



Joyce Ann Friedrich Meyer

August 31, 1940 - May 15, 2021

Joyce Ann Friedrich Meyer, age 80, of Austin, peacefully passed away at her residence on Saturday, May 15, 2021. Born on August 31, 1940, in Fredericksburg, Texas, she was the second of four children to Gus and Ruby Friedrich.

Joyce learned how to beat the odds as a child by surviving rheumatic fever. In childhood, she loved to ride her bike, hang out on Sunday afternoons with her cousins, play with her best friend, Ginger, and watch movies at the Palace Theatre. Her favorite part about the theater wasn't the movie, it was the news by Edward R. Murrow, who showed her there was more to life than a small, German town.

Joyce graduated with honors from Fredericksburg High School in 1958. She married Fred Meyer that same year and they moved to Austin. She worked at Texas DPS as a secretary and then as a legal secretary typing 140 words per minute on carbon copies. Eventually, they had two daughters, Kim and Kristi, and lived most of their life together in Plano, Texas.

In 1975, Joyce finished her college degree to become an art teacher at North Texas State University. She later earned a Master of Fine Arts at SMU. She taught art at McKinney High School, Wilson Middle School, and Haggard Middle School. In 1995 and following her divorce, Joyce moved to Austin,

ready for new adventures as well as teaching art at Forest Trail Elementary in Eanes ISD. In 1998, Joyce retired after 30 years of education service. Joyce talked about her students until her last few days on earth. They were so important to her.

Not only did being an art teacher mean the world to Joyce, but so did her family and friends. She loved her siblings Elmer, Dennis, and Lynette. Over the last year, her highlights of the day were their phone calls. Joyce was also proud to be “Onn” to her grandchildren Jared, Jamie, and Jason. Their relationships brought so much joy and adventure to each other’s lives. “Aunt Joyce / Red Aunt” enjoyed entertaining many nieces and nephews over the summers forming strong bonds, especially with the red heads, that couldn’t be broken. Joyce Ann had a niece named after her: Amy Joanne; as well as Daniel’s daughter and her grandniece, Carolyn Joyce Harper. She was so proud to have both girls have her name! Also, all those who affectionately called her “Llama,” a nickname that Kim created, brought so much joy to her as well.

Thanks to Edward R. Murrow’s encouragement, Joyce traveled to all 50 states and some of them more than once. Many miles were traveled with her friend Sharon. She helped chaperone school trips to Europe with Sharon and another treasured friend, Andrea; took her parents to Germany; explored the Cayman Islands and Mexico on family vacations before they became destination spots; and ventured to Australia, with Kim, as well as Alaska and Hawaii—just to name a few of the places they journeyed together. Joyce also managed to travel with her grandchildren to Rocky Mountain National Park, Yellowstone, and Utah’s National Parks.

During retirement, Joyce loved to take photographs of these places she ventured to, paint beautiful landscapes of them, and create amazing pen and ink drawings as well. Line was her favorite element to work with and it showed

in her work. One of her favorite adventures was working a few summers in Yellowstone National Park. Joyce also created rubber stamps of Texas images, mainly flowers, that led her to traveling the state, offering stamping and cardmaking classes, but more importantly spreading joy while making new friends. She treasured those years working with Texana Design Artists and traveling with such talented friends who allowed her to be the “naginator.” Joyce also enjoyed sharing her art by sending homemade cards to family and friends she loved. A friend recently said, “She never really retired from making art. She would have continued forever if her body and mind would have allowed.”

Unfortunately, in 2015, Joyce was diagnosed with amyloidosis brought on by multiple myeloma which then affected the heart. The odds of getting amyloidosis is one-in-a-million. She thought it was fitting that the disease was as unique as her. Sadly, the chemo took a toll on her body, but thankfully, she was a strong-willed redhead and was determined to get better. And she did just that! Joyce stopped getting chemo and traveled some more. In 2018, her health started to decline again. Chemo didn’t work so she opted to just live life to its fullest. Joyce moved into Clairmont Independent Living in the fall of 2019. She was happy to be around such loving and caring people, especially her sister of the heart, Maurine. Special thanks to doctors Mary Beth Cishek, M.D. and Jeff Yorio, M.D. for helping to manage the amyloidosis and congestive heart failure.

During the onset of COVID, Kristi moved Joyce into her home. Together they played games, made art and watched many Netflix series. It was during this time that Kristi was able to create a system to enable Joyce to continue living independently.

Joyce was so grateful for the caregivers who helped her out in the final years.

She was so happy and felt safe with Nancy, Pam, Kelly, Jenny, Kathleen, Hannah, Karen and Jack's help. Her family is grateful for their love and friendships. An additional thanks to her volunteer game players, the Blounts, who soon became her second set of grand kids to play games with on the weekends for over 5 years!

Preceded in death by her parents, Joyce is survived by her siblings Elmer Friedrich and wife Neva of Georgetown, Dennis and Glenna Friedrich of San Angelo, and Lynette Cornehl and husband Steven of Fredericksburg; daughters, Kim Meyer of Austin and Kristi Janczak of Belton; grandchildren, Jared Janczak and wife Sydney of Fort Worth, Jamie Janczak of College Station, and Jason Janczak of Belton; "Collected Daughters" Cathy Meads, Connie Sanders, and Alison Chang; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Joyce's requests for funeral plans are typical of her. There will be a private family and close friends viewing on Tuesday, May 18, 2021. Please reach out to her daughters for more information. Joyce also requests a cremation and wants her ashes spread at a favorite painting place of hers. Most importantly, Joyce wants her memorial service to be a huge celebration for everybody to attend. She told us, "I had a full life and that's what I want celebrated." More details on this celebration set for Nov. 21, 2021, are available via email. Contact Kim, Kristi or use Joyce's email.

