilyn was close to us growing up and was a wonderful babysitter, sharing many tales of her international travels and other entertaining stories. When we visited Chicago, we would have family music sessions during which Marilyn would demonstrate the fruits of her operatic training! I respected Marilyn for speaking passionately on subjects she felt strongly about and always "fighting her corner". She will certainly be missed, but very fondly remembered.

Larry Tal - February 19, 2024 at 07:21 AM

CH

“ Marilyn was like another mother to me she was one of the sweetest women I've ever met in my life she was also my best friend from high school's mother and Sherry as well. I sure am going to miss her and a nice little lunches we used to have every once in awhile.



CHRIS HUBBARD - February 18, 2024 at 01:05 PM

SS

“ I met Marilyn in late 1978. My social work friend had the 3 of us meet at bar Orouke in oldtown. We were all single women First question she asked my sign-aries She met Art married quickly Jane invited to a party met Paul from Ca doing pediatric class at Cook County.I flew to San Francisco to be at small wedding I met my spouse years later we married Virgin Islands
Marliyn and I kept meeting for meals Met ART he picked her up then drove me to my apt She was the most spiritual person I ever met. Saw her in hospice 2/10. Rosie told me her transition 2/14 Valentine Last word I said to her SHALOM means Peace GOODBYE in HEBREW She mouthed Thank You

sandra. shifrin - February 17, 2024 at 12:08 PM

WT

“ My friend will always be in my heart. sending prayers to her family. I love you Marilyn I know God has you wrapped safe in his in his care. you were a great friend whom was very rare, full of love, you were beautiful inside and out, you will be missed in your physical presence but your spirit shall remain with me, many more,we had so much in common, I will miss your sweet laughter, smiles. Your loving friend wendy also known as Winnie

winifred thomas - February 16, 2024 at 07:49 PM

FR

“ Marilyn and I were friends for many years. We attended the same schools and church. We resigned our jobs and traveled through Europe from Norway to Greece and Turkey. We saw less of each other in recent years because we lived far apart and I continued to work until last year. I remember getting lost in Thessaloniki and Marilyn’s suggestion that we “follow that priest! It worked!



Condolences to Rosemarie, Kathleen and all of Marilyn’s many friends.

Frances Mitilineos

Frances - February 16, 2024 at 10:21 AM

ME

“ Un abbraccio a Rosemarie and all the family and much love for Marilyn from Rome , a city I know she enjoyed. I remedy visiting Piazza Navona with her and then having a delicious meal there outside under the warm Roman sun. Un detto italiano che la terra ti sia lieve Marilyn !

Mary Ellen - February 15, 2024 at 04:56 PM