



Marian Sylvia Horowitz
September 27, 1948 – January 22, 2020

Marian Horowitz was born in Detroit to Magda and Fred Paul Herman, who were refugees of the Holocaust from Czechoslovakia. In 1941 they fled to Manila in the Philippines and Fred Paul took employment with the U.S. Army. Fred Paul Herman was a survivor of the Bataan Death March and was a prisoner of war in the Bilbid Prison and Magda was interned by the Japanese with other European women and children until the Philippines were liberated by the U.S. military in 1945. For his service to assist other prisoners of war, Fred Paul Herman was awarded the American Medal of Freedom in 1946. Marian graduated from Dearborn High School in 1966.

Marian is survived by her daughter, Ann J. Horowitz of Midland, Michigan; her brother John Herman, of Dearborn, Michigan, and her husband, Richard Douglass, of Ann Arbor. For more than 25 years she successfully, and lovingly, co-parented her daughter with her first husband and lifelong friend, a journey that included trips abroad and joint holidays.

After high school Marian remained at home to care for her chronically-ill mother while she completed her bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. She subsequently earned a Master's degree in English from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Marian was a lifelong learner. She became qualified as an English as a Second Language (ESL) instructor after retirement. She also completed all coursework for the Ph.D. at Michigan State University.

After college Marian Horowitz worked as a copy editor for the Detroit News and then as a technical and public relations writer at the Michigan Cancer Foundation, where she met, and married her first husband, Dr. Samuel Horowitz. Within institutional settings, and as a devotee to good English, for more than thirty years, she edited books, scientific articles (appearing in *Science*, *Nature*, and *the African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development*), scores of grant applications and graduate papers and dissertations. Many well-published friends and colleagues owe their publication histories to her editorial eye.

Through her professional career Marian submerged herself in teaching, engaging young learners and working for the best interests of children and young adults. She believed in excellent, public education. She began teaching as an elementary and middle school teacher, then gained experience in higher education administration at Washtenaw Community College and Michigan State University. Marian returned to elementary education as a principal, an assistant superintendent, and finally as a curriculum director. In retirement Marian taught professional writing in the College of Health and Human Services at Eastern Michigan University and at Ashesi University in Berekuso, Ghana, West Africa.

Marian was known for her love of children, books, baking and helping others. She defined her happiest moments to those fully involved with service to others and the greater good. She was actively involved with the League of Women Voters, AARP-Michigan, several organizations serving immigrant and asylum-seeking people, Palestinian rights, indigent children in Kenya, Ghana and India, progressive political causes, women's rights, and many others. Her intense interest in Ghana, West Africa began when she volunteered administrative services to the FOCOS Orthopedic Hospital in Accra, Ghana in 2008.

Marian connected with babies and children, and few children ever left her house without a bagful of books to take home. One of her "quiet missions" was to acquire children's books from local charity and resale shops, clean them, and then maintain a supply of these resources to

give away. She called her "giving library" "Marian's Kinder-Bucherregal".

Marian married Richard Douglass in Ann Arbor in 2012 and formed a partnership that expanded both of their lives. Marian and Richard established a devotion to life of service and happiness as a couple. Including hosting several Youth for Understanding exchange students. His children and grandchildren became hers. She celebrated births with a joy that all children should witness. Her daughter and family, including her beloved Sam, became his family too. Marian and Richard became a team, teaching college students in Ghana, Kenya, and at Eastern Michigan University. They both contributed to leadership and community service through the AARP-Michigan state office and were involved in immigrant and asylum-seeker rights and sanctuary protection in Ann Arbor. And, they opened their home to international students and guests who they adopted into their constantly expanding embrace.

Marian also knew how to play. She was a talented ballroom dancer, she loved sailing in Tawas Bay, Michigan with Richard, and kayaking anywhere there was water. She became a devoted gardener and transformed her yards to bountiful vegetable and flower gardens every year. She delighted in sewing or knitting "special things" for grandchildren, and quilted heirloom quilts that will provide a warm legacy to the family in the future. Her seasonal cookie extravaganza supplied holiday sweets to everyone she knew.

Most significantly, Marian knew how to love and to care about the state of the world. Her presence changed the ways that those around her lived; the lessons she shared made it more possible to live with resilience, hope, and dedication to a life of meaningful mission in a challenging world. She did not tolerate hypocrisy or cruelty by any organization or person, but she also sought justice and peace with intensity as demonstrated by her service and political volunteer work.

After her cancer diagnosis in October 2014, Marian threw herself into volunteering for the causes she cared about, connecting with the Cancer Support Community in Ann Arbor, participating in national

cancer forums of the LUNGenvity Foundation, spending high quality time with adult children, grandchildren, and many friends at a second home in Tawas City, and seeking ways to remain a community presence even as cancer became a dominant factor of daily life. As her cancer progressed Marian delighted in meeting the dogs, and their people, that walked by her Water Hill neighborhood home in Ann Arbor, collecting vegetables from her garden, Facetiming with family, and being an advocate for people without a voice. She remained active and engaged until two days before she succumbed to cancer in her 19th week of hospice care.

Marian's family will host a memorial service in Ann Arbor in February and a second memorial service at Ashesi University in Berekuso, Ghana in October.

Donations in honor of Marian Horowitz may be made to:

The Cancer Support Community - Greater Ann Arbor
Cancersupportannarbor.org

The LUNGenvity Foundation
Lungenvity.org

Days for Girls
Daysforgirls.org

The Ashesi University Foundation
Ashesi.org