

**In Memory**

**Trudy (I or E or even IE) G. (Gorcey, Grammy or Gilah) Morse**

**April 7 (or 8 or 9), 1919 to August 21, 2013**

## MORSE



**GERTRUDE MORSE**  
"Trudy"

Gertrude "Trudy" Morse, age 94 of Garrett Park, MD, passed away peacefully on August 21, 2013, at Arden Courts, Potomac, MD.

Trudy was an inspirational force who brought people together. As a world traveler, she danced with the Whirling Dervishes in Egypt, fed the hungry in Africa, and was one of the first Americans to visit the former Soviet Union and China. She was an activist involved in the civil rights and peace movements, promoting breast feeding and natural childbirth, the League of Women Voters and a host of other social issues. She was a real estate broker and land consultant, who advocated

for low cost housing and zoning reform. She was a poet and jazz musician and in the last 25 years of her life toured the world performing with Cecil Taylor, Kitt Jordan and Sun Ra. She was a founding member of three congregations, Beth El, Frabragen, and Am Kolel. She found good messages in all faiths.

Trudy was born on Brooklyn, NY, but resided in this area for over 50 years. Her two husbands, Lincoln Wiseman and Malcolm Morse, passed away many years ago. She is survived by her loving children, Ilene Ianniello and husband Dan, of Connecticut, Alan Wiseman and his wife Paula, Michael Morse and his wife Mary, Dr. Melvin Morse, Sarah Morse and her husband David Kathan, all of Maryland, and Gale Morse and her husband Jay Volanth, of Connecticut. She had 21 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her brother, Bernard Gorcey of Long Branch, NJ, and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother Leo Gorcey and her sister Shirley.

She will be greatly missed by family and friends.

The family will sit shiva on Wednesday, August 28, 7:30 p.m. at 9315 Greyrock Road Silver Spring, MD, and Thursday, August 29, 7:30 at Garrett Park Town Hall, 10814 Kenilworth Ave., Garrett Park, MD. A memorial service will be held on September 15, 2 p.m. at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Rabbi David Shneyer of Am Kolel, 19520 Darnestown Road, Beallsville, MD 20839 or a charity of your choice.



## University Mourns Gertrude "Trudy" Morse

NEWARK, Aug 29 2013

The NJIT community was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Gertrude Morse on August 21, 2013. The university's sadness is truly tempered by fond memories of an exceptionally talented and compassionate woman. Known to her many friends as Trudy, her life was rich with accomplishment as a poet, musician and social activist.

Trudy Morse was also a dedicated and generous friend of the university, an enduring connection established through her late husband Malcolm. A 1942 graduate in electrical engineering, he went on to become a prominent scientist with the National Bureau of Standards. But his path to a degree was not an easy one. Unable to afford the tuition for full-time study, he had to work in a factory and take classes at night. While organizing her husband's papers after his death in 1986, she found personal comments about the difficult challenges he faced having to work by day and study only part-time at night as a young student.

Deeply touched, Mrs. Morse was moved to reach out to her husband's alma mater and establish a fellowship to help NJIT doctoral candidates pay for their tuition. This was but the first instance of a commitment that grew over the years as she generously endowed other scholarship support for students in memory of her spouse.

The university is very grateful for Mrs. Morse's generosity of spirit, in all of its diverse aspects. Her expansive artistic and social engagement did make the world a better place. As part of this engagement, her support for NJIT is making it possible for talented young men and women to realize their educational aspirations and make their own contributions to a better quality for life for people everywhere.

# Gertrude Morse, land developer and activist, dies at 94

Washington Post, August 29

Gertrude Morse, a Montgomery County real estate agent, broker and land developer who was also active in Women Strike for Peace and other peace and friendship groups during the Cold War, died Aug. 21 at Arden Courts nursing home in Potomac. She was 94.

The cause was a respiratory ailment, said a daughter, Gale Morse.

Mrs. Morse, a Garrett Park resident, was most active in land development in the 1960s and 1970s but continued off and on for the rest of her life. She also lobbied for low-income housing in Montgomery County, her family said.

Gertrude Gorcey was born in Brooklyn to a theatrical family that included actor Leo Gorcey of the Dead End Kids. She was raised in Long Branch, N.J., and settled in the Washington area by 1950.

She belonged to interfaith groups that tried to bring peace between Israelis and Palestinians. She funded scholarships at the New Jersey Institute of Technology for Jordanian women pursuing PhDs in science.

She was a member of U.S.-China and U.S.-Soviet Union friendship associations, traveling to Russia in the 1960s and to China in the early 1970s. She often traveled alone through age 91 and was once airlifted out of Rhodesia during its turbulent rebirth as Zimbabwe.

She wrote poetry and performed it with jazz musicians including Sun Ra and Cecil Taylor in the late 1980s and 1990s.

She was a past president of the Rockville Garden Club and a member of Am Kolel, a Jewish group.

Her first marriage, to Lincoln Wiseman, ended in divorce. Her second husband, Malcolm Morse, died in 1986.

Survivors include two children from her first marriage, Ilene Ianniello of Trumbull, Conn., and Alan Wiseman of Potomac; four children from her second marriage, Michael Morse and Melvin Morse, both of Garrett Park, Sarah Morse of Somerset and Gale Morse of Southbury, Conn.; a brother; 21 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

— **Adam Bernstein**



Friday, August 30, 2013; 06:08 AM - by Don Grigware

## **The World Mourns Passing of Great Humanitarian Trudy Morse**

The world mourns the loss of a great, one-of-a-kind philanthropist/artist Gertrude "Trudy" Morse, who passed away on August 21 at Arden Courts, Potomac, MD. She was 94. This pure renaissance woman was a civil rights activist, having traveled through Africa, Australia, Europe and the US, an advocate for natural childbirth and breast feeding, a poet, a dancer and all-around champion humanitarian. She is survived by six children, twenty-one grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Her late husband Malcolm S. Morse was a famous scientist with the National Bureau of Standards where he worked on dynamic thermo-physical measurements in space before his death in 1986. One of the reasons for her frequent trips to various parts of the globe was her continued interest in her husband's research on anomalous phenomena. Also, a jazz musician, she toured with and gave tremendous charitable contributions to Maestro Cecil Taylor, Kidd Jordan and Sun Ra to extend performance in music throughout Europe. To her, life was an unending adventure, and as well as writing eight books of poetry, she kept diaries on and off the road.

Scientist and fellow jazz enthusiast/poet/illustrator Ana Isabel O, who nicknamed Trudy 'Grammy' has this to say about her: "For me, Trudy was the most joyful and positive person I ever met. I learned a lot from her and her poetry. Dancing with Trudy was a thousand trips to heaven; she was a truly inspirational grammy!"

Born in Brooklyn NY, Morse, a prominent member of Who's Who and winner of multiple awards, resided in Maryland for over fifty years. She is survived by one brother Bernard Gorcey. In fact, great-uncle was famous vaudevillian Bernard Gorcey and her uncle Leo Gorcey scored big time in such films as Dead End Kids and The Bowery Boys. Leo Gorcey died in 1969.

Morse leaves a great legacy to all who loved her in the realms of literature, art, music and politics. The New England Conservatory received huge donations from her as well as Pauline Oliveiros at the Deep Listening Institution. Morse was one of Obama's original supporters and raised funds for his campaign.

Ana Isabel sums up best the essence of Trudy Morse and how she feels she should be remembered: "I never met anyone as positive as her. She loved dancing. Even a few months before she passed away she danced a bit when we met. She also sang and loved children. As she grew older she loved the laughter of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren more than anything. Whenever I was feeling low, it was Trudy who showed me how to reach my inner child.

She was a trip! It will take me time to adapt myself to her physical departure. She wasn't scared of death, she believed and lived near death experiences -- Her spirit will live on."

A memorial service will be held on September 15, 2 p.m. at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Rabbi David Shneyer of Am Kolel, 19520 Darnestown Road, Beallsville, MD 20839.

## Old bio from Deeplisting.org

### Trudy Morse

Poet, Musician, Humanitarian, Diarist, Grandmother  
Poet, world traveler and performance artist, Trudy Morse, creates other-world performances in the spirit of the legendary Sun Ra. Expect a cosmic, ritual happening. - Earshot, Seattle WA



Trudy Morse has lived in Chevy Chase, MD for some forty years. Her late husband, Malcolm S. Morse, a prominent scientist with the National Bureau of Standards, worked on dynamic thermo-physical measurements in space, before his death in 1986.

Most of her life she was a political activist working on national and international policies, at the same time active in her home and community, while raising six children. Retired from her professional career as a land consultant she spent from four to six months each year travelling the world.

Her interest in her husband's research on anomalous phenomena has taken her to all five continents. She recalls with particular interest her travels in Africa, Australia, Europe, India, China and New Zealand. She has traveled extensively in the USA on frequent camping trips, cross-country, in National Parks from the East to the West coasts, as well as in Hawaii and Alaska.

Since the death of Malcolm Morse, Trudy has been travelling with jazz pianist Cecil Taylor, in Europe, Japan, and the USA. While on the road, Trudy wrote poetry, which was later published by Hermes Press. Aside from regular travel on the road with Cecil Taylor, for the past few years, Trudy has been concentrating on the poetry of the legendary Sun Ra and his Arkestra. Working closely with John Szwed, Chairman of Music and Anthropology at Yale, Trudy has been collecting Sun Ra poetry. She performed with Sun Ra right up until his death, being with him when he left the planet at Birmingham, Alabama. Since his death, she has been planning and presenting Tributes to Sun Ra. She appears regularly on radio programs, reading Sun Ra poetry over the old Saturn records or new releases by Evidence.

Among many artists, she has most notably collaborated and performed with Kidd Jordan, Eddy Gale, George Russell, Anthony Braxton, Joe Maneri, Pozzi Escot, Pauline Oliveros, Stuart Dempster, George Lewis, Marshall Allen, India Cooke, Michael Monhart, Muhal Richard Abrams, Dave Burrell, Illuminati Big Band, Don Wherry Ensemble, Cosmic Krewe, Tone Scientists and Boris Raskin Trio.

The ubiquitous septuagenarian has 6 children, 20 grandchildren and 6 greats.

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Dear Friends of Trudy,

It is with much sadness that I write to tell you that my mother passed this morning after a short illness. I'm sorry about the impersonal way to inform you, but some of you I only know from emails. As you know, my mother was a force of nature; she embraced life and lived for every moment. She was never shy, always willing to try new things and really the most optimistic and positive person I have ever known. Her net of influence, as you well know, was huge. Almost everywhere I go - in the States and the rest of the world, I run into people who know her.

Even in her last days with her mind fading from dementia, she was a bright light. At Arden Courts, she was known as the activity director and was happy and content.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions,

May her memory be as a blessing,

with much love and sadness,

Sarah on behalf of the Trudy's family

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**Laureen Kapin <laureen.kapin@gmail.com>**

Sarah, I'm so sorry to hear about your mom. Trudy was so energetic and enthusiastic whenever I saw her. She had an amazing zest for life. I hope that all the memories that you and she created together comfort you during this difficult time.

Please let me know if I can help you with anything.

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**Rain Zohav <rainzohav@earthlink.net>**

Hello, Sarah,

I am so sorry to hear of Trudy's death. She was an amazing person!

Sending you blessings of peace and healing.

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**Aaron Shneyer <aaron.shneyer@gmail.com>**

Dear Sarah and Family,

I'm so sorry for your loss. Trudy gave us so much love and joy.

I hope to join you on the 28th.

