



Joyce Meacham Gingold

February 23, 1926 - October 15, 2020

Joyce Slocum Meacham Gingold – born in New York City February 23, 1926 – artist, sculptor, educator and journalist, died on Thursday, October 15, 2020 in Memphis, Tennessee at the age of 94.

Joyce had a most unusual upbringing, self-educated by books and never attending primary or secondary school. Through extraordinary self-will and a demonstrated intellect, she was accepted to and formally educated by the University of Georgia and later The Memphis College of Art (Memphis Art Academy). She taught art for over 40 years at St. Georges and St. Mary's Episcopal School where she was a mentor to countless students by creating an accepting and loving space for artistic passions to grow. Her students were her extended family. Joyce's first public exhibition of her creative sculpture was at the David Lusk Gallery in 2005. Her work was shown in a major exhibition at the Dixon Gallery and Gardens in 2014. Her first career in journalism was as an editor at Bobbs Merrill Publishing and later at The Charlotte Observer, The Charlotte News and The Gastonia Gazette and The Memphis Press-Scimitar. It was in Charlotte where Lester saw Joyce walking in the rain carrying a stack of books and offered her a ride which led to a 68 year marriage. Her love for writing and reading (and Lester) continued as she was the unofficial editor and publisher alongside him as he developed The Active Times and The Best Times newspaper.

An artistic soul, an original hippie feminist – authentic eccentric – she broke norms she didn't know existed. In the Fifties she could be seen riding her bike in East Memphis, in a dress – European style. Her chic yet simple fashion of long dresses and skirts gave her an iconic style that added to her unique presence. As an art teacher she would pile her students in the back of the school bus and make impromptu field trips to art museums and health food stores. She would often start class or any conversation with, "What did you dream last night?" Joyce and Lester lived up to their once personalized license plate "actives" as they made themselves frequent fixtures at art shows, health food stores, book stores, libraries, their beloved restaurant Paulette's, great grandchildren's sporting events, symphony, church, and numerous other civic activities She was never far from her late

husband Lester and usually with sculpting clay in hand.

She enjoyed vacationing on Cumberland Island, spinach smoothies, and her cats, but most of all, her family. She hated flying and disapproved of soft drinks. Never one to take pain meds or willingly see a doctor – she was a fighter to the end.

She was preceded in death by her children, Marion Fortas, Paul Meacham Gingold, and David Slocum Gingold and her husband of 68 years, Lester Frederic Gingold.

Joyce is survived by her daughter, Joy Bateman (Bill Anderson) and grandchildren: Miles Slocum Fortas (Ellen), Mason Gingold, David Gingold Jr., Anna Wunderlich (Ben), Brown Burch (Betsy), and William Bateman; great grandchildren: Jack Fortas, Will Fortas, Ben Wunderlich Jr., Alex Wunderlich, Bays Wunderlich, and Lucille Burch.

Other survivors include nephew Andrew Carnegie IV, niece Bebe Carnegie, and Brenda Narvin.

Remembrances to Church of The Holy Communion

Comments



“ On a whim I Googled Joyce Gingold. I am sorry to hear of her passing. I had many years of Art with her at SMS. She was the only teacher that allowed me to be, although, I did hide under the table from her occasionally. She inspired me to see the art, understand my creativity and embrace a gift that has led to many JOYous experiences in my life.

She had a marvelous life, gave in to no one that might try and label her. She was her own person and a hippie in and amongst a bunch of silly Preppie girls. Cheers Gingold! You were individual, accomplished and very groovy!

Ashley Sheridan - November 23 at 04:47 PM



“ i send my condolences to the family. i was a student of your mothers at st marys and she was not only my favorite teacher but the most impactful on my life. she taught me to stare and see things as they really were and to not give up when i was dissatisfied. of course her natural beauty and unique way that she carried herself through the day always kept me curious and interested as well. she will forever hold a special place in my heart. thinking of her and her family

Margie Bailey - October 18 at 02:27 PM



“ Dear Joy,

What a beautiful name, Joy.

Your mother was my art teacher at SMS for several years. She left an indelible mark on my soul, challenged how I saw the world and how deep I was willing to search for meaning. 25+ years after graduation, we met in a cafe in Memphis (she sculpting the clay she'd brought with her, and yes, in one of her simply beautiful 'hippy' linen dresses) and she took out a photocopy of a drawing I'd done about one of my dreams!! 'So, have you figured out this one?' she asked me with those piercing blue eyes and soft smile. She was magic and had deep organic intelligence. May you find peace and solitude with the passing of your mother. May her spirit breathe alive to keep you company. My heartfelt condolences.

Eppie Lunsford Ozen - October 18 at 10:21 AM



“ Joy,

I just want to tell you how sorry I am for the passing of your mother. I know how hard it was on you and the feelings you felt. Your Mom is now at peace, with your Dad and your

Siblings. Your mother was quite an amazing woman smart, eccentric but delightful and so creative and knowledgeable. May and your children and grandchildren find peace that she is with her loved ones and whole again. God Bless you. With heartfelt Sympathy and

Love. Sherri LeVine Steiger (WomansExchange)

sherri L. Steiger - October 17 at 06:17 PM