



Marie Brandt

April 10, 1933 - May 6, 2026

Marie Brandt, 93, of Minneapolis, MN, passed away peacefully on May 6, 2026. She was born on April 10, 1933 in Winnipeg, Manitoba to Eduard and Juliana Schmidtke. Marie grew up during the Depression in the backwoods southwest of Steinbach, Manitoba, where her father built a log cabin and hunted and trapped. She walked 3 1/2 miles to school each day, even during the Canadian winter. Marie was an excellent student and won the 1950 Manitoba Scholarship issued jointly by the Province of Manitoba and the University of Manitoba.

Marie married Edward Brandt in 1953. After they moved to the United States and started their family, Ed's work took them to several states and foreign countries. While raising four children, Marie packed up the house and moved the family numerous times within the U.S. and overseas. Over the years, the family lived in Minnesota, Tennessee, Maryland and Pennsylvania; and Munich, Bonn and Nuremberg in Germany; and Dacca in what is now Bangladesh (East Pakistan at the time). After returning to Minneapolis in 1967, Marie worked on Ed's political campaigns when he ran for State Legislature and served for 2 terms.

In the 1970s, Marie trained as a radiologic technician, earning her certificate in 1979 and her B.S. in Radiologic Technology in 1985. She was proud to be selected to work on the first CT scanners available in Minnesota, and became a specialist in that field. In 1984, she joined the Peace Corps at the age of 51 and was assigned to Jamaica. Marie set up the first CT scanner in that

country at the University Hospital of the West Indies and taught a class in Special Imaging. After returning from the Peace Corps, she was a founding member of the Minnesota Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Toastmasters Club (chartered in 2001) and served as its 2nd president.

Marie was a vibrant and energetic person with many interests. She loved meeting new people and learning about other cultures. She established "Marie's International House" to rent rooms in her home to international graduate students attending the University of Minnesota. She also loved music and dance, a love that was passed to her from her parents and grandparents at an early age. She carried those interests throughout her life. She was a member of the Rex Accordion Band (later called Accordion Memory Makers) for many years.

Several years after her husband's passing, Marie was contacted by Ed Lehan, an old friend from Jamaica whom she hadn't heard from since the 1980s. After that, he regularly visited her in Minneapolis, and their friendship eventually blossomed into a loving partnership that lasted until his death in 2022.

Marie is survived by children Rose, Eileen (Steve), and Douglas, her grandchildren Rachel (Austin) and Christine (Oren), and her great grandchildren Elora, Emery, and Ezra. She was preceded in death by her parents Eduard and Juliana, her husband Edward, her son Bruce, and her siblings Georgina (Maurice), Virginia (Björn), Kenneth (Betty), and Eloise (Larry).

A memorial service will be held on Friday, May 15, 2026 at 11am, with visitation one hour prior at Washburn-McReavy Hillside Chapel, 2610 19th Ave NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418, followed by luncheon and graveside service at Hillside Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the International Institute of Minnesota (iimn.org) or the Minnesota Historical Society (mnhs.org).

Marie was outgoing and friendly, and loved people. She made friendships and connections wherever she was. Her focus was always on helping and supporting others. Marie will be deeply missed by her family and the many

people she touched during her life.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 15. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Hillside Chapel
2610 19th Avenue N.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Memorial Service

MAY 15. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Hillside Chapel
2610 19th Avenue N.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Memorial Service for Marie Brandt in memory of Marie Brandt



Washburn-McReavy - May 08 at 09:24 AM



“ My sincerest condolences on the passing of your mother and grandmother.
Auntie Marie was truly special soul who shared her love, kindness and spirit with us all. My last memory of her was a conversation about the effects of climate change and global warming on her last visit to Winnipeg. Weeks later a parcel arrived in the mail from her. It was a box full of newspaper clippings qualifying her argument. That memory will always bring a smile to my face.
Rest in peace Auntie.
Garry Pinette- nephew

Garry Pinette - May 15 at 01:07 PM

DG

“ Marie touched the lives of so many people. She engaged in activities that brought her happiness and joy.

I remember lunches with her on her back patio sharing stories of friends, dance, old times, and good times.

I miss her already. Daniel Grundtner

Dan Grundtner - May 15 at 08:05 AM

VA

“ We will miss dear sweet Aunty Marie forever. We are heartbroken and saddened. She inspired us to be bold, curious, and try everything. She will be remembered for her kind, gentle ways and her ability to learn and grow always. We also loved all of our invigorating and interesting conversations in Minneapolis or Winnipeg! We are sending our most sincere condolences and prayers to all of the family.



valdine - May 13 at 07:04 PM

EJ

“ 81 files added to the album Marie's Memorial Photos



Eileen Johnson - May 08 at 07:11 PM