



Mary Ann Mahan

September 4, 1948 - September 21, 2022

Mary Ann Mahan, of South Norwalk, Connecticut, died on September 19, 2022 after a brief illness. She was predeceased by her parents, John and Evelyn Mahan, and her brother Kevin Mahan. She is survived by her partner Saithong Ballapanavich (Lek), her brother Kieran (Blair) of Medford, NJ, sister Carmel of Odenton MD, and brothers Brian (Martha) of Simpsonville, SC, and Sean (Becky) of Hampton, Virginia, her sister-in-law Leigh Mahan of Hamilton, Ontario and nine nieces and nephews and seven great nieces and nephews.

She grew up in Stamford on Shippan Point where childhood was a wonderful combination of big families with lots of children to play with, and spending time at the wonderful Shippan beaches. Mary Ann was incredibly bright, determined and focused as a child. Her intellect was impressive to her fellow siblings, and she served as an inspiration. She graduated from St. Mary's elementary school in Stamford and Laurelton Hall in Milford, CT. She attended Manhattanville College and graduated from the University of Denver. She received her Master's degree from Bowling Green State University and a second Masters, in counselling, from the University of Bridgeport.

Mary Ann met Lek at Bowling Green State University where they were both studying. Lek remembers Mary Ann for her kindness, generosity, her desire to put others first and her devotion to her family, particularly caring for her parents. Her intelligence was apparent to all she met at Bowling Green and

her ability to be a good listener helped her to win friends easily. Lek thought of Mary Ann as an Irish angel.

She followed her father and Uncle (Thomas Riley) as Stamford teachers. She enjoyed a career of 34 years as an art teacher expanding children's ideas of what art could be. Students benefitted from her passion for both teaching and art. Most of her career was spent at Rogers School where she enjoyed her colleagues and students. When she retired, the students dedicated a mosaic of her saying: "Many experiences were poured out by Ms. Mahan in the art room over the years and will remain saved in our minds, as memories of a different world.....the world of our imaginations."

She was very active in the recovery movement and sponsored many individuals over many years. It was her dedication to helping people recover, an ability to connect with people, and a motivation to care for others that made her an inspiration to so many people. It would be hard to overstate how important the recovery movement was to her life. She found tremendous meaning in listening to others and helping where she could. Her kindness and understanding were an example for all. She helped hundreds of people for whom she was popular, respected, wise, deferred to, admired and most of all, loved.

Mary Ann was known for an adventurous spirit and for travelling the world. She travelled alone or with others, to place near, far, and exotic. Bhutan, India, Thailand, most of Europe (of course Ireland), Machu Pichu in Peru, Chile, China, South Africa, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Russia, Japan, Egypt, Morocco, Israel, Honduras, Greece, Austria, and Italy were just some of the many places she experienced. Mary Ann appreciated other cultures and was humble enough to always allow her heart to be open to what she could learn from the people and places she met in her travels. Despite all her exotic travels, she also always kept her interest in her ancestral Irish literature and

culture. She had a penchant for recommending a new Irish author or a play at the Irish Repertory Theater. Among her many other passions, top on the list was UConn Women's Basketball. She attended many games, including playoff games, and watched every game that she could. She was also a talented writer and had a wry sense of humor.

As her family expanded with nieces and nephews her ability to know something about almost everything made her the most popular teammate for a legendary game of Trivial Pursuit at family gatherings. In Monopoly, she was a feared opponent to her sibs who knew she would never give in unless she had no choice.

Mary Ann was the glue of the family. She took the responsibility for caring for her aging parents, as she had seen them do for their parents. After they died, she was the one to tend the graves, arrange for Masses and network with her sibs. Her legacy lies in those values of family loyalty, kindness, and devotion to helping others.

Family will receive relatives and friends on Friday, September 30th from 4pm to 8pm at the Bosak Funeral Home, 453 Shippan Avenue, in Stamford. A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10 am on Saturday, October 1st at Our Lady Star of the Sea, 1200 Shippan Avenue in Stamford, CT. Her interment will be private.

At her request, in lieu of flowers, friends may make contributions to: www.womenforwomen.org which invests in women survivors of war and conflict or www.americares.org which saves lives and improves health for people affected by poverty or disaster.

If you wish to make an online remembrance for the family online, you may

sign the family guestbook at www.bosakfuneralhome.com or www.facebook.com/bosakfuneralhome.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **30**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Bosak Funeral Home & Cremation
453 Shippan Avenue
Stamford, CT 06902

Funeral Mass

OCT **1**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady Star of the Sea Church
1200 Shippan Avenue
Stamford, CT 06902

Tribute Wall

DG

“ I was saddened to learn of Mary Ann's passing. She and her late brother Kevin were my childhood playmates. I'm sorry I never got to know them as adults. My condolences to her family.