-Aaron

**Heartbeat Jerusalem**

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**Diane Jacobstein <dianejacobstein@aol.com>**

Dear Sarah,

Your mom was an inspiration! always very kind to me. Such zest and spirit and love of people and adventure. May her memory always put a smile on your face and warmth in your heart

Diane

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**Stephanie Bigwood <stephanie.bigwood@gmail.com>**

Dear Sarah,

I was thinking of you earlier today, thinking that I should invite you to lunch a few weeks from now when I am getting around better! Thank you for sending me this notice. I am just getting over a foot surgery and don't know if I will be able to come tomorrow, but I am definitely thinking about trying to make the drive. I have pin sites in my toes which are still healing, so my doctor has kept me on a very short leash, fearing that I might pick up some bacteria that would result in an infection.

I loved your mom and dad - and your whole family, for that matter. I am so sorry that your mom has died, but I take comfort in the fact that she led such a long, full life. She was an amazing woman! It sounds like this is how you feel too.

Please know that you and your family will feature prominently in my prayers. I will pass this word on to Jimmy. Please tell me if there is anything that I can do for you and David and your kids, and please tell Mike and Mary and Melvin and Gale that I send my love.

Love to you,  
Steffy

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**Claudia Clifford <claudia.clifford57@gmail.com>**

Thanks for thinking of me. Yes your mother was an significant person of my childhood so it is sad but inevitable to hear this. She lived a long, full life! Few people live life as actively as her. As a child growing up in the neighborhood, I knew that I was part of the extended Morse family and Trudy enjoyed and loved us all.

My mom passed away in 2010 and I sold her house soon after so I can't pass on the news. My brother is visiting me so I will pass on the news. My best to you and all your siblings and families. Your mom got to enjoy an incredible family.

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**Nancy Floreen** <nancyfloreen@gmail.com >

I am so sorry to hear of Trudy's passing - she was a force, indeed. Please accept our condolences!  
Nancy Floreen and David Stewart

Nancy Floreen  
Montgomery County Council Member At-Large

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**Mairi Morrison** <mairimorrison@rocketmail.com >

Hi Sarah

I am so sorry. I knew your mother only slightly, but she was adorable. We had a couple of really great conversations while in the pool, and she was all for us making a trip to India together! Believe it or not I was at the pool on Sunday and suddenly realized I hadn't seen her this summer. I am sorry she has died but glad to have met her and to know what has happened.

Best, Mairi Morrison

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**Bonnie Stein** <bonnie@gohproductions.org>

Hi Sarah,

No I did not get this before so thanks for letting me know. Sad indeed. And what an amazing life.

I'm out of town on Prague from Sept 1 to 16. I would love to be there at the memorial if possible. Keep me posted in case dates change

I'm happy to help let people know too or help find artists to take part. Many people will want to help and be there.

Love you so much and sending hugs and many wishes to you and the family during this mourning period. You know she was very special to me and will always be in my heart. Thinking of you and Trudy intensely today

Love  
Bonnie

Performing Arts Administrator, Manager, Project Producer  
and Coordinator specializing in International Projects  
GOH Productions

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**Ellen Meyerson <elmeyerson@yahoo.com>**

Dear Sarah,

Please accept my sympathy on your mother's passing. Trudy added such spirit to our celebrations. I will miss her.

Ellen

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**Susan Levine <suelevine2000@yahoo.com >**

Sarah,

My condolences to you and your family. Please let me know if I can be of any help. She was so fortunate to have you as a daughter. You were so thoughtful and caring. I hope that knowing that comforts you.

My best.

Sue

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**Joanna Rom <joanna.rom@gmail.com>**

So sorry to hear about your mom. She was so vibrant and enjoyed David's music so much.

Perhaps the funeral home can help find a venue? Enjoy the rest of your travels and I'm glad you are with your family.

Best, Joanna

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**Susan Chandler <susanchaya@verizon.net>**

My dear Sarah~it's Susan Chandler from AK~I want you to know how moved I was by your perfect words telling us of Trudy's passing. She left us just as she lived~in her own way, her own time, just the way she envisioned her passing. You characterized her wide reach in this world so beautifully~and I know she would have just loved your words. You were her touchstone, Sarah, and she was so proud of you. What a riotous, marvelous, full, productive, meaningful and "her way" life! And what a blessing for me, and for Am Kolel to have her as our "elder goddess"!!! You know, she always had the "last word" when we went around & introduced ourselves~that was our way of showing her our respect & our affection. Her Am Kolel legacy will live on in the fullness of our "Trudy memories over the years"~how ideal that her memorial service will be at Cedar Lane~were it not for Trudy, we would never have "discovered" Cedar Lane as our home for services!

I shall see you at the memorial service, and be in touch w/ a story or two before then. May Trudy's memory be for a blessing~it already is...

With deepest sympathy & affection,  
Susan Chandler

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**Maria Chrzanowska** <marylch@amu.edu.pl>

Dear Sarah,

It was with deep sorrow that I learned of the death of Trudy. Please accept our condolences over the loss of your Mother whose live and personality will long be remembered. When I came to Washington, in 1986, She was like a Mother for me. I will always remember all excited excursions with Trudy, our stay in the house on Maple Ave and all meetings with You and your family.

We will keep alive the memory of Her, extraordinary Women.

My family (Zbyszek, Asia and Jakub) join me in sending our deepest sympathy,

Yours,  
Maria

Maria Chrzanowska  
Professor of Chemistry Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań

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**Stuart Dempster** <dempster@u.washington.edu>

Dear Sarah,

Thank you so much for keeping us informed of Trudy's situation these last months. Trudy's life has been quite a journey, and her every sojourn around the sun brought new Trudy stories - her connections to so many people in so many diverse contexts and ways.

Certainly her connection to Pauline Oliveros and Deep Listening Institute was astounding. She "believed" and acted on her beliefs. As a founding member with Pauline of Deep Listening Band, back in October 1988, Trudy would have been so appreciative of our upcoming 25th anniversary of DLB this October (that we are celebrating in Ottawa at "Dunrobin Sonic Gym").

I first met Trudy in Seattle when she was out for one of the early performances of Seattle's Sun Ra Tribute Band that I play in. It was absolutely Trudy's kind of event; we had consumes and processions and she loved all of it. Especially when she could recite poetry and/or sing along with the Chopin piece that found its way into the proceedings.

We send condolences along with these few memories. Although we will not be able to attend her memorial, our thoughts will be with you and all of the family that Trudy was so profoundly devoted to.

With warm regards and deep sympathies,  
Stuart (and Renko) Dempster  
Stuart Dempster, Professor Emeritus, School of Music, Univ of Washington

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## **Marcy Canavan**

Please keep us informed. I'm so sorry to hear about your mother. If we can do anything to help please let us know.

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## **Chaim R. Dworkin**

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Hi Sarah,

I just got the word that your mother passed away last week. My deepest condolences to you and family. I have a lot of great memories of her; she was a real trip. I'm sorry I can't make the shiva but I might be able to make the memorial on Sept 15th.

My son moved to Washington, DC in 2004 and at that time I decided to try to look up your family. I googled Trudy Morse and found an obituary for a woman by that name in Maryland and I assumed it was your mother and I didn't find you so I gave up. My son, Ben, remembered that you and I took our kids to the Maryland State Fair when he was small and he went to the state fair every year he lived there. In 2010 my son moved to San Diego and I stopped visiting DC. But then I got laid off from work and got a new job at NIH in Bethesda. I telecommute from home in Philadelphia but I do visit Bethesda once or twice a year and I'm expecting to be there sometime in the next couple months. If I can, I'll try to look you & David up.

Warm regards for a Shanah Tovah.

Chaim

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## **From Julie Wiseman**



From left to right - Gale Morse, Trudy Morse, granddaughter Julie Wiseman

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**Jean Horan and Phil Schulp <philpub1@aol.com >**

Dear Sarah, Mike and Mary, we are so sorry to hear this news. She was quite a woman and something else sitting on that porch! We won't walk to GPES without turning to check out her home, always remembering her sitting there.

Please let me know if the neighbors can do anything for the memorial.

Sincerely,  
Jean (Horan), Phil and Gianna Schulp

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**Alan Oresky <rosindebow@aol.com>**

Dear Sarah,

Please accept our deepest condolences. Trudy was an amazing woman, with such a joi de vivre. I will remember her fondly in my thoughts.

Love and comfort to you and family,  
Alan Oresky

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**Jorge Orencel <jorge@sumtechinc.net>**

Her memories and her big heart are with all of us.  
Please let us know about the service.  
Shalom and peace for her soul

Jorge

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**Sheri Diorio-Wang <sheriesberries@yahoo.com>**

Thank you Sarah! I did leave a message at Mike and Mary's number this morning.  
Your mother Was Wonderful to Me and I will Never Forget her.  
Please, please let me know if I can help in any way. I can order flowers, bring platters of whatever you like.  
I know you are away so I will forward this to Mike and Mary.  
Thanks for always keeping me in mind,

Love, Sheri

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**Mark Dresser <deldresser@gmail.com>**

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for reaching out and letting me know. I send you and your family my deepest condolences.

Trudy was as you say, "a force of nature."

I have some indelible memories with her, some poignant and some funny.

I will play one for her, right now.

With gratitude,

Mark

Jazz Bassist and Composer, Mark Dresser Quintet

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**Sue Hargreaves <shargreaves@lldhhome.org>**

Thank you for sharing this news. You described your Mother to a tee! She was person who helped others grow and never met a stranger. She will be missed and most assuredly remembered.

Please keep us in the loop about Trudy's Memorial.

Sue and Scott

Susan Hargreaves, MSA, LNHA

Administrator

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**Roger Woodward <Rogwoodwa@aol.com>**

Dear Sarah,

Your mother was an inspirational force who brought people together without the slightest trace of self-interest. She sought harmony and happiness in everything she touched, including our souls and the projects she took on (that included very talented individuals at times) were ambitious and involving complex corporate interests but she saw them through without any thought of self aggrandizement or self-promotion. Trudy was a gem who left a profoundly impressive legacy that it is only possible to admire in profound respect and with love. She will be sorely missed by all who came into contact with her. She lived life to the full and gave to others of her grand spirit. What a wonderful person she was but without meaning any disrespect, she is probably busier than ever as we speak. God bless her.

My thoughts are with you at this time and I thank you for letting me know.

With love and tender thoughts at this time,

Roger Woodward

Concert Pianist

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**Mark Dorf <MDorf@performancemediastategies.com>**

Dear Sarah,

I am saddened to learn of your mother's passing. I am also filled with a sense of hope because of how your mother lived her life with such fullness and adventure.

I will forever have her in my memory standing on the stage at the Blair Mansion Inn when I took her to listen to a jam session. Your mother enjoyed herself very much that evening. She talked up the band and jumped onto the stage and did a number with them.

I felt privileged to have shared that moment with her and to have spent the time with her that I did. My condolences go out to you and your family.

Wishing you blessed memories.

Mark

Mark N. Dorf  
President & CEO  
Performance Media Strategies

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**Nao Bustamante <bustan@rpi.edu>**

Dear Sarah,

I am truly sorry for your loss. Trudy had the soul of a true poet and was inspiring to us all. I was one of her many "grandchildren" and had the pleasure of traveling with her to Mt. Fuji, a trip I will hold dear to my heart. I regret that I was unable to see her towards the end of her time with us, but I am so happy to hear of her role as activity director! She will always be an example to me of positivity and fearless love.

All the best to your family in the time and always,

Nao

New Media and Live Dance

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**Rachel Jordan**

The Jordan Family sends our deep Love to you and your Family.

Rachel

Classical and Jazz Violinist. Daughter of Edward "Kidd" Jordan.

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## Pozzi Escot

Profoundly sad. Trudy was such an extraordinary human beyond words, beyond colors, beyond stars . . .

