



*"Care Deeply, Share Generously, Help Willingly" - Iris Lee*

## **Obituary - Iris Lee Klapper**

February 19, 1949 - July 14, 2018, Aged 69

Iris Lee Klapper, mother, grandmother, sister, daughter, wife, and dear friend to many, passed away July 14, 2018, peacefully at home in Niwot, Colorado. She is survived by her devoted mother, Harriet Klapper, her loving son, Michael MacInnis and loving daughter, Skylar MacInnis, daughter-in-law, Jillian Griffin, cherished grandchild, Roselyn Griffin, her loving ex-husband, Scot MacInnis, her brother, Norm Klapper and sister-in-law, Helen Toper. Iris fought a four-year battle against cancer, and was very brave throughout her ordeal, serving as an inspiration to others facing a similar challenge.

Iris was born in Liberty, New York, in the famed Catskill Mountains, north of New York City. As a child, Iris studied classical music and became a very accomplished pianist. Early in her career, Iris was a concert promoter and band manager, and went on to have a successful piano teaching studio, introducing many young students to the joys of playing and listening to classical music.

Iris practiced and taught massage therapy at the Boulder School of Massage for several years. She also started a company and service for doing on-site chair massage in the very early days of this technique. Iris was known for teaching infant massage, and was often seen "accosting" new moms and their babies to encourage them to attend her classes. Many a young mom thanked Iris for reducing sleepless nights, by learning techniques to calm and soothe their newborns.

Iris was a very generous and creative person, deeply involved and highly committed to her life's career in Boulder, Colorado, where she was Founder of Dreamcatcher Learning Center, which provided one-on-one direct instruction. She was also the Director of the non-profit, Legacy of Learning, a supportive organization which granted financial assistance to students in crisis or in need of help with their education. Dreamcatcher and Legacy of Learning collaborated with local schools and other nonprofit organizations dedicated to serving students in need. Iris's dream was to positively alter the trajectory of each student in need, in order to transform "at-risk" youth into youth of promise.

Iris's legacy, in addition to her family, is demonstrated by a whole host of students who have gone on to higher education and other accomplishments – many graduating from notable institutions, including Harvard University! Many of these young people can trace their later success directly to participating in programs administered by Dreamcatcher Learning Center.

Several meaningful posts on Facebook are a real tribute to Iris's commitment to her passion, life's work and purpose, and the following is an example:

***"My cousin Iris died yesterday. When describing her to people, I usually found myself saying, she can't be described, you just have to meet her. She was a huge personality, a total 60's child. Warm, boisterous, curious, musical, writer, traveler, educator, FUNNY and quick witted. She always meant to do good. She was my sister and she will be missed. There will never be another like Iris. RIP my sister."***

Iris's entire family send deeply felt gratitude to the many family members and dear friends who have offered words of support and love during these difficult times. A celebration of Iris will be held in the near future to honor her remarkable life. Details will be forthcoming.

In lieu of flowers, please donate in Iris's name to TRU HOSPICE of Boulder County, who cared for Iris in our home during her most difficult time, with kindness, professionalism and love.