



# **Madeline Marie Sanders**

DEC 2, 1926 - JUL 10, 2023



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# Madeline Marie Sanders

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**M**adeline Marie Hatter Sanders, of Dallas, Texas, died Monday, July 10, after a life very well lived, full of elegance, laughs, and travel always surrounded by the people and pets she loved. She was born in Iowa County, Iowa, on December 2, 1926, and raised in nearby Marengo, Iowa. Of that, she was always proud.

Madeline was preceded in death by her husband, Sol; parents Ward and Esther Hatter; sister Mary Hatter Divis; and her grandnephew, Mark Shihady.

She is survived by her nieces Angela Easterday and husband Joseph of Trafalgar, Indiana, and Diane Shihady of Suwanee, Georgia, along with countless friends across the globe.

Madeline was a singer from an early age and loved to tell stories of singing all around Iowa, especially the gazebo in Marengo.

She received her BA in Applied Voice from Northwestern University in 1949, then boldly boarded a ship bound for Italy to spend a year under the tutelage of the famous French-Italian dramatic soprano, Gina Cigna. During that time, Madeline sang at the Teatro alla Scala in Milano multiple times as Cigna helped her grow into her powerful soprano voice.

Upon her return to Iowa, she completed an MA in Music while dipping her toe into teaching private voice lessons.

Madeline's next adventure took her to Long Island, New York, to study under the vaunted expert in German operas, William Brady. It was in Brady's studio that she met the ever-smiling Sol Sanders who had emigrated from Russia-Poland as a young man. The couple married in 1954 as he was completing his cantor studies at Hebrew Union College. Sol was recruited to Congregation Shearith Israel in Dallas after working in New York for a while. Madeline was thrilled at the prospect of shopping at Neiman-Marcus in her new city.



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Over the years, Madeline performed both on the concert and opera stages, along with some television work. She was the choir director at Congregation Shearith Israel for many years while also maintaining a full studio in Dallas and Santa Fe, New Mexico. She traveled annually to teach at the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria, and later at Bel Canto Fiorentino in the Amalfi Coast of Italy. Through Madeline's studios, she trained countless singers who, in turn, have taught across the world.

Upon Sol's death in 1986, Madeline spent more time at their vacation home in Santa Fe, buying homes to decorate and refurbish before selling. Her students would often follow her there for voice retreats.

An evening at Madeline's home might include a visitor with a Stradivarius violin, neighbors bringing meals since she used her oven for storage, or a friend having a bowl of chocolate ice cream. However, one rarely left her home without a glass or two of scotch or Prosecco. She was a wonderful hostess, no matter the occasion. The world is a better place for having had Madeline in it.

Graveside services will be held at the cemetery in Millersburg, Iowa, on Thursday, July 20, at 10:30 am. Memorials in her name may be made to [Dementia.org](https://www.dementia.org) or the SISTERhood of Congregation Shearith Israel in Dallas.



## Tribute Wall

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**Marilyn Watts Ward** posted:

This is wonderful as I lived across the street from her in Marengo and I heard her practice all the time and I went with her sister Mary Lou to the University of Iowa and we were taking lessons from the then director of band with our instruments (SAX) for me. I received Madeline's bedroom outfit when I was a JUNIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL AND I still have it. I have a great granddaughter named Maddie and I want her to have the outfit now. I remember her well and often have wondered about her. I did know she was in Dallas as her mother had told me that many years ago.

July 16 at 12:39 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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