

# MARY MARGARET (ROGEL) MEISING



Age 92, of Plum, passed away peacefully, on Sunday, January 2, 2025. Born to Joseph and Frances Rogel, on Christmas Eve 1932, she grew up in Lawrenceville, attending St. Augustine's all girls Catholic grade and high school. The daughter of the church organist/school music teacher, everyone knew her and her family, which is likely why the Sisters felt they needed to lay down a harsh punishment when she and

her older sister, Jane, came home very late after a school dance. That year, the school had no senior prom. It may be why she was never late for an appointment or meeting the rest of her life. Professionally, she started her career as a bookkeeper in the finance department at Hofstetter Cadillac. It was there that she met her husband. As he was leaving her his phone number, dressed in muddy work boots and wearing clothes reflecting a hard day's work, her supervisor asked if he could escort the man out. They went on their first date that same night and were married six months later. She said once she met Jim Meising, all of the other ones meant nothing. After, they married on April 4, 1959 and took a three week honeymoon across the United States and she settled in as chief financial officer to Jim Meising, builder. She came home to a stack of over 80 past-due bills and helped grow his business in an era when many builders went bankrupt. She became a landlord, managing over a dozen properties up until her passing. She prepared their income taxes long-hand each year, having an accountant review her work. After outliving that accountant and his son, she did them herself up until age 90. Living at 480 New Texas Road for over 70 years, she considered Plum Borough home. Everyone who had the pleasure of working for Jim or having work done by Jim knew Mary. Everyone loved her. She was known for whipping up the best sandwiches at any time of the day or night. Her way of noticing a new hairdo or a sharp outfit, her sincerity and positivity were as much a part of her as her trademark red lipstick and stylish eyeglasses. Her smile was genuine, even when Parkinson's overtook her body the last two years. She met Jim buying a Cadillac and in her 80's she drove an 8 ft. bed Dodge Ram pick-up truck. There was nothing she wouldn't do for Jim's comfort. I believe she earned her wings and became a saint in the 30 years she cared for him after he lost his eyesight. Mary hosted a Christmas feast for decades for her large family and those that tagged along. Woven in our Christmas nostalgia are the trademarks she put on the holiday-her impeccably decorated tree, fresh from nature and not at all standard shape, her mantle bubble lights and boxes of B & E chocolates. One year, she became so attached to the pine cone tree that started growing, that she kept it up until Valentine's Day. After a frenzy of Santa presents, she settled into a day preparing for 10, 15, 40 guests. Side by side with her sisters and her mom, their laughter was the soundtrack of the holiday, along with the impromptu choir that gathered around the fireplace. The many dear friends that made life full, and family that were her treasures. Her son, John (Amanda) Meising of Wasilla, Alaska; her daughter, Karen (Alan) Toth of Plum; and her grandchildren, brought many happy years-she seemed to get younger when they arrived. She had energy for piggy back rides, rocking babies for hours and playing anything they wanted. She adored each one of them, Christian Toth (currently living in Nagasaki, Japan), Nate Toth, Julia Toth and Charlotte Meising all of Plum Borough; her sister, Jane Amy of Lutherville Md.; her brother, David (Carol) Rogel of Fredericksburg, VA; her brother-in-law, Richard Fornof of Northridge, CA; and her many nieces and nephews all had a special place in her heart. Long before she became a mother, she showered her love and attention on the children around her. They in turn, gave that love to her, sending cards of encouragement in her last years that brought her joy. An extra special thanks to Diane O'Brien, Bonnie Grossi and Gina Gilmore, for being support caregivers in these last few years and last days. You are all angels to give of yourselves and she greatly enjoyed your company. Knowing she was in loving hands, made it possible for her daughter to attend field trips, move her daughter into her first dorm at college and take her son to Washington when he moved. Mary had friendships with neighbors that spanned generations. Philip and Arlene Miller and Keith Miller, Audrey and Tom Glunt and Joann and Chris Karkowsky, Bill and Elma, she loved you all very much. Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Jim Meising, just two short years ago, almost to the day. It's no surprise that they have found their way back to each other. In heaven's "family room" she will be greeted by her sisters, Bibe Grossi and Lillian O'Brien; brother, Robert Rogel; brothers-in-law, Edward Meising, James Grossi and Daniel O'Brien; and sisters-in-law, Ruth Fornof and Louise Meising. Friends will be received from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., on Thursday, at **MAURICE L. KNEE, LTD. FUNERAL HOME**, 7663 Saltsburg Rd., Plum, PA 15239. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m., on Friday, at St. John the Baptist R. C. Church of Holy Family Parish. Interment will follow in Plum Creek Cemetery.

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