David Grayson - June 10, 2024 at 06:11 PM

GW

“ I just saw that Maryanne had passed. She was a huge part of my partners life.
She will be missed by all

Gwen Winkler - December 28, 2023 at 10:52 PM

CN

“ What a loss! Mary Ann had such a profound impact on my life. I did my student teaching with her. She was hand picked for this assignment because the administrator arranging it thought she was the best.
I recently told a first year teacher, who I am mentoring, that I am just paying back. Mary Ann did everything for me that first year. Helped me every step of the way.
We have remained friends and have exchanged Christmas cards for 35 years. I always looked forward to her card and a description of her travels.
Claudia Noel Nerreau

Claudia N Nerreau - October 04, 2022 at 04:54 PM

CW

“ Mary Ann was my sixth grade art teacher at Rogers. At that I felt I had a special connection because she was friends with my aunt Jeanne Anne Slattery. Mary Ann opened up the wide world of art and exposed me to all kinds of cool projects. Now I, too, teach elementary art and I believe she played a part in laying the groundwork for this. I reconnected with her last year at Erik Beider's retirement party and she was a delight. So glad she leaves so many ripples of kindness as part of her legacy.

Catherine Anne Wilcox-McElroy - October 04, 2022 at 07:46 AM

EB

“ Mary Ann was my close colleague and friend. We worked together for 15 years and remained friends through her retirement. During that time I was fortunate to hear her speak about her travels, philosophy of art and life, and a little about Lek (although she was always careful not to say too much, in case Lek were listening through some mystical earpiece :)) but more than that I had the opportunity to have Mary Ann listen to me. Mary Ann was the best listener! When ever I needed to talk Mary Ann was there and when I was finished, she would have sage, calming and clear advice. A serious conversation with MA was a bit like a religious experience. I always thought that she was somehow able to lead a righteous life without being loud about it. She was a beautiful human being and I will miss her tremendously. Erik Bieder



Erik Bieder - October 03, 2022 at 11:48 AM

RS

“ To the Mahan Family. Please accept my condolences on the loss of your beloved sister MaryAnn. I only recently saw her at Star of the Sea when there was a mass said for your mom and dad. we talked for a few minutes. I am glad that we had that exchange. Mary Ann was always so gracious, and even though she had both my children in her art class over 25 years ago she always asked how they were. Your mother and father and I and my sister Tana all sang in the choir of Our Lady Star of the Sea for years and I only found out about Mary Ann’s passing this afternoon when I walked into church for choir practice and saw the memorial booklet. A true intellectual and brilliant light has left us. Again my condolences and apologies for not having attended her mass. Rosemarie Sibilio

rosemarie sibilio - October 01, 2022 at 08:25 PM

WH

“ Mary Ann was my big sister and Mary Poppins-like sitter who opened my imagination as a child and never ceased expanding it at every encounter since. So filled with love given in small gestures with her singular sense of humor. Who else could transform raking leaves from a chore into a playful game as she did with my dad, or bring to life absurd epic tales for children with little more than a blanket? She filled this world with grace. Thank you dear Mary Ann for leaving our lives bettered for having known you. Wes Haynes

Wes Haynes - September 30, 2022 at 03:32 PM

ND

“*Mary Ann was a heart that understood in my eyes. I admired her fearless spirit her deep reflections and her wonderful stories with a touch of dry humor thrown about. She will be terribly missed by those who knew her. God bless Mary Ann I am grateful that she was part of my sober journey.*
Micki



Nilsa Domenech - September 28, 2022 at 08:11 PM

LG

“*I have always admired the closeness of the Mahan family, they were led by example by their amazing parents. At this difficult time may the siblings and their families come together to offer one another comfort. at this time of loss of their sister Mary Ann. Having known the family since I was 15 years of age, I can honestly say it has been a privilege and an honor to know your family through Sean, Mary Ann, you are all role models that the world could learn from! God Bless you - your soul and your entire family! REST IN PEACE IN GOD'S CARE! With my deepest sympathy, Lee Marie Gentile*



Lee Marie Gentile - September 28, 2022 at 03:06 PM

JC

“*What a wonderful tribute to Mary Ann! I only wish I'd had the opportunity to know her better. Such a traveler! I'm sure she had stories to tell of all those places she's been. I remember when she came to Greenville, SC for Erin's wedding. I was playing my guitar and singing folk songs and she really enjoyed it.*
Jim Clark

Jim Clark - September 28, 2022 at 03:01 PM

CH

“ Mary Ann was a mentor to me re: teaching and as my AA sponsor when I lived in CT. I vividly remember asking for advise about my students and Mary Ann responded, "When all else fails, bring out the puppets." In fact I just quoted her the other day to a fellow teacher. Her kindness and sense of humor will always be special to me. Heaven got an angel-she will be missed. Love, Colleen Hartnett

Colleen H Hartnett - September 27, 2022 at 06:06 PM

JB

“ Mary Ann was a constant presence in my recovery for the past 30+ years, and it was a privilege to know her and be her friend. She was a source of love and light to everyone, and she will be missed.

James Bridge - September 27, 2022 at 03:07 PM