Pozzi

Prof. Pozzi Escot, Graduate Theory/Composition, New England Conservatory, 1980-  
Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow, 2000-  
Editor-in-Chief, SONUS Journal, 1980-  
President, International Society of Hildegard von Bingen Studies, 1993-

Also from Pozzi:

It is with deep sadness that I read your lines. Trudy always meant a star for her sharpness, her fights, her ideals, her wondrous steps of life. I cannot think that she is not the same as always. I met her at Harvard University as she had come to attend an event and the Japanese performer accompanying her was a student/tutor at NEC and he introduced us. She came to Japan when I was invited to do the Convocation at their College in Tokyo and she often also attended events at NEC. Her light was always clear and voicing her concerns.

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From: Pozzi Escot [mailto:Pozzi.Escot@necmusic.edu]

Sent: Monday, August 26, 2013 7:33 AM

To: Amy Hendrickson

Amy, from my heart/head how I wish the Shiva were just around here. I want only to hold the extraordinary path of Trudy. There were indeed faults of some sort or another, but we all have them. Above these simple 'faults' the power of her steps to reconcile with life. She wanted to be known attracted by the 'performers' and the gigantic sphere of applause and screams around, that manifestation involved her with such satisfaction that it was indeed her 'demand' for her soul of life. She had a very superb thinking about the world that surrounded her.

Love, Pozzi

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From: Amy Hendrickson [amyh@texnology.com]

Sent: Monday, August 26, 2013 8:49 AM

To: Pozzi Escot

Yes, I have been thinking of her good qualities too—Incredible energy being one of them. I want to let you know, too, how much she cared about you. When she was staying with me, her first concern was always when/where she would meet you, and she was always excited and thrilled to be able to see you—It is hard to believe that she has really left us! I only met her when she was in her 80's and I told her that she was a real example to me of how one can live each of their years to their fullest—

Well, bless her heart...

## Calvin Tullos

Sarah

Thanks for letting me know. I was just thinking of Trudy this weekend. I am blessed with having the pleasure to have known her since 1994, performed with her, and was her friend. What a spirit she is/was.

Calvin

Also from Calvin

Sarah

I out of town for both events ... I sure would like to come.

I'll tell you my story w/ Trudy and here are a couple of pics.

In October of 1994 I was reading a newsgroup rec.music.bluenote (or something like that). I saw this posting by someone talking about performing with Sun Ra and when I saw the signature/address on the post I realized Garrett Park was close to Baltimore where I live. I thought to myself that this would certainly be someone interesting to talk to. I called her up and asked if I could come down and meet her, that I was interested in her experiences with Sun Ra. She said "Sure, anytime". So the next Saturday I head down to see Trudy. I had no idea of what to expect. I get there and it's this little short Jewish woman of 75 years. We hit it off talking about music, philosophy, science .... Ended up in the back yard playing music. I had brought a soprano sax and she was reading poetry and yodeling! She talked a great deal about synchronicity that day. I told her that I was headed to San Francisco soon and that I wanted to go to the Church of John Coltrane. Her eyes lit up and excitedly she confirmed her notion of synchronicity. She had been meaning to return a book to Mr.SoAndSo whom was clergy at the church. I ended up at the Church of John Coltrane on the 30th anniversary of the recording of "A Love Supreme" which made it all more magical.

Over the years we did several performances together; most as Sun Ra tributes. HR 57 in DC, the Knitting Factory in NYC with Sam Rivers sitting in, and a short poetry read at the New Orleans Jazz Festival. I had an improvisational jazz band at the time and she would come and sit in .... and yodel!

I remember with the HR 57 and NYC gig she called me up and asked if I wanted to do such a thing. I said "of course Trudy". Then she turned it around and yes "OK, here is a list of musicians and you can be the music director" ... ok, like I had ever done that before .... But the gigs all went well.

A few years later she invited me down for her Bat Mitzvah, perhaps when she was 80?? She calls up and tells me that Cecil Taylor is Artist in Residence at Johns Hopkins Homewood campus which is 2 blocks from my home. She wants me to pick up Cecil and bring him down. So, I am riding an hour and a half with CECIL TAYLOR!!!!

There is much much more but those are a few high lights. As the years grew, I would take Trudy to her favorite vegetarian restaurant near her home. She would talk and talk and talk. It was so much fun. What a true strong spirit she was. I will miss her.

Calvin Tullos



Trudy and Calvin Tullos



## **Henrietta L. Keller**

Dear Sarah,

Your mother was truly “a force of nature.” I will remember her fondly for her love of life, family, friends, music, nature, poetry, etc. I will just think of her as LOVE! Her ability to make friends was extraordinary. She embraced everyone. Chris and I feel privileged to have shared time with her at Strathmore, the Kennedy Center, and in Garrett Park.

Chris joins me in sending our sincere condolences.  
Henri

Henrietta L. Keller  
hlkeller4501@verizon.net  
P.O. Box 34  
Garrett Park, MD 20896

---

## **Colleen Kemp**

Sarah,

You are so sweet to let us know this. Please consider finishing out your vacation. Your Mother would ABSOLUTELY want you to finish out your vacation! Her spirit is with you, even more so, traveling and having an adventure with the ones you love. She wouldn't have it any other way.

We were just talking about her yesterday in staff meeting. Isn't that strange. For some reason, Trudy was on our minds. I would very much like to attend shiva and service if possible.

Please keep us in the loop. Trudy was a special lady and we loved her!

Colleen

--

Also from Colleen

Thank you Sarah. The KC will be at one or more of Trudy's events. I say 'event' because everything about Trudy Morse was an event to behold! We loved her so. I have pictures galore, and would like to send some recent ones.

Blessings,  
Colleen and the staff

Colleen M. Kemp, CTRS  
Manager, Kensington Club  
JEWISH COUNCIL FOR THE AGING

**Pauline Oliveros**<pauline.oliveros@gmail.com>

Deep Listening Institute

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for sending the news of Trudy's passing. I am sad to hear this but know that her spirit is alive, dancing and singing in the cosmos.

We will arrange a memorial for her online in the extensive Deep Listening community that knew and loved her very much. Also in the AUMI community. (Adaptive Use Musical Instruments). Countless people with disabilities have benefited from her support of this project.

I will let you know about this memorial.

I won't be available to attend the Aug 30 memorial but will want to be present spiritually.

Sending my love and condolences,

PP & Ione

---

## **Christina Tourin**

Dear Sarah,

I am sure you are getting condolences from around the world - I enjoyed your mother immensely and she was so enthusiastic about harp therapy. Her life was one that was very full, active and life giving. I will be with you in spirit on Saturday.

Sincerely,  
Christina Tourin

*Also from Christina:*

Dear Sarah,

Unfortunately I am not local. But I can attach some music that you might want to have playing in the background somehow. I'll choose a few pieces here for you. She accomplished so much in life! Here is a little poem for you with it set to music as well.

Warm regards, Christina

Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there; I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the diamond glints on snow,  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you awaken in the morning's hush  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there; I did not die. - Mary Frye

## David Rothenberg

Sorry to hear it, she was a force of nature!

My own mother passed away in June, so I know how it feels.

I can send some memorial thoughts on Trudy if you are doing any kind of event, let me know!

David Rothenberg

musician, composer, author and philosopher-naturalist

PS Here is Trudy listening to whale songs on Maui in 2007:

Also from David:

Trudy was everywhere.

I met her for the first time at Cecil Taylor's 60th birthday party in Cambridge, Mass.

Then she just walked into my office at NJIT about ten years later.

Then she showed up in Hawaii!

That's just how she was. There was no one quite like her.

DR



## **Ernest McClain**

Dear Sarah Morse: I had an intense relation with your mother and her work and that is just now coming to fruition in the past week. I was 95 on August 6th and am falling into her last ways, with considerable home assistance at this point, and through our joint friend Jay Kappraff who alerted me to her brilliance during 1990s. I have some stories to tell when you are ready to hear them, suddenly becoming more important within Judaism as Tanakh ritual proves to have unexpectedly deep meaning that she would have love to hear about. I live at 4000 Massachusetts Ave NW, apt. 927, phone 202-364-4469 but will probably be too house-bound to attend your service on the 30th as I am having to learn to walk again after a fall. We danced together for her favorite rabbi.

Ernest McClain (musicologist)

Also from Ernest (after I wrote him that his name was mentioned at the shiva service)

Dear Sarah:

David indeed came and played and sang for my wife, as she was dying from the complications of Parkinson's. David was far too modest about his own musicality, . . . Trudy's conception of herself as "Franciscan" would be only amusing if it were not profoundly true. She cut across all boundaries, directly to the heart of significance. Mathematician Jay Kappraff alerted me to her strange role in his life and mine. She is unforgettable for all the right reasons.

Ernest (I remain too weak at present to attend your service. It should be pure jubilation, without a tear!)

---

## **Greg Wall**

Baruch Dayan Emet.

I only met your mother once, but will never forget her.

May you find comfort from among all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Saxophonist , Hasidic New Wave

---

## **Chuan & Stephen**

Sarah and Mary,

We are so sorry to hear this sad news. We were just talking about visiting Trudy last night. We had planned to visit a few weeks ago but we missed it. Then we were out of town two weekends in a row. Hurting my knee and on crutches last week certainly didn't help. I feel so bad that we didn't get a chance to visit her!

Trudy is the most positive person I know of. Please keep us posted on her memorial service.

Love,  
Chuan

---

dp \_ a.h.fork

Dear Sarah,

thanks for sharing this sad news with us,  
this past days i have been thinking of trudy a lot,  
we will miss Her greatly,  
and though sad to know that she's no longer with us in this physical plane,  
i know that Her beautiful being and light will shine forever in the universe and in our hearts.  
Lots of love and light to you and your family,  
being that i'm in Mexico City at the moment,  
it will be difficult for me to be present in person at Her memorial,  
but i will be in heart, thought and spirit.  
I will send Her lots of love for Her journey,  
and will always pay homage to Her,  
i'm forever thankful to have crossed paths with  
Her,  
she's one of the greatest beings i've known in  
this life time!  
Please keep me posted,  
and if i can be of any help,  
do not hesitate to contact me.

Love.

.d~]

--

Also from .d~]

Dear Sarah,

thanks for keeping us all informed about it all,  
as i mentioned before i'm in Mexico city at the  
moment and sadly won't be able to make it for  
shiva,

but that day i will give a concert and will dedicate it to her, i will tune in with you and celebrate her enormous  
being from here.

I'm attaching a song by Sun Ra that i want to dedicate to her, every time i listen to it i think of Her, (though  
nothing to do with what she did with him), if you would find it appropriate to play it there, it would be lovely.

Soon i will send some stories and share some of her emails, which i treasure greatly!!

Please send my love to all your family.

.d~]

dyan pritamo [aka] arthur henry fork

m.55 4095 6130

em.info@arthurhenryfork.org

em.dp@dylema.org

msn.forkclinic@hotmail.com

skype.forkclinic



## **Janeane Marks**

Oh, Sarah. I am so sad and sorry. I love Trudy and will miss her. Please let me know if I can help in any way.

Love,  
Janeane

---

## **Vanessa Gamez**

Hi Sarah,

I'm very sad for Trudy's death. She was a very special person for me and I will never forget her. I learned a lot of things with her and we had many adventures together. Trudy will be forever in my heart and prayers, even when I left her house it was extremely hard to get over of her company.

My condolences to you and your family.  
Vanessa

---

## **Richard Stallman**

**Founder of GNU Project and Free Software Foundation**

She was indeed a delight. I'm glad I had the chance to know her.

---

## **Branda Miller <milleb@rpi.edu>**

Dear Sarah,

I send my love and condolences to you and your family.

What an awesome mother you have been blessed with! She is a shining light, which continues to inspire beyond her words and breaths in this life.

