



## Marilyn Neumann Smith

September 27, 1936 - January 3, 2014

Marilyn N. Smith

Marilyn Neumann Smith passed away peacefully at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Denton on January 3, 2014.

Marilyn is preceded in death by her parents, Erwin R. and Esther A. Neumann.

She is survived by her brother, Curtis E. Neumann and wife Kathleen of Dayton, Ohio, and three loving nieces, Marnie Neumann of Yellow Springs, Ohio, Susan Neumann Laboy and husband Jose, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Catherine (Katie) Jessen and husband Chris of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Marilyn was one of a kind, a Renaissance woman. She exhibited a superb enthusiasm for life, was smart as a whip, and excelled at everything she did, and she did many things. She was an adventurer, traveling throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico as well as to exotic places, including China, India, Africa, and South America. Rather than take the easiest and most direct route, she often traveled the back roads enjoying the scenery, meeting the people, and experiencing the local culture. She bicycled throughout Europe, explored the Amazon, and trekked across the Himalayas in Tibet.

After graduating with bachelor and masters degrees from the University of Texas, Marilyn began her career in science as an electron microscopist in cancer research at Baylor Medical Center in Houston. She moved to Denton to obtain her PhD at TWU in molecular biology and joined the faculty at TWU.

Marilyn was a member of several different organizations and dedicated her time and money in volunteering to support those organizations. She was a long-time volunteer with the Denton Christian Preschool that provides early education for at-risk children, an active member of The League of Women's Voters, served on the board of Opening Doors Immigration Services (ODIS) of Denton, founding member of the Learned Ladies Luncheon League, the TWU University Club, Denton Senior Center, and the North Side Library's Philosophy Club. She was a women's rights advocate and always ready to help anyone who needed help.

Marilyn was an amazing and award winning watercolor artist and a member of the Visual Art Society of Texas (VAST). She was also a ceramic artist who worked in a style reminiscent of the Cado Indian culture of North Texas. She was a supporter and contributor to many of the arts in Denton and the Metroplex including the Greater Denton Arts Guild, the Dallas Museum of Arts, and the Denton Bach Society.

Marilyn disliked discarding old things that still had a potential function so she began buying and improving residential properties. One major project she undertook was to buy a burned house, move it to a new lot, and completely renovate and improve the house. She lived in it for many years. She particularly loved the prairie designs of the Mount-Miller style homes in Denton and her final renovation project was to renovate one that had fallen into foreclosure.

Marilyn co-owned farm and ranch land in Falls, Bell, and Limestone counties and actively worked with the operators to implement sound range and soil conservation practices. She loved spending time there doing hands-on work on the land.

One friend summed up Marilyn by saying, "She was one of a kind. I think they broke the mold after she came along."

Contributions in honor of Marilyn N. Smith may be made to one or both of her favorite organizations. The Visual Arts Society of Texas (VAST), PO Box 1281,

Denton, TX 76202, or the Denton Christian Preschool, 1114 W University Dr,  
Denton, TX 76201.

A small gathering for family and close friends of Marilyn to be announced at a  
later date.

Arrangments are under the direction of Denton Funeral Home. On line  
condolences may be left for the family at [www.dentonfuneralhome.net](http://www.dentonfuneralhome.net).

# Tribute Wall

CC

“ *Marilyn lived an extraordinarily full life. In Denton, she served and inspired and gave support in major ways, and she has a large group of friends who sorely miss her helping hands and questioning mind. Her accomplishments certainly challenge me to do more. . She will live on in our hearts and in the many works she created. We miss you, Marilyn.*

*Curt, I want you and your sweet wife and daughters to know how honored we are to now have all of you as part of our Denton family, also.*

*Carol Coulter*

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**Carol Coulter** - January 25, 2014 at 01:02 AM

MP

“ *We really enjoyed having Marilyn as a member in our ceramics class at the Denton Senior Center. She was so knowledgeable and fun to talk with. Her creativity was so inspiring to us. She will be missed.*

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**Merrily Prescott** - January 16, 2014 at 01:26 PM

SS

“ I will truly miss this awesome friend. Marilyn was a delight to be with and to visit with her on her travels as well as her next project. God placed her in our lives for reason and we are better for this. My heart has been broken to know she will no longer pop in the office and visit and share all she was doing. Her love for life was the most amazing part of Marilyn. She made me want to stop and just take the adventure on. The last time she and I got together she wanted me to take a trip with her and I told Rick that I know if we could have gone together we most definitely would have a blast. Love you Marilyn we will see you again one day! Love Susie and Ricky Schertz.

