



Mary Maxwell Forsyth Scharf

NOV 21, 1946 - JAN 26, 2025



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Mary Scharf, 78, a beloved educator, devoted mother, and accomplished musician, passed away peacefully on January 26, 2025, near her home in Delaware.

Born at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore on November 21, 1946, Mary grew up attending Immanuel Lutheran Church, where she formed cherished lifelong friendships.

A graduate of Western High School, the Peabody Conservatory, and Johns Hopkins University, Mary pursued her passions for education and music throughout her life. An adventurous spirit from an early age, she earned her pilot's license while still a young adult—a testament to her relentless curiosity and drive.

Mary dedicated her career to teaching in Baltimore County schools, including Timber Grove, Sparks, and Sixth District Elementary (later Prettyboy Elementary). Her unwavering commitment to her students and profession was evident through her active leadership in the Teachers Association of Baltimore County (TABCO), the Maryland State Teachers Association (MSTA), and the National Education Association (NEA). She was honored with an award of excellence for music education from the Maryland Music Educators Association and received an honorary life membership in the PTA.

Beyond the classroom, Mary loved playing bridge and pinochle, cooking, and staying active in her community. She was a proud member of the Elks and remained deeply connected to the people and organizations she held dear.

Mary was the daughter of the late Esther Mauch Forsyth and Arthur Jennings Forsyth. She is survived by her loving son, George Lara-Matthews, of whom she was immensely proud. Later in life, Mary realized a lifelong dream by marrying her childhood sweetheart, Tim Scharf.

All services are private at the convenience of the family.



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In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to a charity of your choice, or that you honor Mary's memory by taking your loved ones out to dinner—a gesture she would have appreciated deeply.

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.



Tribute Wall

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Judi Cluster posted:

Mary was truly a force with which to be reckoned. Whether advocating for arts in education or bringing out the best in each of her students, she gave it her all. It was my honor to have known and worked with her. Judi Cluster

February 15 at 5:14 AM



Linda Thompson posted:

Deeply dedicated to teaching music and very proud of George. Former colleague at Prettyboy Elementary. Linda Thompson.

February 13 at 2:37 PM



Wanda Nailor posted:

Such a wonderful happy person, always made me smile. Wanda

February 13 at 5:03 AM



Mr. & Mrs. Michael Alamorian lit a candle in honor of Mary.

January 31 at 9:05 AM



Sylvia Ay February 4 at 5:30 PM

A wonderful lady. She will be missed.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Mary by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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