In love and sadness,  
Branda Miller

Branda Miller  
Professor of Media Arts, iEAR Studios, RPI  
Sanctuary Arts and Education Coordinator

---

## **Tamara Trocki**

So sorry to hear your news. Your mom was just wonderful. One of a kind. Please let me know if there's anything I can do here to help you prepare for next week.

Love,  
Tammy (and Martin)

---



**DEEP LISTENING INSTITUTE PRESENTS**

**APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup> 7:30<sup>PM</sup>**

THE  
**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**



**WOMEN  
& IDENTITY**

**F E S T I V A L**  
**MEMORY, SECRETS & IMMORTALITY**

Artists include

Jo Andres, Donaldson Brown, Alexandra Enders, Sarah French,  
Liz Gessner, Andrea Israel, Rachel Koenig, Trudy Morse and Regina Weichert.

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This event was funded in part by Poets & Writers, Inc. with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency and the Experimental Television Center's Presentation Funds program, also supported by the New York State Council on the Arts

**Claude Kacser** <claudekacser@gmail.com>

May Trudy be taking her pleasant voice and laugh, as she goes

Dear Sarah and David

I hope Trudy is now again singing and telling poetry with Cecil Taylor, and is also with her beloved Malcolm. We will miss her, and her lovely positive approach to life.

Fondly

Claude Kacser - who visited her too few times last winter; and had so many laughs and dances with her in the last few years.

I'm the person who got my car stuck in the mud of Trudy's neighbor! Bald with white beard & mustache And best wishes to the two of you.

---

**Gilah Rosner**

Dear Sarah and family,

Baruch Dayan Ha'emet... blessed is the True Judge. Yes, a great light has gone from this plane, but may your dear mother's memory and legacy always be a huge blessing in your lives, and may it shine forth through you!

What a character! She will be sorely missed.

Best,  
Gilah

---

**Carol Ireland**

The world won't be the same without her but is a better place because of her.. I still look at the row at church where she used to sit. Her spirit lives on.

Fondly and with joy at having had Trudy in my life.

Carol Ireland

ps do let us know when the memorial service will be but we will be out of town off and on until mid September.

---

**Jay Kreimer**

Sarah,

Thanks for sending this. Trudy meant a lot to me, though I haven't seen her for a few years. She visited us in Lincoln twice, and came to a performance in Chicago. She sat in on a piece there. I'd love to post that, if a tribute site is in the works.

much love,  
Jay Kreimer  
musician, instrument maker, sculptor, composer and educator  
Mighty Vitamins Band

## **Father Dave**

Thank you so much for letting me know, Sarah.  
My thoughts and prayers are with your family.  
Indeed your mum was a force of nature – a great woman!  
The world is less for her passing.  
I'm sorry I won't be able to make the service.  
Sydney is a long way away but I will be with you in spirit.

Yours in the Good Fight  
Dave

---

Rev. David B. Smith, B.A., B.Th., Dip. A.  
Parish Priest, Holy Trinity Dulwich Hill  
Professional Boxer, 6th degree black belt  
Senior Trainer, Father Dave's Fight Club  
Managing Director, Fighting Fathers Ministries  
Marrickville Citizen of the Year 1994 & 2009  
Nominated Australian of the Year 2004 & 2009  
Guinness World Record "Most Continuous Rounds of Boxing" 2012

---

## **Shelley Winkler**

Sarah,

I just read the Am Kolel newsletter and saw that your mom passed away. I am so so sorry, and send you our deepest sympathy, our condolences and our true sadness at this loss. I will always remember your mom at services and activities -- always so part of the spirit of an event.

Love and thinking of you and your family and this sad time,  
Shelley

---

## **Cecily Pilzer [cecilypilzer@earthlink.net](mailto:cecilypilzer@earthlink.net)**

So sorry to hear about your mother's passing. She will truly be missed by all. I wish I had gotten to know her better. I feel very honored that I was able to assist her in coming to the bema for an aliyah. I will unfortunately still be in Massachusetts until the 31st but my thoughts will be with you and your family on the 28th.

Cecily

---

## **Linda Jarschauer Johnson**

So sorry to hear about Trudy, Sarah. It must be difficult being so far away, but some quality time with your son will be so good for the soul.

I send verbal hugs and look forward to giving some to you in person, soon.

---

**Cherie Brown Ncbiinc@aol.com**

Dear Sarah,

Your mom was so deeply loved at Am Kolel. It seems unreal that we won't see her lovely face at Saturday services. I cherish all the moments I had special contact with her. My heart and prayers are with you and your family.

---

**Wendy (Naomi) Netzky-Jolly <wendyinjoy@cox.net>**

Dear Ilene,

I send my condolences and love to you and your family. Aunt Trudy was a beautiful soul and I will always treasure the special times we shared together. Aunt Trudy, Tim and I attended a silent meditation together, went to Florida many times, attended Helen Palmer's enneagram workshop, introduced her to a rabbi friend who she really enjoyed, shared hours of deep and beautiful conversations together. We will miss her zest for life, her openness, kindness and wonderful intellect. She was truly a remarkable woman.

Please send my love and condolences to your family.

Love,  
Wendy and Tim

---

**Suso Navarrete <suso@the-temple.net>**

I'm very touched about Trudy's passing away. Though it was expected at some point soon, it's been a very sad news for me & my family. All our love in these hard moments.

I've done a small tribute to her in what was her website's address for many years, <http://www.the-temple.net/trudy>.

With all our love,  
Suso

From Suso's tribute page. Please visit the page to hear her performance. [www.the-temple.net/trudy](http://www.the-temple.net/trudy)

*My friend Trudy Morse passed away past Wednesday after a life so intense that it would be impossible to summarize. I'll always remember her energy and the positive vibrations that she brought into my own life. We traveled together to different countries and she introduced me to many interesting people and activities. Thanks for all the love that you gave to me, Trudy.*

*If you have your speakers on, you'll be listening to Trudy reciting a poem by Sun Ra over the recording of "When pathways meet", also by Sun Ra. It was recorded in 1999 during one of the Sun Ra Conventions at Hartmut Geerken's home in Germany.*

---

## Michael Monhart

Dear Sarah - thank you for letting us, the wider community of Trudy's friends, know. I send my condolences, thoughts and prayers to you and the family. Though I now live in New York, for many years I lived in Seattle where your mother would visit. At first, for music performances that we did together with a Sun Ra tribute band. We shared some great musical experiences together. She would stay at the YMCA there because she liked to use the pool. Later she would stay at my house sometime taking up residence in my study/spare bedroom where she would spend the days avidly reading through books.

She was, as you said, a force of nature! I will forever remain very grateful for knowing her and being inspired by her. She was truly optimistic and positive, undaunted, seeing the best in any situation or accidental encounter. As she would say, never an accident. Things happen for a reason.

One of the Sun Ra songs she would sing in performance has some lines that go - "I'll wait for you. I'll wait for you in some far place, many light years away, I'll wait for you." I think she will be there, the activity director of that far off place, waiting for us all. I'm blessed to have known her.

Michael Monhart  
Tenor and Soprano Saxophones

---

## Lynette Westendorf <lynette@lwmusic.com>

Thank you so much for letting your dear Mother's friends know of her passing. Trudy was an amazing woman--a real inspiration. It was my good fortune to have performed with her in Seattle as part of the Sun Ra Tribute ensemble. I have often wondered about her late years, and I am happy, and not at all surprised, that she brought joy to those around her until her final days.

We don't even know one another, but I sincerely thank you for thinking of all of us out there in the world.

Best wishes and happy memories,  
Lynette Westendorf  
composer, pianist, keyboard playe

---

## Cornelia Müller <uncool@gmx.ch>

Dear Sarah

The Sun Ra Arkestra was playing in Barcelona when this sad message reached me. I would like to express my condolences and wish you and your family all the best in the time of mourning and I am sure that many old and beautiful memories will accompany you all.

I remember Trudy very well with a good and loving feeling. She also was performing at my festival UNCOOL in 2003. See <http://www.uncool.ch/Programm2003/index.html>.

She read some of Sun Ra's poetry. And she kept the contact with me since then. I will not forget her and keep her memory for a long time....

Sincerely  
Cornelia  
LO SPAZIO

---

**Vit Horejs**<vithorejs7@gmail.com>

Good morning Sarah,

Trudy will be always remembered for her humor, her energy, her beautiful mind.  
Vít

THE CZECHOSLOVAK-AMERICAN MARIONETTE THEATRE

---

**Ana Isabel, Ruby Flower Publishing**

Sarah,

My sincere condolences for all the family.

Your mother was and still my inspiration. I love her very much. This is a very sad day to me but I know how joyful her spirit was. She taught me how laughter can be a medicine.

Please keep me informed in regards with the service.

Sincerely,  
Ana Isabel

---

**Nancy Sherman shermann@georgetown.edu**

Dear Sarah,

How sad we are. And how warmly I remember your mom, a spirited hippie, well into her 90's. We will be away until the end of the summer (Labor Day). But we will be sure to see you at the High Holidays. You were lucky to have such a life force as a mom.

Our condolences to you,  
Nancy (and Marshall)

---

**Carol White cbwhite76@gmail.com**

\*

I am so sorry. Services just won't be the same without Trudy, and I know the holidays will be that much harder for you this year.

Let me know if there is anything you need

May her memory be for a blessing.  
Carol

---

## Veronica Sauvain

I give you and your family my deepest sympathy. I most vividly remember Trudy from job in the GP Post Office. She was very thrifty and didn't want to waste any stamps or envelopes. She and I would figure how to use her bits and pieces of postage stamps.

Trudy lived in my first house in Garrett Park. Trudy will always live in my heart.

Love and prayers,  
Veronica Sauvain and Family

---

## Audrey Huang <audreymhuang@gmail.com>

I heard about Trudy and I am so sorry to hear that she has died. My thoughts are with you and your whole family. Attached is one of my favorite photos with her. Please let me know of any plans for a service.

Peace,  
Audrey



## Faith Lapidus Weiner

Sarah, I'm so sorry to hear about Trudy. She was a very special lady who added a unique verve to services. I'll miss her!

Faith

---

## Susan Chandler

My dear Sarah~it's Susan Chandler from AK~I want you to know how moved I was by your perfect words telling us of Trudy's passing. She left us just as she lived~in her own way, her own time, just the way she envisioned her passing. You characterized her wide reach in this world so beautifully~and I know she would have just loved your words. You were her touchstone, Sarah, and she was so proud of you. What a riotous, marvelous, full, productive, meaningful and "her way" life! And what a blessing for me, and for Am Koleh to have her as our "elder goddess"!!! You know, she always had the "last word" when we went around & introduced ourselves~that was our way of showing her our respect & our affection. Her Am Koleh legacy will live on in the fullness of our "Trudy memories over the years"~how ideal that her memorial service will be at Cedar Lane~were it not for Trudy, we would never have "discovered" Cedar Lane as our home for services!

I shall see you at the memorial service, and be in touch w/ a story or two before then. May Trudy's memory be for a blessing~it already is... With deepest sympathy & affection,

Susan Chandler

---

## Gene Wixson [gwixson@verizon.net](mailto:gwixson@verizon.net)

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for letting me know about Trudy. Recently, I've been thinking about the classification "High risk, high gain", which was coined by Sargent Shriver when he formed the Peace Corps for JFK. To him it was a compliment, and I think most of the Peace Corps volunteers could have been classified that way. I know that Ruth Carter was. Trudy took the concept to and beyond a whole new level [I know she wasn't actually IN the Peace Corps ~~ she was her own Peace Corps]. Trudy was her own just about anything and everything, wasn't she?

Did you know that she was the driving force behind Am Koleh getting to use/rent space at Cedar Lane Unitarian Church? The church secretary and I had many a conversation around "Trudy said...." and/or "Trudy wants...".

