



Mavra Esme Stark

July 19, 1942 - April 8, 2025

Mavra Esme Stark

Age 82, of White Oak, PA, passed away on April 8, 2025.

She was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, the daughter of Regina Vogel and Harry Steinberg, and the sister of Gyda Robinson. Mavra was married to Robert DeRise for 32 years, and together they raised two daughters, Fabrienne DeRise-Spadacene and Bianca DeRise-Johnson. She was also a proud mother-in-law to Rolland Spadacene and Christopher W. Johnson, and a loving grandmother to Rhett Spadacene and Shay Johnson. She was a cherished aunt to David Robinson.

Mavra was a lifelong advocate for women's rights and civil rights. She worked to create opportunities and support systems for women and families. In Brooklyn, she started a free daycare center that she successfully persuaded the City of New York to fund.

She later served as President of the Morris County chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW), where she worked to advance gender equality and support women's rights at the local level. Mavra also created and produced a local television show in New Jersey called New Directions for Women, which focused on issues affecting women and gave voice to topics

often overlooked in mainstream media.

She was also an animal lover who valued the well-being of all living things.

Mavra was deeply committed to the causes she believed in, and she brought that same dedication to her roles as a mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. She was an amazing, inspirational woman with a kind heart, and she will be remembered with love and respect by all who knew her.

A visitation will be held on Sunday, from 10am until the time of service at 12pm at the D'ALESSANDRO FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY LTD., Butler at 46th Sts., Lawrenceville. Interment will take place on Monday, at 12pm, at Temple Sinai Memorial Park.

www.dalessandrold.com.

Cemetery Details

Temple Sinai Cemetery

Pittsburgh, PA 15235

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 13. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

D'Alessandro Funeral Home and Crematory Ltd.
4522 Butler St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15201

Funeral Ceremony

APR 13. 12:00 PM (ET)

D'Alessandro Funeral Home and Crematory Ltd.
4522 Butler St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15201

Graveside Service

APR 14. 12:00 PM (ET)

Temple Sinai Cemetery
7740 Saltsburg Rd
Pittsburgh, PA 15239-1742
(412) 421-9715

Tribute Wall

MF

“ McDonough Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mavra Esme Stark.



McDonough Family - April 13, 2025 at 11:47 AM

CM

“ Cuzzo mike monte purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Mavra Esme Stark.



Cuzzo mike monte - April 12, 2025 at 09:02 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mavra Esme Stark.



April 12, 2025 at 04:38 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mavra Esme Stark.

April 12, 2025 at 04:27 AM

JS

“ *Mavra was a Goddess who moved mountains!*

Jo Sippie-Gora - April 11, 2025 at 09:13 PM

NH

“ *I will always remember how beautiful my Aunt Mavra was and how much I looked up to her for fighting for women's rights. Ill never forget my mom showing me Aunt Marra's picture in the Daily News showing me that she was one of the first women to protest for women's rights and she also traveled to China I do believe, at the time Nixon went. It was a first. She was brave and kind and beautiful. I pray she is at peace now. She was a role model for my two female cousins, Fabrienne and Bianca and I am so sorry that she is no longer in her physical body to be present for them. I am praying for healing for all....Love- Cousin , Nancy*

Nancy Raffa Hallman - April 11, 2025 at 02:41 PM

DB

Mavra was instrumental in allowing me to grow spiritually. As an activist, she was a voice for the voiceless, a cornerstone for those who had nobody in their corner I, and an I-beam for those lacked strength . She was remarkable, well-respected and deeply missed by all those whose lives she touched. Msy we honor her life by doing the same in her stead.

Deborah Brenneman-Coles - April 14, 2025 at 09:51 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mavra Esme Stark.*



April 11, 2025 at 02:21 PM

GT

“ George, Nancy, Alfonse, Eric, Bob, Tracy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mavra Esme Stark.

George, Nancy, Alfonse, Eric, Bob, Tracy - April 11, 2025 at 02:12 PM

GT

“ George, Nancy, Alfonse, Eric, Bob, Tracy purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Mavra Esme Stark.



George, Nancy, Alfonse, Eric, Bob, Tracy - April 11, 2025 at 02:12 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mavra Esme Stark.



April 11, 2025 at 01:09 PM

TS

“ The Sweeneys purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mavra Esme Stark.



The Sweeneys - April 10, 2025 at 08:23 PM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mavra Esme Stark.

April 10, 2025 at 07:46 PM



“ We will miss your presence at our Monthly Evergreen Meetings!
Hail and farewell Sweet Mavra!

With Love, Kim and John Castle-Carothers

Kim Castle - April 10, 2025 at 07:40 PM



“ My deepest sympathy and condolences to each of you, May God be with you at this difficult time and bring you Peace. May your lovely Mother rest in peace, Amen.

Love,

Cousin AnnMarie (Mattera/DeRise) LaPorte

AnnMarie LaPorte - April 10, 2025 at 06:39 PM



“ Mavra was one of the first members of the Pittsburgh Secular Jewish Community and it was an absolute pleasure knowing her since May 2012. Her kindness, warmth, style, and compassion will be missed at all of our gatherings and celebrations. She will be remembered with great fondness by all who had the honor and pleasure to know her. Sending lots of love to her beautiful family.
xoxoxo Susan & Josh Forrest

Susan Kershner Forrest - April 10, 2025 at 06:31 PM

JG

Rest in Peace my Friend 💕💕

Joan Grabowsky - April 10, 2025 at 09:53 PM

PP

She was my friend...the world is a smaller and less beautiful place without her presence. Condolences.

Phyllis Ellis Popper - April 12, 2025 at 04:46 PM