

# MARY ELIZABETH STERNER MYERS



Mary Elizabeth Sterner Myers, of Pittsburgh, PA, died on Tuesday January 14, 2025, after a brief illness.

Mary Lib, as she preferred to be called, was born on September 28, 1943, to Charlotte and George Sterner. She grew up in the small town of Dewart, PA. As a child and teenager she worked alongside her grandparents, parents and younger sisters at the family grocery and dry goods business, Sterner's General Store, developing her strong work ethic while learning about the importance of charity and compassion for those in need.

Mary Lib majored in English at Davis and Elkins College in Elkins, WV, where she made enduring friendships and was a member of the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. She continued her graduate study of literature at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA.

After her studies, Mary Lib moved to the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, D.C., with several college friends, working as a researcher at the Institute of International studies at the U.S. Office of Education. While living there, she was introduced to gourmet and traditional French cooking styles, sparking what would become a lifelong desire to enjoy and create exquisite food with a mix of precision and occasional chaos. In Washington, she met Philip Howard Myers, to whom she was married on November 9, 1968, until his death in 2000.

The newly married couple moved to Philip's hometown of Boston, MA, where Mary Lib experienced yet another form of cuisine from her new husband's family, traditional Jewish foods. In their small apartment kitchen Mary Lib, assisted by Philip in his chef's hat, explored the new cooking styles with the help of their Julia Child cookbook. After giving birth to their only child, Timothy, in Rochester, NY, the young family lived in Baltimore, MD, before settling in Pittsburgh in 1976. Shortly thereafter, she began working at the Squirrel Hill Bookstore, where she made some of her most significant and lasting local friendships. In the 1980s, Mary Lib's love of food and cooking also led her to begin working for her neighbor's catering business, eventually starting her own and catering many small parties and events.

Mary Lib continued to feed her love of learning throughout the years by taking extensive coursework at Chatham University, The University of Pittsburgh and The Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Constantly culturally curious, generous, stubborn, opinionated, argumentative, and always passionate in her pursuits, Mary Lib was an omnivorous reader, inspired cook, and bon vivant, enjoying classical music recitals, and attending theatre, cinema, symphony, art galleries, and opera houses near and far. She was in particular a devotee of Wagner's Ring cycle, of which she attended several performances in various cities. She loved entertaining and cooking for friends and family, for whom she could be fiercely loyal, while also combustibly confrontational. Mary Lib will be especially remembered for the legendary New Year's Eve parties she hosted with Philip for over 30 years at their home in Squirrel Hill.

Mary Lib is survived by her son; sister, Susan Sterner (Audie); niece, Christine (Brian); and nephew, Leonard (Tracy); sister, Mary Louise Sterner Moses; brother-in-law, Matthew Kubiak; niece, Caroline Kubiak; nephew, Andrew Kubiak (Marlene); and grand-nieces and grand-nephews, Abigail, Brendan, Erin, Nicholas, Rachel and Sarah; and sister-in-law, Judith Myers and her family. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; and sister, Christine Kubiak.

A donation in Mary Lib's memory to the East End Cooperative Ministry in Pittsburgh, PA, is suggested.

A memorial service will be held at Sixth Presbyterian Church, 1688 Murray Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15217, on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at 11:30 am. Mary Lib's ashes will be interred at the Sterner family burial plot in Watsontown, PA, at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to the **EDWARD P. KANA FUNERAL HOME**, 500 Greenfield Ave. 15207.

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