



Mary Ruth Woerner

July 16, 1928 - June 1, 2023

Mary Ruth Woerner, 94, of Lenexa, Kansas, passed away on Thursday, June 1, 2023. Mary was born on July 16, 1928, in Concordia, Kansas, the daughter of William and Dr. Ruth Patrick Spiegel. She grew up in rural Jewell County, KS.

Mary was an accomplished pianist and taught lessons in her home for more than 50 years. After graduating Formoso High School at age 16, she went to Boston to study piano at the New England Conservatory of Music, and then returned to Kansas to finish her degree at the Kansas City Conservatory of Music (UMKC). It was at this time she met and married Donald Woerner. Through their life together, Mary and Don had three daughters: Elizabeth, Kathy and Nancy, and lived in Topeka, KS, and Springfield, IL. The family returned to Kansas City in 1972, where they bought the home where they lived for the rest of their lives.

Mary & Don became members of St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church in 1972. Mary served many years on the Altar Guild, 25 of those as Sacristan. She was a member of P.E.O. Chapter FN, Mission, Kansas.

Mary is preceded in death by Donald and Elizabeth. She is survived by her sister, Joyce Cashman; daughters and sons-in-law, Kathy & Mark Jackson and Nancy Lee & Clint Percy; grandchildren, Shawn Jackson and Cameron Jackson and his wife, Megan Jackson; and two great-grandchildren, Hannah and Logan.

Both Mary and Don, for their end of life care, chose to donate their bodies to

science. This was both from a desire to give as much as possible to this life and in honor of Mary's mother, Ruth, who was one of the first female physicians who graduated from University of Kansas School of Medicine. They chose the same institution to receive this gift. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the church or to P.E.O. Chapter FN, in care of Marilyn Beohm, 13860 Metcalf Ave., Apt. 22320, Overland Park, KS 66223.

<https://www.kumc.edu/school-of-medicine/office-of-medical-education/facilities-and-resources/willed-body-program.html>

Live stream Mary's service at 2pm Thursday 6/8/23:

<https://youtube.com/@StthomasOP>

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Ruth Woerner*

October 08, 2023 at 10:59 AM



“ *I was fortunate enough to study piano with Mrs. Woerner for about ten years, spending every week with her and then waiting while my little sister also took her lesson. Mrs. Woerner was a consummate musician, a kind and patient teacher, and taught me many lessons about life in general. I'll never forget the thoughtful way she would raise an eyebrow, think, and then comment on whatever I'd just played, whether well prepared or not. I will miss knowing that she is part of our world. She has made such a beautiful difference in so many lives.*

Elise Harrington Schowalter - June 08, 2023 at 04:08 PM



Thanks for this Elise <3

Nancy Lee - June 30, 2023 at 06:37 PM