

Dorothy "Dody" J. Many



Dorothy J. Many, 88, died peacefully at home on December 1st, 2018. Dody, daughter of Clarence and Mabel Jones, grew up in the rural town of Minerva, NY where she harnessed goats to a cart, rode the cows, helped with farm chores and squabbled with her beloved sister Rusty. Dody would join the boys' team in a version of softball at recess. She loved sports, especially basketball in a day when, in her senior year, a State law forbade women and girls from playing inter-school games for public viewing. Summers were full of cousins and backpacking trips in the Adirondack high peaks region during her teen years.

Dody graduated from Keuka College in 1951. She married Wallace Many, raised four children, sang grace at meals, sang on roadtrips and around campfires, and sang in church choirs and with the Sweet Adelines. She was Reader Extraordinaire of Winnie the Pooh. Dody was a suburban homemaker and homesteader--tending garden, orchard, berries, grapes, a lean-to in the Wild Patch. She was a lover of bluebirds and all birds, and family genealogy. She sewed down sleeping bags and brought her family backpacking in the Adirondacks of her youth.

When all her children were in school, Dody became a breadwinner, first as a school teacher and then as graphic artist at the Connecticut State Library until her retirement. Dody eventually divorced amicably, and later married Selena Blackwell. Active in Gay and Lesbian Coalition, Dody was instrumental in propelling her UCC congregations to become Open and Affirming in Middletown (CT), Windsor (CT), and Belfast (ME). In her final years Dody lived with her daughter Maria in Belfast, Maine. Dody was a member of the Waldo County YMCA where she was well-known for her daily workouts in the weight room well past 88 years of age.

Dody is survived by Wallace Many of Middletown, CT; Selena Blackwell of Waukegan, IL; sister Evelyn (Rusty) Kotula of Rabun Gap, GA; children Ellen Falbowski (Alex) of Haddam, CT; Maria Gail of Belfast, ME; Peter Many (Karin) of Hannover, Germany; and David Many (Michelle) of Red Cliff, CO; and grandchildren Lauren, Ted, Anne, Galen, Kim and Nils. Dody requested a memorial service with music be held at her church at a later date.

Dody donated generously to social justice and environmental causes; to LGBTQ, African American and Native American groups; and to her church. Please consider donating in her memory to a cause that brings meaning to your life.

A collection of photographs of Dody throughout her life will be posted to her facebook page.