

HARRIET GRISWOLD MAHER



Age 93, died in her room at Paramount Senior Living in Bethel Park, PA, on December 27, 2024, due to complications from liver failure. She was born in Utica, NY, on April 11, 1931, to Laurence and Agnes Griswold.

She is survived by her sister, Sylvia (Griswold) Dow, of Bradford, NH. She is also survived by her daughter, Jane Maher, of Bethel Park, her son John Maher, of

Denver, NC, and her son Timothy Maher, of Somerville, MA, as well as Jane's husband, Robert Cobbett; John's wife, Martha Maher; and Timothy's wife, Susanne Althoff.

She is also survived by five grandchildren, Jane and Robert's sons Nathan Cobbett (and his wife, Joy LeViere) and Samuel Cobbett (and his wife, Katey Simon); John and Martha's daughter Christine Corbett (and her husband, Shane Corbett) and son, Jason Maher; and Timothy and Susanne's son, Henry Maher.

She is also survived by three great-grandchildren, Jacob, Ben, and Corinna, the children of Christine and Shane Corbett.

At age 17, Harriet was introduced to her future husband, Robert Maher, by her older brother, Laurence Griswold (the two young men were fraternity brothers at Union College in Schenectady, NY). Robert came around to visit Larry but soon found himself spending more time with Larry's sister Harriet. They dated while Harriet was a student at Oswego State Teachers College in Oswego, NY. Harriet later transferred to and received an early education degree from the State University College for Teachers at Buffalo, NY.

Robert and Harriet were married in 1953. He took a job with Alcoa, where he would work for the next several decades, and the two moved from Buffalo, NY, to Springfield, MA, to Sudbury, MA, and finally to Pittsburgh, where the two settled in nearby Bethel Park in 1958. Harriet would live in the house on Wells Drive for 65 years, until she moved into Paramount Senior Living in 2023.

In the early years of her marriage, Harriet held a series of jobs, including early education teacher in Buffalo and administrative worker at dictionary company Merriam-Webster in Springfield. She then turned her attention to being a devoted mother to Jane, John, and Tim.

Together with Robert and a number of other couples, she was also a cofounder of Sunnyhill, the Unitarian Universalist Church of the South Hills, in Mount Lebanon. She taught Sunday school and did some bookkeeping for the church.

In midlife she started taking classes at Community College of Allegheny County. An accounting class brought out her love of math, and soon she found herself studying algebra, calculus, and trigonometry. She was a popular tutor for several years at Sylvan Learning Center and also did private tutoring.

While teaching her youngest son to ride a bike, Harriet got interested in bicycling herself. She and her husband became devoted members of Western Pennsylvania Wheelmen and did many long bike rides. She was especially proud of having ridden a "century" - a 100-mile ride on a single day.

They loved socializing, especially playing bridge with their wide group of friends from Sunnyhill.

Harriet loved the beach, and she and Robert took many trips with extended family members to Rehoboth Beach in Delaware. She and Robert celebrated their 50th anniversary in Rehoboth, and her grandson Nathan married his wife, Joy, on the beach there.

Robert passed away in 2008. In Harriet's later years, she enjoyed Sudoku, puzzle books, and playing an improvised game called "friendly Scrabble" with her grandson Henry.

The family is planning a private memorial event. In lieu of flowers please send donations to the Unitarian Universalist Church of the South Hills or Habitat for Humanity.



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