When Trudy entered Arden Courts, one of the promises Gerry and I made to ourselves was that we would attend her funeral. However, if you are able to hold it over the Labor Day weekend, we will not be able to join you. Gerry's niece is being married in Michigan. I remember the Jewish teaching that if a funeral procession and a wedding procession reach an intersection at the same time, the wedding has the right of way. And as much as Trudy enjoyed the spotlight, I think she would applaud us in celebrating Rachel's marriage. We will be thinking of you.

Love and roses,

---

## We Remember Trudy

*Sylvia Kamens and Rabbi Jack Reimer  
(used with permission)  
Adapted by Gene Wixson*

At the rising of the sun and at its going down,  
we remember Trudy.

*At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,  
we remember her.*

At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring,  
we remember her.

*At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer,  
we remember Trudy.*

At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn,  
we remember her.

*At the beginning of the year and when it ends,  
we remember her.*

As long as we live, she too will live; for Trudy is now a part of us,  
as we remember her.

*When we are lost and sick at heart,  
We remember Trudy.*

When we have joys we crave to share,  
we remember her.

*When we have decisions that are difficult to make,  
we remember her.*

When we have achievements that are based on hers,  
we remember Trudy.

*As long as we live, she too will live; for Trudy is now a part of us,  
as we remember her.*

---

**Victor Obiols**<obiols.victor@gmail.com>

My condolences, with grief. She was a very special human being. Always in our memory, here in Catalonia, where we met through Cecil Taylor.

All our love, we'll keep her in our hearts.  
Victor Obiols Llandrich Bocanegra

## **Arthur Waskow**

Dear Sarah,

I have a medical-procedure commitment tomorrow and Thursday that make it impossible for me to come then. And on Sept 15 I will be flying home from the West Coast where I am co-leading a Yom Kippur retreat with Rabbi Michael Lerner. I am sorry to miss this connection with Trudy and with you.

I first met Trudy through Fabrangen, and my most powerful memories of her hark back to then — this enormous, tall, slow-spoken, deep-spoken man and this tiny, intense, sparking and sparkling woman speaking passionately for social justice and a version of Torah that embodied it. After I left Philadelphia, we kept in touch as The Shalom Center sent out messages that spoke to Trudy's heart and she wrote me back with ideas about what we could do and astonishing, eye-opening, heart-opening, mind-clearing reports on what she was doing.

“May her memory be a blessing” rings not quite accurate -- because remembering such a life, remembering her life, is already a blessing to us all. And for you, I hope those memories will surround and cushion the grief of losing her.

Shalom, salaam, paz, peace! -- Arthur

Rabbi Arthur Waskow  
The Shalom Center

---

## **Jane Briggs**

Lauren,

My favorite Trudy Morse memory has to be when she took us ice skating and drove us to the rink in her awesome RV. On the way, she had us in stitches telling us about how her bathroom sounds were just like an orchestra...in detail :) And then she also told us that she had lost her drivers license and hoped we didn't get pulled over.

I wanted to let you know that I'm thinking about you. Big hugs!!  
Xoxox Jane

---

## **Marvin Gilmore**

Dear Sarah,

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the Memorial Mass like I wanted to due to my health and age of 89 years old. Just want to say that many times your mom spend at my home when my wife was alive and as well as taken care of me when I was in Washington DC at the prestigious club that she always arranged for me to stay when I was visiting.

My heart goes out to you and your family for your loss.

With love and feelings  
Marvin Gilmore  
Trust Fund Manager New England Conservancy

## Soha Saleh

Dear Sarah:

Its very sad news indeed, but Mrs. Morse, Grammy Gilah, planted in us a seed of hope and love that makes such news easier to accept. She is in a better place, and thanks god that she did not suffer from pain and she left us peacefully.

On April 2011, she sent us an email including a poem that says :

most of angels are with me  
ALL of the time: Deep Listening  
some are with part of the time  
most are with me a bit of the time  
All are important and take care of me  
I am blessed to be surrounded by angels

Grammy Gilah was surrounded by angels but I can say that she was blessed with such a loving heart, a heart of a real mother, and blessed with great energy, enthusiasm, and such a bright and revolutionary mind.. She was herself a guarding angel who showed us, her kids and friends, that there is hope in this life, in this world there are still people who care for the causes of others and who do good with enthusiasm and love without expecting a return. We are blessed that she passed in our lives!!

Please accept my sincerest condolence and sympathies for your loss which is also our loss. Please also accept my apologies for not being able to express my respect in person because I am not in the US now.

Trudy Morse will stay alive in us as a brilliant Jazz song that never dies!!

The attached photos of her are in Shady Grove Station, MD, in January 2010. Unfortunately I did not find a photo of us together.

Best regards,  
Soha Saleh



## **Todd Harris**

our thoughts are with you and your family

Todd & Dawn Harris

---

## **Barney Kathan**

Hi Dave and Sarah,

Joyce and I were very sorry to hear about Trudy's death. She was truly a remarkable woman, and it was good that we shared some moments in her long life. I would like to come down for the memorial service, but will have to see what arrangements can be made for the care of Joyce. My deepest condolences, and my love and best wishes to you both.

Dad

---

## **Douglas Shumaker, MD**

Thanks Sarah. She was certainly a warrior. We all enjoyed taking care of her, but it was a shame she had to get old - something we all have to deal with.

---

## **Judy and Phil**

Sarah..so sorry to learn of your loss. i know you were very concerned about her health. Trudy was quite a personality and we will remember her fondly.

Judy

---

## **Ruth Lis**

Our whole family sends you all our sympathy and we hope that you will be comforted by the knowledge that Trudy lead an extraordinary life with unusual zest and commitment.

---

## **Serena Fox**

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for letting me know, Sarah. Sorry that you have this uncertainty over your travels. Michael Hauptschein and I had a beautiful visit with Trudy two weeks ago. I will visit again if I can get to DC. Please let me know if you or Trudy or our family need anything. I can email and make phone calls even if I am in NJ.

Love, Serena  
Serena J Fox MD, FACP

---

## Jon Katz

Dear Sarah-

Please accept my condolences about Trudy.

Following is my online thanks and tribute to her/

<http://katzjustice.com/underdog/archives/3045-Hugging-my-friend-Trudy-Morse,-1919-2013..html>

Sincerely,

Jon

**From Jonathon's Tribute Page: -- Visit his page to see the links and a video!**

*My close friend Trudy Morse gave me a warm hug within minutes of my first meeting her seventeen years ago. Yesterday she left her body. I hug her spiritually as Trudy transitions to the next chapter in her life.*

*In 1996 I went to the local chavura to pray for my friend John Johnson, who had recently passed away. It turned out to have been the chavura's twentieth or twenty-fifth anniversary. About an hour later, a diminutive woman got up, dressed in her bohemian best, and started talking about having been onstage with Jerry Garcia, and her friendships with Sun Ra and Cecil Taylor. I was transfixed. She then proceeded to perform a prayer -- with local musician and Jewish Renewal spiritual leader David Shneyer strumming guitar in the background -- approaching numerous of us sitting in the circle, and reminding us that we are blessed.*

*I felt then and there that I had to meet this woman who exuded such inspiration, optimism, and joy. After she finished her performance, she started walking down the hallway. I had to restrain myself not to run right up and grab Trudy to assure meeting her. As I approached, she turned around -- she later told me that SHE had found ME (never an accident", she would say, about these divine coincidences) with an angelic smile in my direction. Here is more of the background of our first meeting:*

*In 1995, I spent over four weeks at the Trial Lawyers College with the amazing John Johnson, who was hugging personified. When John Johnson left the planet in early 1996, he hugged me in a dream the same evening I learned of his passing. The next evening, his belief in the power of hugging followed me as I accepted a homeless woman's requests for a couple of hugs on a snowy evening after I bought her dinner, when before I may not have accepted the hug request of any stranger. It carried into the next day, when for the first time I met my now close friend Trudy Morse when I went to pray for John. She is a hugging friend I met after the passing of another hugging friend.*

*Shortly afterward, I spoke with another Trial Lawyers College participant about how I had gone mainly from being a non-hugger to all this hugging after John Johnson passed; that is not to say that I have gone the opposite route, either. He suggested that all this might have happened because I finally had opened myself to receiving the hugs. So I had.*

***Here are other things I have written and linked about Trudy:- [My close friend Trudy Morse clearly would persuasively engage in the courtroom. Trudy takes life by the horns every day and every moment. From a near death experience, Trudy "learned that life is so fragile, I would try to enjoy every moment of life..." Being in the moment is critical to successful trial battle.](#)***

- "We touch each other, For a moment. We feel each other, It is a tender touch. We love each other, For the moment."  
From Trudy's "We Met at the Crossroads."

- Cecil Taylor and I [are close mutual friends of Trudy Morse](#), whom I write about here. I had the good fortune to experience Cecil at the Library of Congress in 1999, and then to join with Trudy and numerous others at Cecil's hotel room to hear him talk captivantly of music and other topics, which followed his backstage discussion of such topics as the artistry of bridges. In 2001, Cecil was playing a tambourine in the audience at Trudy's birthday celebration, and there we talked some more.

## **Farzad Mahootian**

Dear Sarah,

On hearing of Trudy's passing my family sat around a single candle at the dinner table and proceeded to share memories. This went on for hours as we recalled decades of magical moments. So many smiles, so much intensity. She is very much present in our hearts minds, inspiring us to move ahead, to move on, to unfold and share our inner joys and talents with the world. Every moment with her presented the potential for an unexpected jolt, a labor, a delivery, a madness, a pleasure.

One of my favorite moments was when we met, for the very first time, at a conference at Georgetown University--when the floor was open for audience remarks two hands shot up, mine and hers. She defended rock music as an artform and I said something about authenticity and androids. We later met at the door, serendipitously, and our long conversation began. The rest is history, wonder-filled and sparkling. I cherish my kinship with Trudy's family and all of my "adopted" brothers and sisters around the world.

With much love from T, Fauna, Kia and Zhaleh,

---

## **Hillel Weinberg**

Sarah,

I have very fond memories of your mother -- a remarkable woman, truly-- and wish I could be with you at shiva to offer comfort in the traditional way. Unfortunately my mother-in-law is doing poorly in Arizona and I need to help Debra deal with things there. With luck I will be able to see you on the 15th.

Please accept our family's most sincere condolences.

Hillel

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## **Philip Farah, PhD**

**Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East Peace**  
**Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace**

So sorry for the loss of your awesome mother. She will be remembered lovingly.

---

## **Rob Agus**

Sarah,

Rochelle and I were saddened to hear Trudy's passing. To say the least she was a woman of great love and boundless energy. Your family was truly blessed to have such a wonderful mother, grandmother, great grandmother and companion.

Please let me know if, when, and where the family will be sitting shiva and more details about the memorial service.

May her memory be a blessing.

Rob Agus

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## Mitsuo Tamura

Dear Sarah Morse,

I am so sad and sorry to hear your mother's going.

I have no words to say and have nothing to help you now.

I can tell you about your mother just in my memories.

First time I met her in Japan, I was working for setting up the Hakusyu Arts Festival. She came up to our stage in the shrine. I met her with my colleague Min Tanaka and Kazue Kobata.

