



## Marlene Fay Nalepka

May 7, 1947 - September 2, 2023

Marlene Nalepka (Carlson), aged 76, of Coon Rapids, passed away peacefully on September 2, 2023, surrounded by her loving family. Her life was a tapestry of loving and limitless creativity, intelligence, and spirit.

Born and raised in Minneapolis, she graduated with the class of 1965 from West High School. From her early days, Marlene's zest for life shone through, whether in her dedication to piano and choir performances, cruising town in her Impala or motorcycle; her pursuit of independence and mastery in her career and life was driven by a curiosity and a deep love for lifelong learning.

Marlene cherished her siblings, creating bonds that would last a lifetime. In 1972, she crossed paths with the love of her life, Jerry, and their union in 1976 marked the beginning of a beautiful journey. Together, they cultivated gardens, cheered for the Gophers, and became legendary hosts of epic Halloween parties.

A gifted seamstress, Marlene's nimble fingers stitched together wardrobes for friends and family, prom dresses, wedding gowns, and even outfits for her daughters' Barbie dolls. Her love for hosting shone through in holiday gatherings, family celebrations, and in their annual Halloween extravaganzas, where her handmade costumes were nothing short of spectacular.

As a mother, she was a gentle shepherd, setting an example and nurturing her children's love for music, art, gardening, and life's simple pleasures. Her lifelong wisdom extended a hand of guidance and compassion, knowledge and empathy. She cherished the beauty of a warm beach, had an eye for a good deal, and relished a well-made gin and tonic, with Tanqueray and a lime of course.

As a grandmother, Marlene adored spoiling her grandchildren during trips, events, and Wednesday church services. Whether watching movies, indulging in limitless treats, or just doing a crossword together - her love was always front and center.

Marlene was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend whose authenticity, humility, and eternal optimism left an indelible mark on all who knew her. She would want us to find happiness in each day, despite our sorrows, knowing that today is the only promise we have.

Marlene was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 45 years, Jerry, and her parents, Sophia and Leon Carlson. Left to cherish her memory are her daughters, Kristin (Tony) Newton and Katie Nalepka (Shane Sienko), and her treasured grandchildren, Joe, Alex, and Ceci Newton. She also leaves behind her sister, Barb Sroka (Neal Longerbone), and brothers, Bruce (Ellen) Carlson and Mark (Melissa) Carlson, along with numerous relatives and friends.

A service and celebration of Marlene's life will take place on September 22nd, 2023, at Faith Lutheran Church, 11115 Hanson Blvd NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433, with visitation an hour before the 11am service, followed by a luncheon.

Cards and memorials can be sent to Washburn-McReavy Coon Rapids

Chapel, 1827 Coon Rapids Blvd., N.W., Coon Rapids, MN 55433.

Marlene's memory will forever shine brightly in our hearts and her legacy of love and laughter will continue to inspire us all.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Marlene Fay Nalepka*.



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September 19, 2023 at 10:36 PM