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**Susie Schertz** - January 15, 2014 at 04:49 AM

SM

“ Marilyn certainly was an amazing and interesting woman! Curt, your words are beautifully written with much love and admiration for your sister. Our hearts are with you, mom, Marnie, Susan & Katie. We love you all and we're so sorry for Marilyn's passing, is it a great loss to us all. Much Love- Suzanne & Ryan

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**Suzanne Mak** - January 13, 2014 at 11:07 PM

BE

“ My deepest condolences to the family. There is a promise found in gods word the bible at Revelation 21:3-5 With that I heard a loud voice from the throne say: “Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his people. And God himself will be with them. And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.” And the One seated on the throne said: “Look! I am making all things new.” Also he says: “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”

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**Bell** - January 13, 2014 at 08:40 AM

GP

“ I had the pleasure of knowing Marilyn when I spent time with the Denton County Peddlers. I enjoyed visiting with Marilyn. She was a sincere, and curious person. We had some interesting conversations while on one of the club's camping trips, and during other bike riding events.  
She will be missed

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**Greg Patton** - January 12, 2014 at 06:11 PM

TM

“ What a great gift to me to have known Marilyn. Have know her for several years but had the opportunity to have a ceramics class with her this past year. Sher passed on to me different ways to create a bowl and tips on glazing. Everytime I make a bowl now, I will think of Marily and smile. My son, Mark, also helped Marilyn in her renovation of the homes she bought as he is an architect and loved the same style as Marilyn.  
How lucky your family is to have such lovely memories of such a wonderful person.

*Toni Martin*

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**toni martin** - January 12, 2014 at 03:14 PM

JS

“ So sad to hear of Marilyn's passing. I only knew her briefly thru the ceramics class at the Denton Senior Center. I liked talking with her about the house she was remodeling.

*John Smith*

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**John Smith** - January 10, 2014 at 10:00 AM

JD

“ To Marilyn's brother and wife: You had a very difficult Christmastime here in Denton. I was thinking of you daily. Marilyn was an inspiration to me--all her energy and involvement in and passion for life and others. I will miss her. Jessie Dolch

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**Jessie Dolch** - January 09, 2014 at 06:23 PM

OW

“ Marilyn was so much more than this brief obituary. She was a force of nature to be reckoned with in every area of her life; she was a world traveler, an accomplished watercolor artist, a women's rights advocate, a scientist, an active member of The League of Women's Voters, Red Hats, VAST, Emeritus College, and the North Side Library's Phylosophy Club. She was a hands on home remodeler and she enjoyed going to "the ranch" to work too. She will be remembered as a one of a kind. I am honored to call her a friend. I will miss her enthusiasm for life.  
Olivia Walker.

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**Olivia Walker** - January 09, 2014 at 04:39 PM

DA

“ Marilyn was very dear to me. We shared many common interests. I remember especially working with her in the Denton Christian Preschool, the League of Women Voters and in political campaigns. I have one of her beautifully decorated "Old Lady in Tennis Shoes" award shoes. In recent months she has been my ride to the LWV meetings since I no longer drive at night. Last time we went together, she was in such pain with her back. It makes me even sadder to think that her attempt to improve that situation was her final experience. A very sad goodbye to Marilyn. I will always remember her with love and admiration. Dorothy Adkins

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**Dorothy Adkins** - January 07, 2014 at 03:14 PM

JO

*I first met Marilyn through the Denton Bicycle Club in the early 80s. We have been friends ever since, even though I have moved from TX. She always presented me with such thought provoking conversations and helped me grow in so many ways. Sometimes, she seemed almost like a surrogate mom and was definitely there for me when my mom passed away. She was a very supportive friend that I could always depend on and I can only hope that I reciprocated. I will miss her very much. Janice Olson*

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**Janice Olson** - January 27, 2014 at 10:33 AM