



Gloria Laresen

May 2, 2021

Gloria Larsen, of West Hartford and West Hill Pond, CT and Cape Coral, FL. March 27, 1928 to May 2, 2021. Gloria follows her husband Henry (Hank) Larsen to the other side 20 years to the day. She leaves behind, her son, Erik Larsen, daughter-in-law, Mary Frances and beloved granddaughter, Katherine; and her daughter, Chris Larsen Nelson and son-in-law, John. Gloria also leaves behind a plethora of friends, cousins, nieces and nephews, sons and daughters of the heart who love her and she loved back. Gloria was born and raised in Woodbridge, NJ by her Sicilian immigrant parents with sisters Dorothy and Sylvia who have also preceded her. Her father, Luigi Cannilla, an architectural sculptor, was her first art instructor and told her that if she was to study art, it should be something at which she could make a living. Gloria attended Parsons School of Design in NYC, for Textile Design. Her first job was designing the prints for silk ties at a NYC firm. Hank and Gloria knew each other at Woodbridge High and reconnected when he returned from the Pacific Theater of WWII. They married September 3rd of 1949 and moved to the Boston area while Hank finished his studies at the New England Conservatory of Music. They then moved to the Hartford area for his job at the Julius Hartt School of Music on Broad Street. Gloria attended the Hartford Art School at the Wadsworth Atheneum. The two schools became part of the University of Hartford when it was formed in the early 60's. In 1963, Hank and Gloria moved to West Hartford and their careers solidified. Hank taught at the Hartt School, played in the Hartford Symphony and "gigged out"

with both the Landerman Band and the Jarvis Booking Agency playing everything from Opera to Klezmer. Meanwhile, Gloria finished her MA in Art Education while teaching Art at Windsor High School. Gloria continued to study different techniques and skills and then introduced them to her students, adding new disciplines to the curriculum. Often the pieces done for her homework would be her examples made in class for the students. She took a sabbatical year to study computer generated design. Jewelry, sculpture in wood and clay or metal, oil paint, watercolor, printmaking, etchings, collage and assemblage; shape and color were her passion. Both being teachers, they had a life full of art, music and travel. Once retired, Gloria continued her art belonging to three art guilds in the Cape Coral area, contributing to every art show available. She joked that she either sold a piece or won an award in every show she entered, but never both. Hank and Gloria made themselves a great life. Gloria's death, however peaceful, was a long haul due to the Dementia that finally took her. The family will be forever grateful to the exceptional and compassionate care given at Hughes Health & Rehabilitation - especially during the Covid year. There will be a memorial art show at a future date. Visit her Facebook page to view some of her work.