



Katalin Maria Kovago

August 19, 1947 - October 4, 2015

Services for Katalin Maria Kovago, 68, of Tyler, will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2015 at 3:00 PM at Stewart Family Funeral Home Chapel with Dr. Steve Simmons officiating. Visitation will be held thirty minutes prior to the service, from 2:30 to 3:00 PM.

Private burial will be held at Rose Lawn Cemetery in Tyler under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Mrs. Kovago passed away Sunday, October 4, 2015 in Tyler.

She was born August 19, 1947 in Budapest, Hungary. She and her family fled Hungary after the Soviet army crushed the Hungarian Revolution in 1956.

They arrived to New York City and at the age of 9, Katalin spoke no English. She was thrown "head first" into the school system. It is a testament to God's blessings that her strong spirit prevailed. She managed to graduate from Harvard University and continue on to earn a graduate degree in marketing from UCLA. Her 25 year career in advertising culminated in an executive vice president position at one of the largest advertising agencies in New York City, leading the Revlon account world-wide.

Katalin was a member of Fifth Street Presbyterian Church of Tyler.

Katalin was preceded in death by her husband, Roger Slone; her father, Joseph Kovago, Mayor of Budapest; her mother, Ilona ; and her father-in-law, the Rev. Eugene Slone.

Katalin is survived by her loving family including mother-in-law Freida Slone of an Angelo; brother and sister-in-law Chuck and Kathy Cox of Tyler; niece

Meridith Twaddell of Tyler; and nephew Paul Cox of Temple.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Hospice of East Texas Foundation, 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, TX 75701 or Fifth Street Presbyterian Church of Tyler, 1616 E. Fifth St., Tyler, TX 75701.

Cemetery Details

Rose Lawn Cemetery

2003 Blue Mountain Blvd.
Tyler, TX 75703

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 6. 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Service

OCT 6. 3:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Tribute Wall

FS

“ *Only now, by coincidence, I learn of Katalin's early death. We met as students in Geneva in 1968 and I keep fond memories of her. All the best to the remaining family.*
Fabian von Schlabrendorff

Fabian von Schlabrendorff - June 06 at 11:30 AM

JL

“ *1 file added to the album Katalin, Summer 1968*



Jim Lowry - November 23, 2015 at 12:10 PM

DA

“ *May the God of all comfort be with each of you doing this time of grief and pain . John 5 : 28,29*

Delores Allen - October 13, 2015 at 07:34 AM

DF

“ *I remember Kathy as a vibrant member of our class at MRHS, May God be your comfort at this time as he is always by our side.*

Donna E. Flaherty

Donna Flaherty - October 07, 2015 at 09:26 AM

MA

“ Adios old friend. May your family and love greet you at heavens gates...rest in peace , may the Angels hold your spirit and carry you to peace and the eternity you believe in...God Bless. ❤️

maria - October 06, 2015 at 09:38 AM

AA

“ Ashley Anderson lit a candle in memory of Katalin Maria Kovago



Ashley Anderson - October 06, 2015 at 08:13 AM

MD

“ Kat (Kathy) Kovago was widely considered to be the smartest, most sophisticated student at Mainland Regional High School back in the day, and maybe of all time. I literally drooled with envy when she went to a program at the Sorbonne between her junior and senior year: Who else would spend a summer in Paris? Who else figured out how to do her own hair in french curls? Who else spoke three languages? She was an intellectual and a beauty queen at the same time! She had a wicked sense of humor, too. Kathy, her great friend Tina Marotta, and I shared the strong desire to start our real lives as well as a fake crush on one of our classmates, code-named "Gorgeous Boy". I did not know Kathy was ill, and I deeply regret her death.

Margaret Reish Downing - October 05, 2015 at 10:14 PM



I remember Kathy from high school. She was an intelligent, friendly classmate. I admired her strength and her diligence. I am glad that I had some contact with her over the years. My condolences to her family and friends. I am. Sure she will be missed.

Carolann Klingert - October 07, 2015 at 06:51 AM

DM

I'm so sorry to see that Katalin has died. She was a friend at Radcliffe/Harvard, I felt linked to her past as I remember trains of Hungarian refugees passing through Switzerland in 1956 (where I lived for one year). She had so much vitality and energy!

