

Mary Lou Malone

May 5, 1940 - March 17, 2024

"... always in our lives,
may we know we are loved;
may we share the love we have;
and may we be the love we wish to see."

Mary Lou Malone, 2017

Mary Louise (Lou) Malone (neè Liebaert), beloved Mother, Grandmother, sister, friend, teacher and community leader passed away on Sunday, March 17, 2024.

Mary Lou was born in 1940 in Rochester, Michigan to Edith and Andrew Liebaert. After graduating with honors from Lake Orion High School, she went on to earn her Bachelors of the Arts from the University of Michigan. She later earned a Master of Arts Degree from Central Michigan University.

In 1961, Mary Lou was inspired by Senator John F. Kennedys' speech at U of M announcing the formation of the Peace Corps. Mary Lou joined the Peace Corps in 1963 and served in the Philippines for two years. She was honored to be one of the earliest Peace Corps volunteers and remained close with many people in her group throughout her life.

In the late 1960s, Mary Lou moved to Detroit, Michigan and embarked on a

long teaching career. She taught 6th grade Language Arts and Reading at John Page Middle School in Madison Heights, Michigan for 34 years.

Mary Lou had two children: Andrew (b. 1972) and Matthew (b. 1975). During this time Mary Lou established herself as a grass roots community organizer by founding neighborhood empowerment groups and working with Focus:Hope and the League of Women Voters.

In 1977, Mary Lou became an enthusiastic member of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit and attended services regularly for 40 years. At First UU, Mary Lou cultivated many lifelong friendships plus served on numerous local and national UU leadership teams.

After retirement, Mary Lou contributed her time and resources to projects she felt passionate about. She was proud of her work with the Detroit Food Task Force, Moses, Great Lake Bioneers, Voices for Earth Justice, and the Detroit Community Growth Partnership amongst several others.

In her free time, Mary Lou loved traveling, knitting, reading, going to the movies and spoiling her grandkids.

Mary Lou is survived by her brother Stanley Liebaert and sister-in-law Melissa Liebaert; Mary Lou's sons Andrew Malone, Matthew Malone and daughter-in-law Elaine Jirkans; Mary Lou's grandchildren Julia Malone and Martin Malone, plus numerous cherished cousins and friends.

A visitation will be held at Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 705 W. 11 Mile Rd Royal Oak, MI 48067 on Thursday, March 21, 2024 from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM the family will take a short dinner break from 5-5:30 pm.

A celebration of life service will be hosted by First Unitarian Universalist

Church of Detroit, 4065 Cass Ave, Detroit, MI 48201

on Friday, March 22, 2024 at 11:00 AM, with a modest luncheon to follow.

In lieu of flowers, memorials appreciated to the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 21. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Funeral Service

MAR 22. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit
4065 Cass Ave
Detroit, MI 48201

Tribute Wall

SF

“It's no surprise to read of all Mary Lou's accomplishments. She was an impressive achiever starting back in high school, and apparently continued that pattern of giving quality service all through her life. My memories with her are few, since our paths didn't cross much. We did share time together on our senior trip, and she later wrote, "I probably wouldn't have survived the trip without my mother hen. Remember the train ride?" Does anyone remember the train ride? She obviously became a lot more courageous as the years passed.
Sheri (Allen) Fornell

Sheri Fornell - March 27, 2024 at 09:11 PM

DC

“When Mary Lou, Ed Fry, Jack Reed, and I graduated as the top 4 in our Lake Orion Community High School Class in 1958, we all went to the University of Michigan. At that time, unfortunately the expectations of and for young women were lower than they are now. Ed, Jack and I all got PhDs. Mary Lou could/should have gotten one too. I remember her fondly and am very pleased she found the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church, as have I. I will remember her in our service in Costa Mesa, California (Orange Coast UU Church) tomorrow morning. Dave Carlson, now a professor in the business schools of the University of California-Irvine and Chapman University



Dave Carlson - March 24, 2024 at 12:35 AM

DC

I remembered Mary Lou at yesterday's service at the Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church in Costa Mesa, California, during our "Ritual of Caring." Dave Carlson, Class of 1958, Lake Orion community High School

Dave Carlson - March 25, 2024 at 01:31 PM

RB

“ *Dear Family and Friends of Mary Lou Malone.*

I'm grateful to Mary Lou for having been a person who cared about social justice. She attended the first meeting of the Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network that was held on December 10, 2002 at Northwest UU Church. Her life affirmed our key UU value of respecting the worth and dignity of all people. Thank you Mary Lou!

Randy Block, Director, Michigan UU Social Justice Network

Randy Block - March 22, 2024 at 09:07 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Lou Malone.*



March 20, 2024 at 04:32 PM

AA

“ *Alex A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Lou Malone.*

Alex A. - March 20, 2024 at 04:32 PM



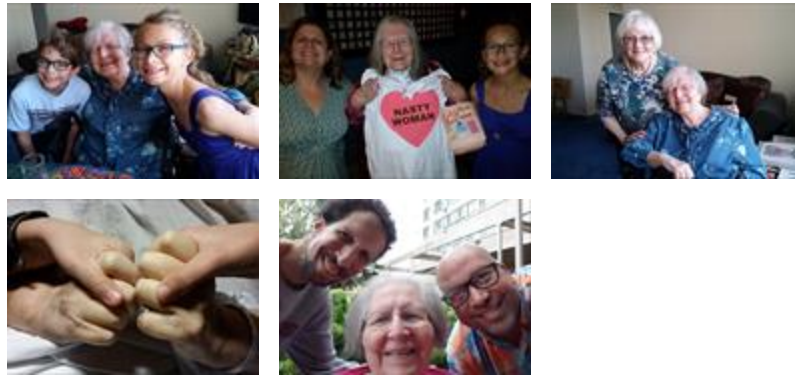
“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Lou Malone.*



March 20, 2024 at 07:49 AM



“ *14 files added to the album Family Photos*



Elaine Jirkans - March 19, 2024 at 09:34 PM



“ *Mary Lou was my first cousin and my first best friend. We grew up together on the same street. We played with our dolls, read books together. We organized a club house and tried to get our brothers to join. We wrote plays and bribed the boys to be actors along with our other cousins. We went to U of M together and lived in the same house on campus. How lucky I was to know this wonderful woman!*

Ann Wiltse Bonevich - March 19, 2024 at 07:26 PM