



## Marsha Valance

August 2, 1946 - June 29, 2025

Marsha Jeanne Valance, 78, librarian, storyteller, and Morgan horse aficionado; passed away peacefully June 29, 2025, at Maple Ridge Health Services in Milwaukee.

Born in Evanston, IL, Marsha graduated from Wilmette's St. Joseph Elementary in 1960 and Regina Dominican High School in 1964. She attended Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism for two years, where she was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. She completed her bachelor's degree in history from UCLA. She later earned her master's in library science (MLS) from the University of Rhode Island.

Marsha began her professional career working at the Footnote Bookstore in Cedar Rapids, IA, in 1979. She went on to work as an editor at Brown Publishing in Dubuque, IA, then at the Dubuque Public Library, the Geneseo Public Library in Geneseo, IL; and the Grand Rapids Public Library in Grand Rapids, MN. Marsha loved attending annual American Library Association conferences.

She retired as Director of the Milwaukee Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Milwaukee, WI (now the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library).

An avid reader, Marsha especially loved science fiction, fantasy and mystery novels. She attended science fiction and fantasy conventions as a conference attendee and a panelist. She was a member of the Milwaukee-based Cloak and Clue Society book club for more than 20 years.

Marsha was also a Morgan horse enthusiast, owner and breeder; and loved animals. She has many beloved dogs and cats over the course of her lifetime. She regularly wrote articles for Morgan horse magazines and was passionate about both horse and human genealogy.

She loved folk music and her Catholic faith.

Beloved mother of Marguerite “Meg” Jeanne Darlington (nee Valance); adoring and proud grandmother of John Carter Darlington.

Loving sister of Deborah Lynne (William Douglas) Leonard of Houston, TX and Mark Douglas (Malinda) Leonard of Libertyville, IL. Aunt to Zachary Leonard, Justin Leonard, and Cameron Leonard; Jennifer Douglas, Emily Douglas, and Hannah Douglas; and Anjelina Moore. Cousin of many, to whom she was beloved.

Dear friend of Maryellen Grey and Gale Burnick.

Preceded in death by brother Thomas Michael “Mike” (the late Veronica) Moore and parents Jeanne Lois Leonard (nee Skinner and Moore) and Edward James Leonard, Jr. and biological father Thomas Michael Moore, Sr.

The family has selected green cremation.

Friends and family are gathering from 11-2pm (eulogies begin 11:30am) on Friday, August 22, in the Community Room at Outpost Natural Foods (Bay

View), 2826 S. Kinnickinnic Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53207.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to: <https://826national.org/>.

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-318-1305 or [www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com](http://www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com).

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

AUG **22**. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Outpost Natural Foods  
2826 S Kinnickinnic Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53207  
<https://www.outpost.coop/>

*11am guest arrival; 11:30am eulogies begin.*

# Tribute Wall

TS

“ Oh wow...I just learned of this on August 30, 2025. Marsha, along with Judith Gloyer, was my boss at LBPH back in the early '90s. She was very soft-spoken and introduced us to "Meg's graduation punch". She will be truly missed.

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**Tony Stephens** - August 31, 2025 at 04:10 PM

TD

“ Terri D. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marsha Valance.

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**Terri D.** - August 22, 2025 at 12:40 AM



“ Meg, I am so very sorry for your loss. I know firsthand how hard it is to lose a mother. You are in my prayers. Love & hugs, Dorothy

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**Dorothy Moore** - August 05, 2025 at 06:51 PM

AK

“ Sending beams of love to Meg and family. I remember meeting Marsha in college when Meg brought me home with her one weekend. She was so kind and quirky and smart. Marsha and I later connected on Facebook and would comment on each other's pages every so often. Rest in power Marsha Valance.

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**Alice Kim** - July 03, 2025 at 09:22 PM

BM

“ I only knew Marsha through her daughter Meg. Marsha’s intelligence, creativity and strength have been passed on to Meg who always talked about her mom in a way that showed us how much Meg learned from and valued the wonderful woman who was her mother. Rest in peace Marsha and thank you for encouraging reading and creativity in so many ways throughout your life.

Barb (Hansen) McDermott - July 03, 2025 at 06:30 PM

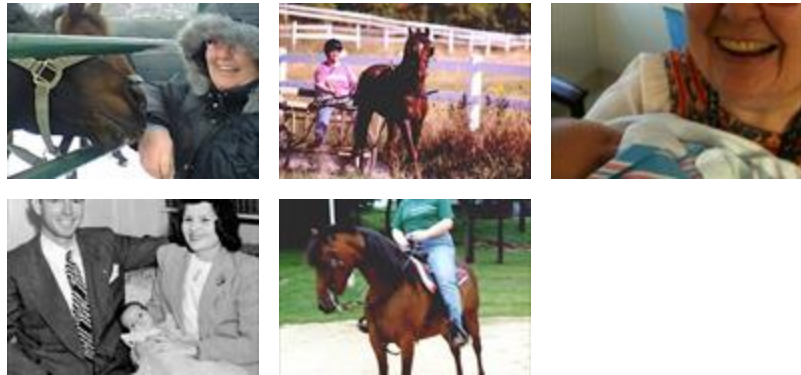
TE

“ Thank you for allowing me to be part of Marsha’s care. She was a treasured part of my week, enjoying her stories, knowledge and love of books. My deepest condolences. Terri

Terri - July 02, 2025 at 08:39 AM



“ 9 files added to the album Memories Album



Team Inclusive Funeral Care - June 30, 2025 at 05:54 PM