In lieu of flowers, please drive through a carwash noticing the beautiful colors and patterns the soap makes on the windshield, spread joy by being nice to others, think of her when you see an orange sunset, or consider a donation to either The National Parks Foundation, The Amyloidosis Foundation or The Texas Art Education Memorial Scholarship Fund... any of these would honor Joyce well.

Tribute Wall



“ *Joyce Ann Friedrich Meyer*

October 14, 2022 at 12:02 PM



“ *Memories of Joyce are many from high school summer days, playing Canasta, hanging out with Ginger, and eating her Mama's fresh baked cookies. After we went our separate ways to new places and careers, we would sometimes get together when I came back home to reconnect with new stories about our families and adventures. Joyce always gave us new ideas about art projects and would share finished products with us. One of her favorite spots to paint was at Yellowstone National Park, when she worked there for several summers. She was always upbeat, energetic, and smiling. Will miss her.*

Angela Kammlah Hannon.

Angela K Hannon - May 21, 2021 at 01:58 PM



“ *I met Joyce when I moved to Clearbrook Trail in 2010; she lived a couple doors down from me and we served on the HOA's Board of Directors together for close to five years. We bonded over our shared alma mater and our love of arts and crafts, and on occasion she would have me over to “play” with paper and stamps (her words). Joyce was a special lady that I feel honored to have known.*

Karen Evon - May 17, 2021 at 07:17 PM



Miss.Joyce me and the kiddios is going to miss you!!!

Sonya Ward - May 21, 2021 at 08:19 AM

EB

“ Dear Ones- Joyce and my late husband Samuel Baethge were friends and classmates all through Fredericksburg schools. I am sorry to hear she has died. The life she created is beautiful, and I'm glad I got to know her. She was smart and funny and warm.

I know Joyce's daughters will increase her wonderful legacy of creativity and wisdom.

Thank you, Jesus, for giving her to us to know and to love.

Edwina R Baethge, San Marcos TX



Edwina Baethge - May 17, 2021 at 12:35 AM

TG

“ So sorry to hear of Joyce's passing. I was honored to be her flower girl. I don't really remember a lot about the wedding as I was only 5 years old. The one thing I do remember is the photographer taking pictures and he was always moving my feet!

Joyce's parents, Gus and Ruby were life long friends of my parents Lawrence and Gretchen Hartmann. My sympathy to you all.

Remember the good times! Love, Tuttie Hartmann Geistweidt

Tuttie Geistweidt - May 16, 2021 at 10:36 PM



I'm so sorry to learn of Joyce's passing. Heartbreaking.....

Becky Bryson - May 16, 2021 at 11:38 PM

AD

In memory of a life well lived and enjoyed I will make a donation to the Texas Art Education fund. May the good memories bring you comfort and peace.

Adrienne - May 17, 2021 at 04:40 PM

EZ

I am so thankful for letting my Dennis stay with you all when he first started working in Texas. I will miss you girls posting so I can keep track of my relatives. Rest in Peace.

ElVera Schnaenberg Zimmerschied - May 17, 2021 at 05:04 PM

CJ

When I think of Joyce I see her wonderful smile. She loved her family with her whole heart. Special thoughts and prayers for you all. Rest in Peace Joyce.

Carolyn Jatzlau - May 17, 2021 at 05:48 PM

RM

So sorry for your loss! We miss you here at school. Thinking of you!

Robin R Murphy - May 18, 2021 at 08:59 AM

BB

One of my fondest memories is lifting a glass of champagne to Joyce on her 65th birthday. We were at the bottom of the Grand Canyon on five-day rafting voyage. She gifted a watercolor to me the following Christmas: Of me in my life jacket silhouetted against the vastness of the canyon, as seen from the Colorado River. It hangs fondly in my home.

Brian Beals - May 18, 2021 at 03:48 PM

PA

I am so sorry to lose a long time best friend. We lived next door in Richardson TX in the mid 60s. Kim & my son Jeff grew up together. We got together crafting & our fav: drinking 'Annie Green Springs' Fond memories. Joyce's early paintings hang in my kitchen & family room. She'll never be forgotten.

Patty & Jim Van Allen - May 19, 2021 at 11:44 AM

KL

Thank you for all the sweet messages about Mom. Kim and I love knowing how y'all knew mom and the memories that you hold dearly. <3

kljanczak - May 23, 2021 at 11:07 AM

DL

Joyce and I were sisters of the heart and sisters of art. She always made everyone feel loved and important. She was a gifted teacher which she has passed on to her daughters as gifted teachers. She left the world a more beautiful place everywhere she went! My husband and I spent hours and hours together with her, laughing, cooking, playing games. Family was the most important part of her life and she adopted all of us as family. I loved her fiercely and she will be a model of great living and coping. She has added so much to all of us.

Don and Marilyn Lindholm - May 27, 2021 at 08:46 AM