

M.A. SINNHUBER



M.A. Sinnhuber (Mary Ann Kozusko Sinnhuber-Boltax-Martin) mother, wife, sister, friend, poet and artist, long time member of the Pittsburgh, PA art and creative writing community died peacefully and with grace on June 13, 2024, at the Hospice Community Care Center in Clearwater, FL, near to where she lived.

She was born in rural Allegheny Township, PA on her grandfather's farm. She

demonstrated entrepreneurial tendencies at an early age, selling used household items from a table in their front yard. Creative with words and images, she was a risk-taker, determined, dedicated, and artistic. Though shy, M.A. loved being with people, was a family-centered person and a life-long learner, who clung to education as lifeblood.

She married and became a single mother of four, who had to return to work, under extreme hardship, to support her family when her first husband, Warren Jack Sinnhuber and M.A. divorced. She qualified for a job at Pittsburgh's public television station, WQED, where she had been a volunteer and where for 20 years, she rose in skill and status to manage the Office of the President.

Throughout her tenure, M.A. continued making art and eventually grew her hobbies into small businesses. She knitted and sold 'Art Hats' on Etsy and boutiques in Pittsburgh. She quilted and sold 'My Favorite Teddy.' She was a sought-after seamstress and film-and-audio-transcriber, in addition to her 60 to 80 hour work week at WQED.

She met Dr. Alvin Boltax in 1980, and they married in 1985. When they retired in 1990, she began working for a steel executive on his extensive genealogy. She also studied art independently with nationally known artists as she traveled alone and with Dr. Boltax.

She was a ferocious and prolific student, studied art at Carnegie-Melon University, Chatham University, and the University of Pittsburgh. She was a member of the Pittsburgh Watercolor Society, The Pittsburgh Fiber Arts Society, where she exhibited her work. At Pittsburgh Carlow University she studied poetry with Madwomen in the Attic and had many poems published, along with her first chapbook, *The Leaving Field* and later, *Body of Stones* a full length book of poetry.

After Dr. Boltax' sudden death in 1997, she met Barry D Martin in 2000 and married in 2002. With her new husband as partner, she opened 'Art by MA' in Mount Lebanon, Pittsburgh, where she had a studio, gallery and taught children and adults. She considered her students to be part of her family, was an iconic and surrogate grandmother to many. She stayed in touch with several of her students who wrote essays about their time together as part of their school projects. She was an active member of Mt. Lebanon business community and arts organizations. When she moved to Clearwater, FL M.A. and Barry became active in their retirement community.

M.A. is bereaved by her husband, Barry Martin, whose steadfast devotion to her care, comfort and well-being was exemplary during M.A.'s long battle with heart disease. Also bereaved are her children: daughter, Teri Sinnhuber Stephens and husband Dr. Robert Stephens; son, Tim Sinnhuber and wife Susanne Worbois Sinnhuber; son, Ted Sinnhuber and wife Michelle Keller Sinnhuber; and daughter, Tessa Sinnhuber Debold; siblings: Judith Kozusko Spiering, Kathleen Kozusko Saylor, and Joseph Kozusko. Also bereaved are Barry Martin's family: Brian Foust, Sherry DeMar and Amanda Autry. Also, stepchildren Leslie Boltax Aizenman and husband Dr. Elias Aizenman, Nancy Boltax Gurman and husband Ronald Gurman and Jay Boltax. She is survived and bereaved by 20 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

M.A. is the daughter of the late Joseph A. Kozusko and Veronica Mary Slahtovsky-Kozusko of Leechburg, PA. M.A. was a member of the Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Clearwater and Saint Thomas More Catholic Church in Pittsburgh.

Memorial dinner will be held at Houlihan's in Mt. Lebanon, PA on Friday Aug. 2nd at 6 pm. Funeral Mass will be at St. Margaret Mary Church in Lower Burrell, PA. on Saturday Aug. 3rd at 10 am followed by a Madwomen in the Attic poetry reading at WQED in Pittsburgh at 6 pm featuring M.A.'s poetry.

M.A. and Barry were very impressed with Hospice over the last 1 1/2 years. Please commit to sending a donation to your local Hospice. Mail check to: Family Hospice, Development Department, 700 Bower Hill Road, Suite 1405, Pittsburgh, PA 15243 or call 412-572-8457.

Send condolences [post-gazette.com/gb](https://www.post-gazette.com/gb)