



Mary Greeley

August 23, 1941 - February 18, 2017

Mary Greeley, 75, died February 18, 2017. She was born August 23, 1941 in Jersey City, NJ.

After an extended illness, Mary peacefully succumbed to lung cancer in the presence of her loving family.

Mary grew up in Jersey City, NJ, and on Staten Island, NY. She lived in Point Pleasant, NJ, Cheyenne, WY, and in Ft. Collins, CO. Mary attended Port Richmond High School on Staten Island, Bellevue Nursing School in NYC and served in the Women's Army Corps (WACs), where she received an honorable discharge.

Her medical career included work as a phlebotomy lab technician on Staten Island, NY, and at the Nuclear Medicine Laboratory in Ft. Collins, as well as an allergy technician and medical records staff. In addition, she was active as a substance abuse counsellor in CO. She also co-owned and managed Ted's Place in Poudre Canyon.

Mary is survived by her family: daughter, Barbara Lynn Becker of N. Dakota, mother, Stella. M. Greeley of Bellvue, CO; sisters, Lillian Greeley of Cambridge, MA and Stella M. Mason and her husband, Jack, of Sarasota, FL; her brother, Robert G. Greeley, II and his wife, Aggie, of Bellvue, CO; her

special friend, David Mahan of Denver, CO; and two grandchildren, Reil Nicole Becker of OH, and Walter Becker of Boulder, CO.

Mary's zest for life touched many, especially her family and those whose lives she brushed and the many lives she helped.

Besides animal care, her interests included her beloved pets, including her devoted dog, Tigger, and her beloved Arabian horse, Princess Ariel, as well care for wild animals, including foxes, cats, squirrels, raccoons, and others, which seemed to be reciprocated.

Years ago, when Mary was hospitalized, one of her wild foxes appeared and sat on a flat roof outside her hospital room, presumably to keep vigil over Mary for days, to the astonishment of all. During her last days, her dog, Tigger, kept close watch and contact with her for days, until finally, at the time of Mary's death, he laid his head on her shoulder and continued to keep vigil over her.

Mary's other interests included crafts, especially bead, leather and metal mediums, as well as knitting, sewing and crocheting. She was also deeply committed to Alcoholics Anonymous and authored two books in the field, *Alcoholism as an Allergy* (1996) and *Emily, I Miss You* (2000).

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017, at 1:00 PM at the Bohlender Funeral Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Larimer Humane Society, Fort Collins Cat Rescue, American Lung Cancer Society, or to a charity of your choice in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524.

REMEMBERANCES

Please leave your remembrances under "Share a Memory". Thank you.

From Lillian Greeley, Sister:

On our 16th birthday, Mary had ridden over to her boyfriend's home on his Vespa scooter from Staten Island to the upper west side of Manhattan. (His father was a professor at Columbia and he and his wife, Gene and Franchesca, wrote the song, "Those were the days, my friend."). Well, when they got to his home, his parents were having a party and Theodore Bikel (Tevye in the musical, Fiddler on the Roof) was a guest. When he found out that it was Mary's birthday, he sang Happy Birthday to her, another of her wild New York escapades, along with the time that we, about 18 years old, drove up the West Side Highway on her scooter and mistakenly got off in Harlem on a Saturday night.

A group of Mary's colleagues at Staten Island Hospital went to a cocktail party at the Pakistani embassy in NYC. We met up with another friend who organized us to have dinner together, so we all grouped down to the Four Seasons Restaurant. In our party were a Cuban doctor and a Philippino doctor, who had on traditional dress clothes, white organdy dress shirts, worn open-necked. The maître de didn't want us to come in. There was a tie shop close by so we got some ties and tried again, but he still wouldn't let us in. At that point we decided to get some Spanish food in the Village, and our organizer, who was Pervez Musharraf, later to become the President of Pakistan, and we had a good time there.

From David Rhodes, Former Nephew-in-Law (and President of the Bank of Bahrain):

When I first met Mary, she was living in a teepee. That was a first for me. The ride in the back of her van, up and down hilly winding roads, seemed a

metaphor for life, particularly because the van lacked seat belts and properly functioning brakes. She wanted to make sure we saw some of the best views and had memorable experiences while we were together. And we did.

Another first was riding bareback. She insisted I ride her horse and seemed completely unfazed by my lack of experience. I quickly realized that when you are riding bareback and a horse starts to buck, there is nothing to hold onto except your fear. It would have been nice to know in advance that the horse and the llama corralled together we're having relationship issues. I never thought to ask if they were getting along or whether or not the horse was in a good mood to be ridden.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB **25**. 1:00 PM (MT)

Bohlender Funeral Chapel
121 W. Olive Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524
(970) 482-4244
<https://www.bohlenderfuneralchapel.com/>

Tribute Wall

KL

“*Mary, I miss you so much. You were my friend in Fort Collins Colorado. Your loving Spirit and kind smile will always be a part of my life.*



Karen Loos Lecourt - July 24, 2022 at 04:00 PM

 Terri Jay

“*Mary you will forever live on in the hearts and memories of all you touched... I am and will always be grateful for you... Without you my Mom, best friend, mentor. Would have still been lost in the life of booze. You were her sponser for 20+ years. Thank you Mary.. Be Blessed, gone ,never ever forgotten.... I pray the Lord wraps your family in Hus arms and heals their hearts.*