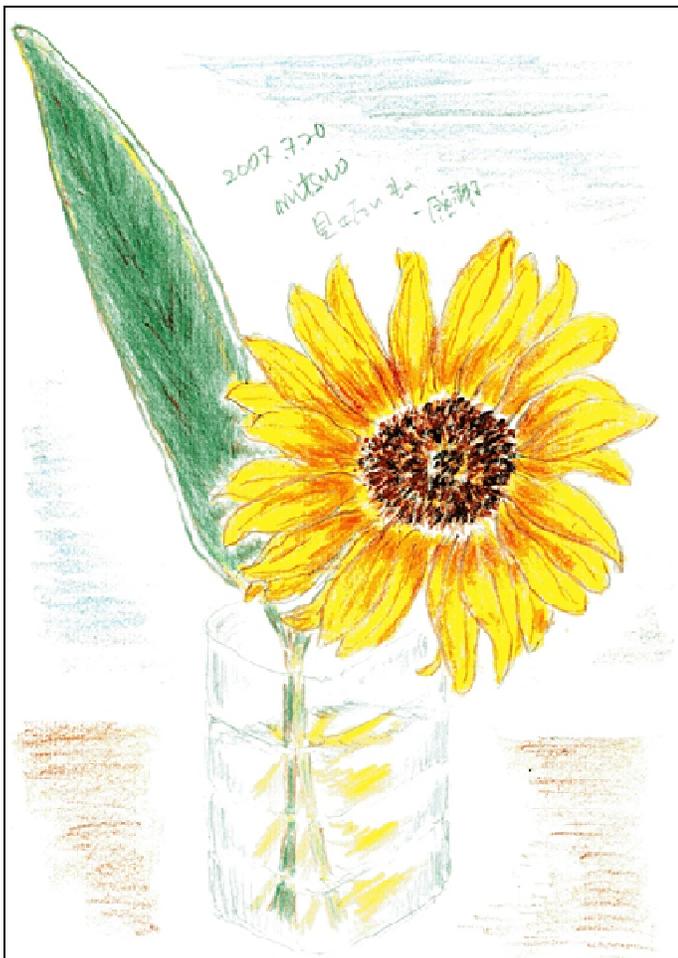
She was always smiling and cheering up us.

First picture is at the Hakushu.

Rest two are flowers for her memories I painted.

LOVE

for everyone



**Zella G Ruthberg**<zellagr@umich.edu>

Dear Sarah,

My deepest condolences on your mother's passing. I knew her for over 60 years, from our days in Rockville and she was always a wonderful friend and always into subjects of public interest. Please give all of your family my condolence wishes. And thanks so much for keeping me informed about her condition.

A long time friend.

Zella G. Ruthberg-Silverstein

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**Bunny Bialek**<bunny@bunnybialek.com>

Dear Sarah,

I am so sorry, not only for your loss, but for mine and so many, many other people.

She indeed was an incredible human being. Her memory will live on for eons, or maybe only years for some of us!

My life was improved by knowing her. I, too, am a positive person, even though, at times it is a bit difficult-never too much so.

When I think of Trudy, she always has a smile to offer.

Sarah, if there is anything I can do for you or your family, please just ask.

Bunny

Bunny Bialek, President

PRESTIGE PROPERTIES Intl LLC

bunny@bunnybialek.com

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**Barbara Feldstein**

Dear Sarah,

(from before Trudy died). . . we all love her very very much, and for me, I can say that she's had a huge impact in my life from when I met her at the HI Hostel in San Diego over 5 years ago, throughout all the weeks (I think it was 5 weeks over a period of about 3 years) she stayed at my hotels with me in Washington DC when I had Federal Anti-Discrimination training by HUD for my job at the New York State Division of Human Rights, to when she stayed at my apartment on Lower East side to attend various wonderful art and music events, which I attended with her, as well as when I moved to Upper East Side where I currently reside, to when I stayed with her at Am Kollole as her guest, and with her at her 'Jazz Lounge'. I am so amazed at how much I learned from her about so many things, and how her creative spirit continues to inspire my life.

Best Regards,

Barbara

Barbara Fae Feldstein

barbarafae@aol.com

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## Bonnie Stein

*here is my tribute. Please feel free to share it far and wide. I might try to publish something as well and will let you know. For now, I will put this into my GOH Productions blog.*

*I hope the shiva went/goes well. I am there in spirit. Last night we celebrated her memory with a gathering of Frank London's family and ours. I attach a few photos as well... 2012 photos of my visit with Trudy, and a few from 2006 in Prague, after Min Tanaka danced and Trudy took the stage with the musicians.*

*with love  
Bonnie*



August 28, 2013

Dear Sarah, Michael, Mary, Alan, Ilene, Gale, Melvin, and all of the grandchildren and great ,grandchildren of the remarkable Gertrude Morse,

I wanted to contribute some words to commemorate your mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Trudy, who was a dear friend and fellow traveler for so many years. It has taken a few days for me to find something that could really say what is in my heart. As you know, she was a very special “force of nature”, and you are all fortunate to have had her in your lives. Sharing her with me and the wide world must have been a challenge at times, but it might also have been rewarding -- hearing all of the vast stories of her travels and meetings along the way.

Trudy, was to me, a mentor, teacher, fellow traveler, surrogate mother, energizer, companion in late night giggling, lover of life, lovely dancer, musician poet extraordinaire, artist and project supporter, lover of peace, life coach and dear friend. We shared so many wonderful times together – watching performances, attending shules in Prague, visiting historic sites in Estonia and hanging out in New York City, where I live. Trudy hopped the bus numerous times to New York- where she would attend a performance I produced, or we would go to see something interesting together. Any time of year – she even came here on New Year’s Eve to see the Klezematics (a founder, trumpeter Frank London was also a dear friend of hers), and got back on the 2am bus to DC.

I met her in the 1980s in New York. I have been trying to remember exactly when, but cannot find the exact moment. We shared love for two virtuoso performers Cecil Taylor and Min Tanaka – two extraordinary artists that I worked with as a producer. We saw them together in New York, at Jacob’s Pillow in Western Massachusetts and other wonderful venues. Trudy always had wise words of caution and encouragement, and she followed my work around the world, often flying to the location of a project to “help out.” Her presence was a joy to me and we shared some really crazy and fun times.

One time that I will relate – there are so many – was more recently in Prague in 2006, when she visited me there. We went together to watch Min Tanaka dance into the chilly Vltava River. (I covered the event for Dance Magazine) One year earlier, Prague had been inundated with a terrible flood. Trudy and I sat on the banks of the river as Min entered the cold water, keeping ourselves warm in the chilly autumn sunshine. Min’s dance was

*(Continued on page 42)*

*(Continued from page 41)*

commemorating one year after the great Prague flood – and the reopening of Archa Theater, where he danced annually. (invited by Ondrej Hrab, producer) Trudy always thought of the best way to support an artist on the road. In this case, she happened to have an instant ramen CUP NOODLE with her, the perfect food for warming up. She handed it to Min after he came out of the water and was drying off on the shore. It was such a brilliant cultural idea – and the exact food he needed to regain his body temperature afterwards. Min was very moved and pleased with her gift – an inexpensive but rich and smart gesture.

Another time, in summer of 2001, we were in Tallinn, Estonia, and the presenter who I was working with (Priit Raud of AugustTants Festival), organized for Trudy to stay at the ornate and exclusive presidential hotel, not an easy thing to do. The day after checking in, she left the palatial abode and moved herself into the Youth Hostel located in the center of Tallinn, declaring the Presidential hotel to be too fancy and “too far from the action.” Although Priit was surprised by her move, we quickly understood what she wanted and what she needed. She did not want to be far from where we were holding daily rehearsals, which she loved to attend and wanted to leave for a nap if she needed and return later in the day. She always gave me feedback about my production work, and kept me going strong. I loved her for that. We used to laugh so hard in the wee hours of the night on the internet together -- me in NY and she in Maryland

*(Continued on page 43)*



*(Continued from page 42)*

-- telling each other stories that made me fall off my chair.

One more memory – Trudy always came to New York to see the “puppets” – the shows created and performed by my life partner, Vit Horejs and his company Czechoslovak American Marionette Theatre. She loved the shows so much that she decided to travel with Vit on his tour of Florida. They ate at all-you-can eat restaurants and met friends and Czech consuls. It was a delightful period that she loved to talk about and Vit will certainly remember for his whole life.

So many memories. I would need a book, and after reading the memories of so many others who were touched by her, it is clear that a book of memories already exists.

TRUDY MORSE( Moma Gila), April 7, 1919 – August 21, 2013

May her memory be blessed for all time.  
Forever on my heart.

With love and care,  
Bonnie Sue Stein, Executive Director and Producer, GOH Productions/New York City

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**Phill Niblock** <pniblock@compuserve.com>

Sarah

i am very sorry to hear that Trudy has gone!!!

i would like to come to the ceremony, but i am in Europe now and in japan on sept 15.

i try to keep touring also.

i very much miss not having trudy sleep on my couch when she was in NY.

phill niblock

minimalist composer and multi-media musician and director of Experimental Intermedia

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**Corin Grote** <corinmontagut@hotmail.com>

Dear Sarah,

I just wanted to send you my condolence even though I knew Trudy very little. I recall that she spent some days renting a room in my flat in Barcelona, I think she came to the music festival. She was such a modern and vital person, I remember thinking that I would really like to resemble her getting older.

If you have the opportunity to come to Barcelona, don't hesitate to contact me.

All the best to your family and friends,

Corin

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## From Facebook

**Dina Wilson** 4:49am Aug 22

Dear Sarah, I am so sorry. I know the last 6 months or so have been hard for your Mom. May she rest peacefully as she floats into eternity. Please know I am thinking about you and your whole family. I am so glad I knew her. She was quite a wonderful woman. Much love, Dina

**Nancy Lee Kathan** wrote: "I will never forget her! She was unique. I am glad I got to know her."

---

**Jay Kappraff** jay.m.kappraff@njit.edu

Dear Sarah,

I am very sad to hear about the death of your mother. She was a very special person and she will be missed. I have many fond memories of her. Let me know of any memorial service that you are holding.

My best,  
Jay Kappraff

Professor of Mathematics, New Jersey Institute of Technology

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**Rocio Sastre**

I just read at Maurie's facebook about your mother. I'm so sorry.  
Love,  
Rocío

---

**John Mulligan** <mulliganj@mindspring.com>

Sarah, you have our great condolences on your deep loss.  
Her memory is indeed as a blessing.  
Love to you and all your family.  
John and Annie

---

**Thomas Buckner** <tom@mutablemusic.com>

Dear Sarah,  
Thanks for the sad news of your mother's death. She was truly remarkable in so many ways, and we will all miss her.

All best,  
Tom Buckner  
Performer, producer

---

Serena Fox <serenajfox@earthlink.net>

Hi Sarah,

I wish I had been at the Shiva. The following is what I read to introduce my reading at Cafe Muse on August 5, 2013

(from my introduction to the reading)

...I like to read a poem by another poet to start readings. Please accept this as an offering in honor of my friend Trudy Morse, whom many of you know and love:

It is the closing two stanza of a poem called 'The Quilter' from a small collection, **Back to Eden:**

The Theologist  
Theologizes  
The Philosopher  
Philosophizes

Man apologizes  
God, He  
Agonizes

I tear down, I patch, I mend  
I use castaway fabrics  
Colored threads  
And little pieces collected  
From my home, and all over the world  
I design my own patterns  
My quilt is my own, a Memory  
For whoever wants to look and see

Tear down  
Patch  
Mend  
Make do



2005-06 Malcolm Morse Biomedical Graduate Fellow Anne Marie Petrock (left) with Trudy Morse. Trudy established this fellowship with a lead annual gift and charitable gift annuity.

## Melissa Stafford

Dear Morse Family,

I met Trudy in 2005 in a youth hostel in Santa Monica. I remember seeing this tiny older woman, long white hair worn in a ponytail, dressed in colourful clothes and wearing multiple beaded necklaces. I don't remember who said hello first, or what we discussed during those few hours but by the time I wished her goodnight we had exchanged email addresses.

I loved talking about religious studies with her. Nine years of Catholic education didn't come close to the education I received from Trudy.

