



## Margaret Anne Scandurra-Fex

February 16, 1960 - March 13, 2021

Margaret Anne Scandurra Fex passed away peacefully at home on March 13th, 2021. She was 61 years old. Known to most as Maggie, she was the youngest of 3 children to Pippo and Jane Scandurra (Peters) and was born in San Mateo, California on February 16th, 1960.

She was raised in San Mateo and graduated from Hillsdale High School in 1978 with many fond memories. She enjoyed participating in the arts program and was a beautiful artist on many mediums. She was very proud of being the makeup artist for the school play, winning awards for not just her art work but a few for her journalistic talents too.

Maggie had an insatiable love for reading, but not for the basic novel or fiction variety. Her home was always filled with obscure books on botany, internal medicine and old medical journals. Her photographic memory lent itself to this learning, and if you'd ever ventured outdoors with her, she would point out a pretty tree, flower or shrub and know the Latin name

for it, what family it originated from as well as any possible medical properties it had for the human body.

In the early 80s, she met and starting dating her future husband, Jim Fex. After a few years of contemplating what she wanted to do for a career and with much encouragement from Jim, Maggie decided to go back to school. She knew she wanted to help people, relished studying medicine and how the body worked so it was a natural fit for her to pursue a Nursing degree.

With determination she pursued scholarships and grants and with hard work she graduated from the College of San Mateo in 1990 and soon began working for San Mateo Chope Hospital as a Registered Emergency Room Nurse. Known as the "White Tornado", she truly loved working in the fast paced environment of the ER and helping people in their time of need. Her brilliant sense of humor and calm demeanor during chaos was a perfect fit.

Maggie saved many lives during this time and through empathy and caring she affected

many more. In June of 1991, she and Jim were married in Maui with his children, Christian and Carla, as witnesses and shortly after bought a beautiful home in Guerneville on Merry Lane. She was a devoted and loving companion to him for 19 years, taking care of him through his lung cancer until he passed away in her arms in 2001.

After being widowed, her own health issues took front and center attention. Years before she started suffering from the many symptoms of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, fibromyalgia and bouts of deep depression. She found little help from the medical experts she consulted with through the years. Luckily she met a wonderful partner in Robert Sowders in 2003. Before her health cratered from fibromyalgia, CFS as well as COPD, they enjoyed traveling the world together for his work. He was there for her in her debilitating physical pain and depression and she was most lovingly appreciative of all of his kindness and support. Maggie passed away in Bob's arms knowing she was loved and cherished.

She is survived by her brother Michael, his children Erik and Amy, as well as her sister Lisa and her only child, Francesco. She is also survived by her stepchildren, Christian Fex and Carla (Fex) Taylor and their families. She will be remembered for her affection for cats, quick wit, love of laughter and steadfast loyalty to those who loved her.

Maggie enjoyed creating "mad-libs" for her sister Lisa and spent many hours laughing with her about the hilarious word play they created. She was able to connect with her sister this way through laughter when she was bedridden and it gave her peace.

Truly a kind, caring and good person through and through, a bright soul that will exist in our memories forever.

Memorial contributions in Maggie's memory can be sent to the Peninsula Humane Society where she met some of her dearest feline friends. <https://phs-sPCA.org/donate/>

# Comments

---



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Ellie Justice - May 09 at 08:54 PM

---



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Ellie Justice - May 09 at 08:42 PM

---



“ Maggie’s enduring qualities have been on my mind. Her imagination, creativity, and sharp wit; her wide-ranging knowledge of divergent subjects along with the ability to talk in an engaging way about every one of them. Her laugh. Memories have been flooding in. Our closest friendship was 6th grade through high school, such a dramatic, quickly evolving stage of life. We were fast friends and later part of a group with duos and trios and various changing alliances, but overall, a fun crowd.

I loved reading that Maggie and Lisa were recently creating MadLibs. In 7th grade Maggie persuaded our teacher to let us lead the class in MadLibs. We stood up front and called out for nouns, verbs, etc. and then read the resulting stories which were hilarious only to us. We continued week after week, long past anyone else’s interest. Maggie could seemingly cast a spell over her teachers and other adults. She also found great humor in them, imitating their foibles and speech patterns.

There is a soundtrack to my memories. Maggie held her phone up to the radio so I could hear Hall & Oates sing “She’s Gone” for the first time. Pippo took us to see them in concert in San Francisco when we were too young to drive ourselves. I remember Maggie held court with the music reviewer from the Chronicle and others seated near us. In many ways she was light years ahead of me, but I “got” her and played my supporting role well. We spent hour together talking and creating stories. Favorite spots were the upstairs space in Maggie’s house, the stairwell in Macy’s or the dressing rooms where we tried on “college clothes.” She staged my first kiss. My boyfriend was afraid to make a move so Maggie sent us to a quiet corner and insisted we get it over with. We saw American Graffiti four times and could quote all the best lines.

Maggie introduced me to other music and would sing for me on command. I most often requested Levon by Elton John. We saw Hall & Oates again when we were in our 40’s. Fun for nostalgia, otherwise disappointing. After the concert we spent a night at the family cabin in Long Barn, recalling earlier trips, when we were deeply amused by Jane and Pippo. Parental quirks are so funny with a friend to witness and offer a glance or eyeroll. We were fascinated by Mike and his friends. They were always kind to us; letting us crash a New Year’s Eve party when we were 15. Lots of dancing and kissing at midnight but we felt safe with them.

While our lives moved in different ways, a thread of connection endured well into our 50’s. Each year on June 1st we called to surprise the other by saying “June Fool!” When we were 12, Maggie stayed on the line after a phone call. I hung up and tried to make another call, but she was still there, each time shouting “June Fool!” June Fool was the name of our rock band. None of us really played an instrument but we had the name, the album cover photos, and a magazine article about our stardom that she wrote and illustrated.

Every letter I have from Maggie is full of laugh out loud humor with wry tales from her daily life. Maggie created comical names for the to/from addresses. My favorite is from Fumio Scanstinkmo, c/o Our Lady of Perpetual Agony Convent, to Oil E. Wagonwheel, Peninsula Adolescence Archives. True, I am one of her archivists. I have a collection of her artwork, comics and caricatures, and co-written short stories

and plays. I assumed there would be a day when we would share these preserved treasures.

Maggie made a quilt in honor of my wedding in 2001. The borders are midnight and denim blue. The color gradually fades to pale, sky blues in the center. It is beautiful. Any single one of her eclectic skills could have been enough to navigate and hone. Maggie was a rare human being, generous and giving, irreverent and wise, and so extraordinarily talented. I wish she could have stayed here longer; I would love to be able to laugh with her again.

With love, Ellie Justice

**Ellie Justice** - May 09 at 08:30 PM



“ Ellie that was such a nice story, I know that Maggie held you in a special place in her heart.

**Robert** - August 07 at 03:34 PM

---



“ 20 files added to the album Memories Album



**Robert Sowders** - April 14 at 09:02 PM

---



“ 33 files added to the album Memories Album



**Skylawn Funeral Home and Memorial Park** - April 14 at 01:40 PM