Terri Jay - February 26, 2017 at 04:45 PM

HB

“*Dear Stella, Barbara and all of Mary's family,*

*I wasn't up to comin to Mary's service today but I thought about her and you at that time. I offer my heartfelt sincere sympathy to all of you and pray for the Lord to comfort and hold you in His tender loving arms and care. You're in my prayers with. Christian love,
Harriet Kittel Bliss*

Harriet Bliss - February 25, 2017 at 07:52 PM

BD

“ *Brenda Day*

I had a ceramic cat that was smashed into little pieces during shipping. She wanted to fix it for me. I gave her all the pieces and a few days later I got the cat back, beautifully put back together. When I look at this cat, I think of her and her love for cats, dogs, horses and all creatures. She loved to make little things for people and always gave of herself. Always wise in her counsel, I will miss that the most. Mary, have a blast up there! Sending you lots of Love, Brenda

Brenda Day - February 24, 2017 at 09:49 PM

SM

“ *Stella Mason*

One of my first memories was my dear sister Mary gathering many of her friends to go with us to see Bambi. I was only 5 and she made me feel like a princess - out with my older sister and her friends..popcorn, soda, candy - she knew to have a good time. Mary bought me my first complete makeup kit (she was always fashionable) and showed me how to apply makeup (the cutting edge at my school). While working at a hospital, Mary brought home co=workers who had no families in the United States to live with us (and some of them brought their family members). Mary was full of surprises and Mom always went along with anything - "it's Mary's way..." Mary loved all animals and would always lend a hand to those in need. She gave back life to many whose paths happened to cross hers. Mary had a most generous heart and knew the essence of true love and value in people and things. Mary was an extraordinary generous, compassionate sister and we were very blessed to have Mary in our lives.

Stella Mason - February 24, 2017 at 10:48 AM

MA

“ Mary was my neighbor, my best friend, confidant, spirital sister and sponcer of 12 years, we spent a lot of time sharing so many stories and praying ,lots of laughter and tears. we shared many meals , she loved burger king. I am truly gonna miss this beautiful lady. who inspired me in my life.we used to joke cuz we are both virgos and hung around the same people back in the day but never met. we went to many meetings and she always gave me my chip cuz she loved to call me by my native spirital name. we did ceremonies together she loved our ways. So today I celebrate her life even tho I have tears in my eyes. I loved her like my only sister and I will miss her RIP Mary. To her beautiful daughter I have lots of love for you, my condolences to the family. from her sister Sa Gay Luta Wi



MARIE - February 24, 2017 at 10:28 AM

BG

“ I remember when I was writing songs (in addition to trying to make a living) and Mary heard a couple of them. She always wanted things yesterday and kept bugging me to write a song for her. I finally put something together for her (named "The Sunshine") and when I played it for her, she listened to it, had a strange look on her face, and then she cried. Never forget that moment. When she was in her final days, one day, I leaned over her and recited the words so she could hear, and she smiled-I will never forget that moment, either. Rest in eternal peace, my Sister.....Bob..

Bob Greeley - February 23, 2017 at 09:16 AM

RJ

“ Dearest Aunt Mary...my family and I have so many fond memories of you while we were growing up. My wife, children and granddaughter will miss visiting you on our trips to Colorado. Rest in peace, may our family find comfort in all the great memories you have left us.

Love Rob, Kendra, Kenny, Savannah, Rylynn, Ariel and Garrison Greeley

Robert Greeley Jr - February 23, 2017 at 09:16 AM

EH

“ Dear Mary's Family and Friends,

Although I only met and saw Mary a handful of times over the last few years, I need you to know that her love and light will continue to shine brightly in my life. She offered me great hope and joy. I am saying prayers for you and family.

Elaine Holmes - February 22, 2017 at 10:53 AM

ME

“ Marie Engle lit a candle in memory of Mary Greeley



marie engle - February 22, 2017 at 09:18 AM

DR

“ From David Rhodes, Former Nephew-in-Law (and President of the Bank of Bahrain):

When I first met Mary, she was living in a teepee. That was a first for me. The ride in the back of her van, up and down hilly winding roads, seemed a metaphor for life, particularly because the van lacked seat belts and properly functioning brakes. She wanted to make sure we saw some of the best views and had memorable experiences while we were together. And we did.

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David Rhodes - February 21, 2017 at 01:16 PM

LG

“ A group of Mary's colleagues at Staten Island Hospital went to a cocktail party at the Pakistani embassy in NYC. We met up with another friend who organized us to have dinner together, so we all grouped down to the Four Seasons Restaurant. In our party were a Cuban doctor and a Philippino doctor, who had on traditional dress clothes, white organdy dress shirts, worn open-necked. The maitre de didn't want us to come in. There was a tie shop close by so we got some ties and tried again, but he still wouldn't let us in. At that point we decided to get some Spanish food in the Village, and our organizer, who was Pervez Musharraf, later to become the President of Pakistan, and we had a good time there.

Lillian Greeley - February 21, 2017 at 01:15 PM

LG

“ *From Lillian Greeley, Sister:*

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Lillian Greeley - February 21, 2017 at 01:14 PM