Shortly into our emails conversations, she declared me another one of her adopted grandchildren and I accepted it as an honour.

Thanks to Trudy, I attended an inter-faith conference in Los Angeles with her. Trudy and I shared dorm accommodations and I remember sitting in the dorm with her, talking about everything and anything, laughing all the way as though we were two teenage girls.

She attended my wedding in 2007. The attached photo is my favorite picture of her. She's hugging me. Please excuse the photo quality- I don't have a scanner so I took a digital photograph of the actual photograph.

I do have all of our emails and I treasure them. Reading though some of the emails the past few days, I realized how much she not only taught me about herself but how much she taught me about myself. My only regret is I didn't met her years earlier.

Cosmic goodbye, Grammy.  
Melissa



## From Washington Post Legacy.com Guest Book

Dear Sarah and Family,

My condolences to you all. May your Mom's, Trudy's, memory forever be a blessing. A force of life was she!! Poetry and words from her size, just makes me smile, as does recalling her place near the door at Cedar Lane during David's services. Travels and stories galore, loving family.

I was blessed to attend, I think it was, her 80th. Was it her Bat Mitzvah?  
Somehow, she gave me courage with her spirit.

Sending hugs and Love,  
Yonina Andrea

Yonina Andrea Foster, Ph.D  
Germantown, Maryland

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Dear Melvin, Mike, Mary, Sarah, Gale, Ilene, Alan, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of Trudy Morse,

I know Trudy Morse is loved and very much missed. I enjoyed visiting with her years ago in the family home on Stanford Street...what a wise, inspiring, and energetic person she was!

It was an honor to know her, and, as well, to visit with her last week.

Please accept my condolences.

Sincerely,  
Cathy  
~

Cathy Broad,  
Silver Spring, Maryland

---

August 30, 2013

The world was a brighter place with Trudy in it....she is greatly missed.

~  
Diane Willis,  
Wilmette, Illinois

## The Prayer Vigil for the Earth

To our Prayer Family and Friends,

Our beloved elder Trudy Morse passed August 20 after a very brief illness. She was 94. Her daughter, Sarah Morse, “was searching the internet for images for her memorial service and came upon pictures of her at the Prayer Vigil. I only attended it once with her, but it was very special to her and she looked forward to presenting [the Prayer of St. Francis] every year. I always heard stories of how she was an "elder" and she was very proud of her role at the Vigil.”



The Prayer Vigil family all adored Trudy. Just the sight of her brought sunshine into our hearts. She walked as such a multi-faith, multi-dimensional human being. What a role model. Who could bring St. Francis alive in us like our Trudy?

...

When Lokman Hoja Effendi of the Osmanli Naksidbendi Sufi Center in Sidney Center, NY and long-time members of the Prayer Vigil heard of Trudy's passing, he immediately sent this message to us, which reflects who Trudy was to his Sufi community:

From the Quran ..."From Allah do we come from and to Allah is our return". Thank you for notifying us. They [Elders] surely are going on ahead of us, these holy ones, for the great gathering that will be their return. Soon inshAllah. She is always remembered with warmth and love by us, and I especially remember her unprovoked words of reconciliation and embrace the second to last time we met

her, as she spoke words of wisdom directed to her own nation, of recognizing Ishmael as the first born as per the Bible.... I remember her spontaneous adoption of Omar and Hasan, our Sufi brothers whom she asked to assist in her [Prayer of St. Francis] presentation. They have work to do on the other side and we wait for their return.”

Suffice it to say, Trudy's exuberant, inclusive, social-justice heart can never be silenced no matter what side of the veil she finds herself. We, in this realm, carry her presence into our daily existence as living Trudy models and memories.

Much admiration and many thoughts surround Trudy's family and those she loved. Sarah, thank you for sharing Trudy with us for so many years.

With love,

The Prayer Vigil for the Earth





## Presenters for the 2012 Prayer Vigil for the Earth

**Trudy Morse**, poet and musician. A political activist in the Washington, DC area, she worked on Civil Rights, Vietnam War and other peace movements. Each year at the Prayer Vigil, Trudy recites the prayer of St. Francis for us.

### From Bill Sanda, Prayer Vigil for the Earth

Dear Sarah, thank you for connecting with us, The Prayer Vigil for the Earth. We will miss your mother dearly as she was always such a loving and heart-warming soul, presenting her Prayer of St. Francis every year and participating with the Sufis and Rabbi David Shneyer. She was a such profound presence at the Vigil. We heard of her passing through Am Kolel's newsletter.

If you wish, I could send you photos of Trudy from the Prayer Vigil as I am the photographer of the Vigil. Please do let me know if you wish any more photos and where to send them. I am sure that there will be members of the Vigil who would like to offer their memories of Trudy for her service. Are you taking such written "testimonials?"

Unfortunately, I will be out of town that day and will not be able to attend. I am sure others from the Vigil will be at her service. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and Trudy.

Many blessings, Bill Sanda



2006 - Trudy Morse Singing Song of St. Francis

Photos from Prayer Vigil For the Earth  
National Mall, Washington DC



Right, 2008 with  
granddaughter Abby  
Kathan

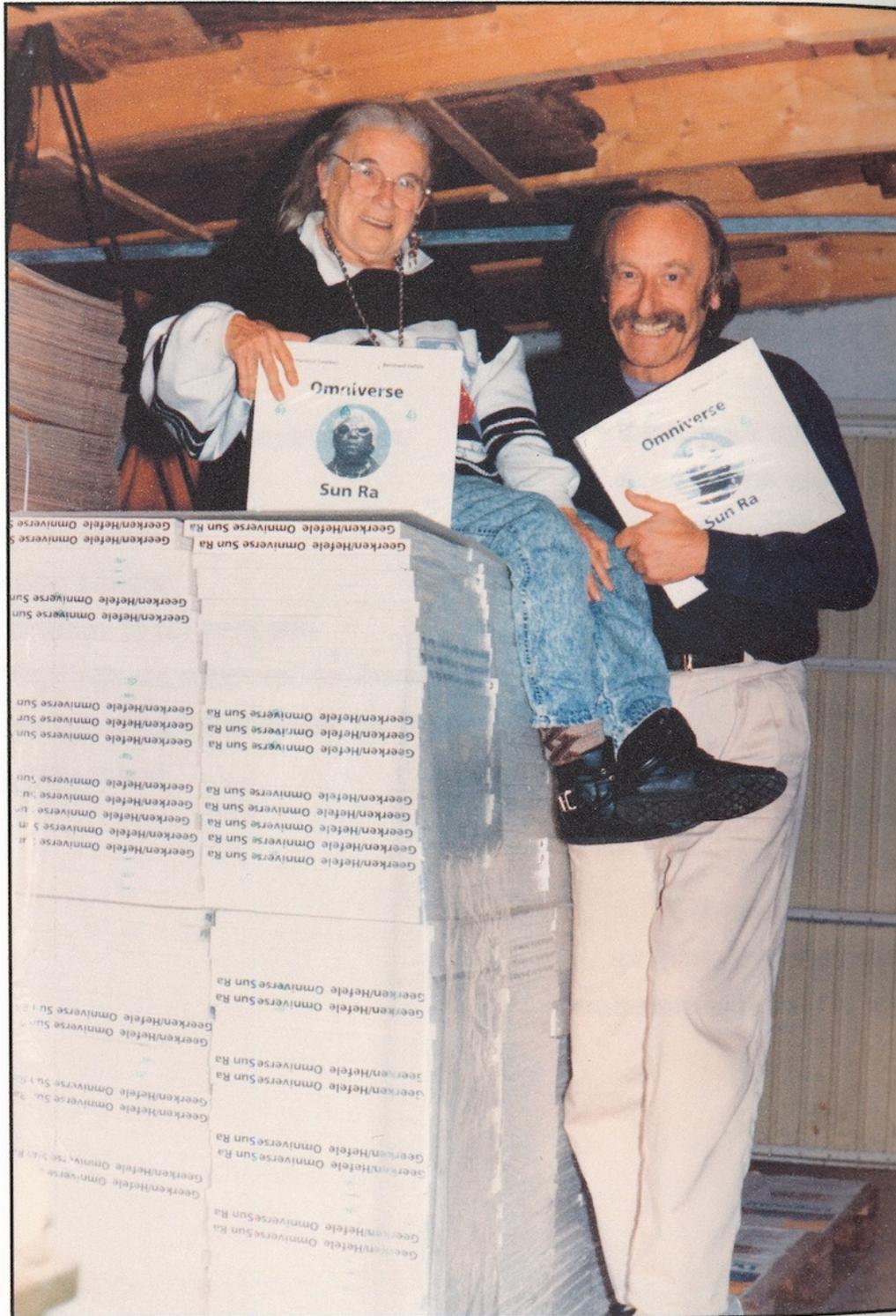
Below, 2010 with  
adopted Sufi sons



## Tribute Page to Trudy Morse

<http://fromnowherehere.blogspot.com/>

### *In Space: Trudy Morse*



Trudy Morse (on piles of „Omniverses“) & Hartmut Geerken  
(Foto: Anton J. Kuchelmeister)

## James L. Wolf

From <http://fromnowherehere.blogspot.com/>

About Trudy, I just want to say that the Waitawhile compilation and publication of Sun Ra's poetry would never have happened without her.

I met Trudy at a long-gone little bar in Washington, DC in the mid-90s, where somebody was putting on a free jazz show. Trudy saw me reading a book by Jacob Boehme and based on that, asked me if I would drive her up to NYC for a Sun Ra tribute show at the Knitting Factory. I did, bringing along some friends, and ended up doing lights (ineptly, I'm sure) for Trudy's part of the show. Throughout that weekend, she had more energy than all of us 20-somethings put together, leading us from bar to bar through lower Manhattan, discussing art, music, Israeli politics and everything else. When I brought her back home, she gave me a copy of *The Immeasurable Equation, Vol. II*. That gift inspired me to collect together all the Sun Ra poetry I could find. And because of this list-serv that project turned into the Waitawhile publication.

I'm sure I'm only one of many, many people whom Trudy had a powerful influence on. Spirits like hers are rare and beautiful beyond measure.

James

James L. Wolf



**the international waitawhile  
sun ra conventions**

## **My Near Death Experiences by Trudy Morse**

Trudy Morse

Hermes at the Crossroads

Hermes Press - September 9, 2000.

A NDE, as it is called today, is a rather frightening experience, but since I have been privileged to have had three in my lifetime, actually I feel blessed.

The first NDE was almost 50 years ago, while giving birth to my son, Michael, I found myself being twirled through a dark tunnel, with a bright light at the end. I woke up hysterical, I thought the baby had died. I was rather surprised when the phenomenon was analyzed many years later, it was I who was near death, and not the baby.

As a result of this startling experience, "Training for Child- birth" was pioneered in the Washington, D.C. area with Sue Patch, sister of Gloria Steinman, President. Trudy Morse, Treasurer. My son, Dr. Melvin Morse, pediatrician, who writes about NDE's in children, was the first baby born, under this new program, over 40 years ago.

Our program was to train parents in natural childbirth. Dr. Dick Reid, of the UK, was the leader of the movement in those days. We were the first to bring fathers into the delivery room, exercises for mothers, and coaching lessons for fathers, to give support for the mothers.

The second time I had a NDE, I saw the pattern of my whole life before me, and repented, that before the NDE, I hadn't been a really good cook. Saying farewell, I asked Malcolm to forgive me, before passing out during an asthma attack.

And from that experience I learned that it's very good to be ready to meet your maker and a quick review of your life is a strong probability!

I am still not a very good cook, but don't feel guilty, since Malcolm assured me that was not why he married me. The medics had revived me at home, and I felt at peace that Malcolm had forgiven me during my last moments.