David MacLean - May 13, 2022 at 04:16 PM

SD

I worked with Katalin in New York in the 1980's. She was smart, beautiful, and great fun to be around. I am so sorry to hear this news. Rest in peace.

SUZANNE DOUGLAS - March 09, 2023 at 08:16 AM

DH

Her mother was my homeroom teacher in Holy Spirit High School. Highly intelligent kind sweet and patient with us teenagers.

Dagmar Hanson - February 02, 2024 at 04:15 AM

SB

“ I went to Mainland Regional High School in Linwood, NJ, with Kat (then known as Kathy) from 1962 to 1966. We were in the same classes, but I was never in her class. She was way above me and all the rest of us -- and that included the teachers. When I was reading Mickey Spillane, she was reading Leo Tolstoy. For the first year or so I thought she was unapproachable, until one day I made some joke in class, and looked over and saw Kathy smiling. Yes, she was serious, a teenage intellectual, but she had a sense of humor. Anyone who watched the way she conducted herself, listened to the thoughts she expressed, couldn't fail to realize she was going places, and would succeed at whatever she chose. I'm glad to have known her those four years. When I met her again about a year ago, she told me of the disease she was battling. She spoke without fear or self pity. I was impressed with her self reliance and courage. I'm sorry to hear of her death, and doubt if I'll meet anyone like her again.

Sterling Brown - October 05, 2015 at 09:04 PM

“Katalin didn't know me from the high school we attended in Linwood, NJ.. She was a year ahead of me. My friends and I would simply stare at her as she walked by in the corridors. There was an elegance about her, always finely dressed, always wore a smile that she gave up easily. There was never any pretense. But there was one thing more. Katalin was probably the most intelligent person who ever graduated from Mainland Regional High School. She couldn't speak English, could hardly understand it at the time, and yet was able to excel in every class because of her intelligence and her will to succeed.

I didn't know her back in those days, I was an admirer from afar, but sometime during the past six years or so, she saw my picture on a social medial site and made contact. Over this period of time, I was given a copy of her father's book that he had written about his life under Stalin - in prison for no reason except that Stalin put all people who might resist his rule in prison. Some would just disappear off the street and were never heard from again. Luckily, Kat's father was heard from again, two years after Stalin's death is was finally freed from prison.

During this time, it was our plan to write a memoir about her life and how she and her parents escaped from Hungary. I believed it would have made a thrilling read.

Back in those days, when Kat was just a child, she and her mother had no knowledge of J. Kovago's whereabouts and had no news if he were alive or not. One day a government official came to their apartment and told Mrs. Kovago that if she would sign divorce papers they would allow her to return to work as a chemist. She refused, however she was delighted. Kat told me her mother was happy because if her husband was dead, there would be offer to seek a divorce. It meant that her husband was very much alive.

Sadly, when Kat became sick, she no longer wanted to talk about writing. Her story, except for the fragments that she revealed to me,

have gone with her. Maybe that was best, as Kat had misgivings about revealing the story while relatives in Budapest were still living. That was so like Kat (she told me to use that name when talking with her) because she was always concerned or even worried about the feelings of others.

We were in communication via phone calls and e-mails and when she told me of her illness, I prayed for her. I prayed for her recovery, I prayed that I might see her again and work on her story. For me, not seeing the potential of the story being published makes me feel ill. Not ever seeing my friend anymore makes me feel worse. I will surely miss her.

*Ted Meskers
Ocean City, NJ*

Ted Meskers - October 05, 2015 at 08:23 PM

MA

“ *Very sorry to know Katalin has left us . She was a strong willed person with a good sense of humor. Many memories with her and her family. My condolences to her Tyler family and all her friends....rest in peace my friend. Maria G*

maria - October 05, 2015 at 06:59 PM

MG

“ *We will miss Katalin and her tales of Hungry and her cats. We are glad she is no longer suffering.
Marianne & Monte*

Marianne Gideon - October 05, 2015 at 04:20 PM

JW

“ *Enjoyed knowing Katalin while attending Bible Study at Nancy Crawford's. Loved hearing about her background and testimony. My prayers are with you as a family at this time.*
Joanne Williams



Joanne Williams - October 05, 2015 at 12:55 PM

CX

“ *Claire xoxo purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Katalin Maria Kovago.*



Claire xoxo - October 05, 2015 at 12:09 AM