From that experience, I learned that life is so fragile, I would try to enjoy every moment of life with an extraordinary husband, Malcolm Morse, who was my partner for some 40 years.

At the age of 55, when he was diagnosed as having cancer, I insisted that he retire so that we may have the last years of his life, roaming the planet, so that he might have a last look at every location he was curious about, had read about in science, literature, the Bible, politics and even science fiction. He remained alive another 13 years.

A practicing Yoga, he died a Yoga's death, in peace, in lotus position, and I stayed over 3 hours, singing and chanting, for an easy departure of the soul. I was at peace that I had helped fulfill his mission of life. He examined anomalous phenomena for some six months each year, all over the globe.

This last NDE at the senior age of 81 was an extraordinary revelation. An asthma victim almost all of my life, I was unable to pull out of an asthma attack at the home of one of my dearest members of my extended family, GILA.

I had overdosed on medication, which brought me deeper in the helpless stage. 911 was called, the ambulance appeared immediately, the medics correctly diagnosed the incident as pulmonary arrest, and were able to revive me within the six minutes before brain damage. It was a quick, efficient action that made for the success of the treatment, every one cool and collected to do what needed to be done.

### **Now, what did I learn in the experience during my twilight years?**

The most touching was the miracle of the assembly of the family. They arrived at the hospital shortly after the ambulance, and were there with complete support for me.

As important as modern life-supporting machinery and professional help is, I needed my dearest and most beloved family. Sarah never left my side and I deeply felt her presence, as well as Mary's, who never left Sarah.

Later, Dr. Serena Fox appeared. She works at the Trauma Center at Columbia Hospital for Women, spent time with the

*(Continued on page 55)*

*(Continued from page 54)*

doctor on call, Dr. Remy. He had heard of her, by reputation, and with continual telephone calls to my own family doctor, Dr. Douglas Shumaker, they were an extraordinary medical team put together in this extreme emergency.

Needless to say the nurses are God's gift of angels to care for us. They told me later, the incident took them by complete shock. The possibility of brain damage loomed very large in their minds.

Now what happened to the NDEer: First, there was a black cage I was trying to frantically trying to escape, banging each corner post. In despair, I finally gave up: "Well, if this is Hell, Heaven is probably boring." (This is what my son, Alan, says I reported late Thursday night of the discharge.)

Although that vision appears to have come first, what I remember vividly, is a white casket with heavily clad manacled boots thumping each corner tightly closed.

Perched on the ceiling, was the Raphael angel, with lovely face cupped into hands, watching the event, with much wonder, watching the casket-thumping, admiring its beautiful painting of stars, crescents, and other beautiful colorful patterns, covering the casket, gleaming, glowing white, like a Rauschenberg painting.

The thumping of each corner finished, the casket securely closed, the Raphael angel perched on the ceiling watching carefully, wondered:

"Well, which would have been better, Heaven or Hell?" And with a wry smile: "Who knows?"

I had finally been restrained from fighting the staff who were trying to insert the indo-trachial tube directly into the mouth, to hook up the lungs with the support machine, necessary to get the lungs working again. Michael, who had been helping the staff in their struggle, was severely scratched, which was an agonizing moment for him. Everybody involved later told me they went into complete shock after this experience .

I was so determined to keep off the machines! I had always said I would rather die than be hooked up on a machine, and I really meant it!

Now that it is all over, I feel truly blessed again. With such a remarkable family who by some miracle arrived, without anybody knowing where to call them! With such extraordinary extended family giving further support. And the remark of the social worker really moved me. When I asked her why she was visiting me, she told me most of the elderly patients have no one at home to go to, and she provides volunteers and visiting nurses, meals on wheels.

What a wonderful feeling, to have Sarah there every moment, demanding that I be taken home at once, rather than the two week period they suggested and David, her husband, taking over all the chores of the four children left at home during Sarah's 24 hour vigilance.

Sarah decided three days in the hospital was enough. She demanded my release at once, and armed with the X-rays, she drove me to her home. Maurie was there with a broad smile. Michael had already left work, and was waiting to pick me up.

Erica had decorated the front doorway: "Welcome home". Lauren, who had grown at least 12 inches during the summer, had to lean over to embrace me.

And Mary was there with a dinner, eaten outdoors, overlooking her glorious garden and little pool with the waterfall creating the sound of running water which I love.

Michael took me shopping for my bagels, picked up my medicine. And Guy and Sheri took over from there. They explained the medication, assuring me it was very mild and only a short course. Dr. Shumaker assured them it would not interfere with the effective plendil I take for high blood pressure.

Dr. Shumaker insisted I call him at home to strongly advise against my trip to Syria scheduled for the next day. I felt so much had done for me, I better not let them down and create new problems, so I cancelled the trip. My beautiful extended

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family member Paula, of Signature Travel, got to work at once to assure that I get money back for airfare.

I came away with the realization that although I say I am ready to die, there's a whole crew of people, medical and family, who seemed to think it important that I live a little longer. Like the birth of a baby, the rebirth of an adult requires instant loving, nurturing for the health of the new model.

My son, Dr. Melvin Morse, pediatrician, who has pioneered in NDE with children, presents, during his lectures, pictures that children draw about their experience. Some are pictures of Jesus, pets, teachers, or parents, whom they have just seen. They are usually told to return, depending upon their belief system.

For me there was no such picture. No persons, no Jesus, no favorite aunt, mother, or spouse, only at first, a crude black cage from which I was frantically pounding, trying to escape. In some disgust, I just gave up, thinking: "Oh well, Heaven would probably be boring anyway!"

Then appeared a white casket, with heavy manacled boots pounding each corner tightly shut. Beautiful and gleaming white. Stars, crescents and colored figures were painted on the lid, in Rauschenberg style. Above it all a Raphael angel watched from the ceiling, finally wondering if Heaven or Hell would be better!

Who knows?

### **WHAT DO I MAKE OF ALL OF THIS?**

Our holiest prayer in Judaism is the Shma Yisroel, Adonoi Elehanu, Adonoi Echod. Hear oh Israel, The Lord our God, The Lord is one.

The Adonoi is a Hebrew Tetragrammaton, having four Hebrew Letters, usually transliterated YHWH or JHVH, that forms a biblical proper name of God. Reb Shneyer has told us that Adonoi means past, present, and future.

I feel a deep sadness that my departed partner, Malcolm was not witness to this. An internationally recognized engineer, he was also a Polymath. Equally as versed in Philosophy, Poetry, Plato, Plotinus, Literature, Eastern and Western Religions.

In raising our six children, he constantly reminded me that when the child is born, images of his past, present, and future are embodied on the brain.

Since I saw no persons, heard no voices, I personally conclude that it was the high tech machinery, and the total high level family and medical support that brought about the return. Maybe, this return was guided by either the images of the brain already imprinted at birth: maybe, God whom Jung defines as SELF, maybe, just plain GILA.

Death is not Real  
But Birth to a  
New Life  
We go on and on  
To higher planes  
For eons and aeons  
Of Time

The Universe is  
Our Home  
We explore the  
Farthest Recesses  
We dwell in the  
Finite Mind  
Of The All

I die gladly  
So I may Know  
The Whole Truth  
Of Being  
At One with  
The ALL



With baby brother Ben, August 2013

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## **Rev. Charlene Belsom Zellmer**

Dear Sarah,

Sad news, indeed. I am thankful her passing was accompanied by only a brief illness. May she rest in peace in the arms of the Universe.

Trudy and I first met as we planned for then took a pilgrimage trip to Dicsoszentmarton, Transylvania, Romania in June 2003 via Budapest. Trudy was my roommate at the Charles Apts. In Budapest. She welcomed us all as we arrived after she did. She was on one of her music and poetry tours so she dove tailed with us in Hungary where she'd already taken the baths and was raring to go. Once in Transylvania she charmed our partner church friends with her extraordinary love of life, her boundless energy, her enthusiasm for new leanings. The young people called her the "little lady" and delighted in singing and dancing with her as they told their stories of oppression prior to 1989.

Once we returned she and I became regular email correspondents until she forgot. I saw her occasionally at church and we would remember our time together in Transylvania. I will never forget her vitality and quest for justice in the world or her desire to create legacy for her family.

We were blessed to have her amongst us on this Earth.

In hope,  
Rev. Charlene Belsom Zellmer  
301.530.8923

## Wendy Oke

Dear Sarah;

I am so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. Although I did not know her well, I spent a two week period with her on one of James Twyman's adventures, following the path of Moses, from Egypt, through the Sinai, and throughout the Holy Land. It was a few years ago, but I remember it as though it was yesterday. Your mother had more pizzazz than most of the young people I know, and even though she had to be lifted or carried some places, she would not be left behind on any journey we took. She was politically savvy and had a consciousness raising gift that continued long after our trip was over, as she sent me ongoing e-mails about peace movements she was connected with. My sense of her is that she would not want to be loitering around, with Alzheimers disease taking hold of her mind. She no doubt has been invited on a new adventure, one where I know she will be deeply engaged as always. I do appreciate being informed and I will look for any photos I have of her on our trip. I know I have some good ones.

Blessings,  
Wendy Oke

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Hello Sarah;

Here are a few of the photos taken by either myself or my room mate, Prem Glidden, on our Beloved Community trip to Egypt and Israel. The ones where she is being lifted onto the boat is on the Sea of Galilee. Our handsome guides called her 'Grandma'. The ones with Jimmy's daughter and Karen, his assistant, are in our hotel in Jerusalem. The dinner photos are on our last night in Jerusalem before heading home. They do bring back wonderful memories and she is gleeful in each shot.

Wendy Oke  
Huntsville, Ontario, Canada.



## **John Sudduth, blogging under the name Yotte.**

Hi Sarah,

I'm very happy and relieved that you enjoyed seeing the videos. When I learned of her passing, I wanted to celebrate her in some way but was unsure about what to say or do. I know that grief is a semi-private time when family and friends come together to support each other and was afraid that those close to her might be put off by an unknown person intruding.

I wish I had some interesting stories to share with you but I'm sorry to say that I know very little about your mother. In fact, virtually everything I've learned, I referenced here.

I can't remember now how I learned her name but it may have been from the Waitawhile Sun Ra Conventions collection I purchased last year. The collection included the wonderful picture of her sitting atop a stack of Omniverse books along with several recordings of her reading poetry aloud. I searched the web a bit for more information about her but found so little. When I heard of her passing, I searched again and found only the same bits and pieces as before.

As a child, I was close to my grandmothers and a great grandmother. They were all very intelligent, thoughtful, open minded, loving, and joyous women (each so wise despite their excellent education and upbringing) and when I heard your mother's voice reciting the poetry and speaking during interviews, I was immediately reminded of them and instantly felt a welling of affection for her. I tried googling for more information about her life and work but was disappointed by the results. I know now of her affiliation with the Deep Listening Institute and have read some of her time with Cecil Taylor. I'd love to learn more about her, her writings, and about her association with Sun Ra.

I sure wish you the best in your search. If I happen to find anything more, I will be happy to share with you.

-john

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## **Roy Hayes**

Sarah,

The memory of your mother is certainly a blessing to me. Trudy and I met in Jerusalem, in April of 2004. We met in the middle of the night, in the library at St. George's College. I was de-fragmenting a computer at the time. We talked non-stop until breakfast and became instant friends. We kept in touch as long as she was able to operate her computer. May Light perpetual shine upon that dancing, traveling, smiling lady.

Peace,  
Roy Hayes

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## Sharon Franquemont

Dear Sarah,

Tonight Shakir Sasi posted another Prayer Vigil photo on FB which has Trudy in the background with one of her adopted Sufi sons.

Although Trudy is not central to the photo, it shows how she was ALWAYS interacting with everyone.

Each person was always uplifted after talking to your Mom.

Sharon

