



Martha Sherman Gerstein

December 12, 1948 - August 26, 2025

Martha Sherman Gerstein, 76 of Ashburn, Virginia passed away in Arlington, Virginia on August 26, 2025.

Martha was born on December 12, 1948, in San Francisco, CA to Benson and Helen Sherman (nee Russell). Martha graduated from Fort Vancouver (WA) High School in 1966 and went on to study classical languages at Reed College in Portland, Oregon.

Martha was deeply proud of her work at the Salk Institute and with welfare offices in Boston (MA) and Portland (OR), and later found her niche in desktop publishing, where she excelled as a meticulous editor. A voracious reader, she also loved playing cards and completing crossword puzzles in red pen. She loved cats and dogs, played piano beautifully, was a skilled knitter, had exquisite handwriting, and was a skilled calligrapher. Her sharp wit and appreciation for sarcasm were matched by her unwavering commitment to justice and equality.

Generous with her time and spirit, Martha was a lifelong volunteer. She regularly donated platelets, saving lives through her generosity. Her community involvement included dedicated service to the National Council of Jewish Women, Temple Rodef Shalom, Virginia Region Pony Clubs, numerous PTAs, and All-Night Graduation Parties at her daughters' schools.

She enthusiastically supported her daughters' pursuits in color guard and equestrian sports.

Martha found joy in spirited conversations about politics, literature, and film. She was a life-long, dedicated liberal Democrat. She relished time spent with friends and family, white wine, Diet Coke, and Pop-Tarts.

Martha was predeceased by her parents, Ben and Helen, and is survived by her three daughters, Marigold Gerstein Bergman, Marisa Gersten Pineau, and Sarah Gerstein and their father, Dean Gerstein; her grandchildren, Marin Bergman, Ilona Pineau, Judah Bergman, and Nico Pineau; and her sons in law, Paul Barnett, Erik Bergman, Scott Pelland, and Bernard Pineau.

A graveside service and internment will be held at King David Memorial Gardens, located at 2712 Hollywood Rd, Falls Church, Virginia, 22043 on Thursday, August 28 at 3:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the ASPCA, ACLU, or any social justice or anti-fascist organization.

Cemetery Details

King David Memorial Gardens

Falls Church, VA

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG 28. 3:00 PM (ET)

King David Memorial Gardens
2712 Hollywood Rd
Falls Church, VA 22042

Tribute Wall

LS

“ *Love you* ”



Laura Sherman - September 10, 2025 at 03:24 PM

DC

“ *Denise Capuano lit a candle in memory of Martha Sherman Gerstein* ”



Denise Capuano - August 29, 2025 at 11:51 AM

SP

“ *Sherry Groudan Petagna lit a candle in memory of Martha Sherman Gerstein* ”



Sherry Groudan Petagna - August 29, 2025 at 08:04 AM

SJ

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall* ”



Sheri Jarrot - August 28, 2025 at 09:09 PM

SJ

“ *Sheri Jarrot lit a candle in memory of Martha Sherman Gerstein*



Sheri Jarrot - August 28, 2025 at 09:08 PM

BS

“ Thank you for this beautiful obituary. I knew Martha, my first cousin, from literally my earliest years of memory. We never fell out of touch through all kinds of phases of our lives (so MANY phases!) and that's partly because she always kept the connection strong no matter what was going on. THAT was Martha!

I wish I had pix from the first time I met her during a family trip to California (when I had just reached the age of memory). But I can't find any, so I'll attach a couple from just before then: Martha in 1956 wearing a coat her mom had made, and Martha on the lap of her father, my uncle Ben. Since then, there are so many decades of memories that I wouldn't know where to start.

Yet for all that, there was so much more I wish I'd asked her about! But I knew enough to recognize that she was a great human being and that she has left us a beautiful legacy. Martha's greatest legacy is obviously her amazing offspring, all of whom I love and admire so so much. I'm sending all my love and support to them at this painful, difficult time.

One last thought: Martha was courageous, principled, and insightful when it came to politics, so in her honor I made a donation to a cause that I at least GUESS she'd strongly support. But there's the first example of something I wish I could talk to her about right now - and there will be so many more! I'll always love and miss you, dear cousin! - Barney Sherman



Barney Sherman - August 28, 2025 at 08:49 PM

AN

“ Aunt sheri Uncle Norm purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Martha Sherman Gerstein.



Aunt sheri Uncle Norm - August 28, 2025 at 10:05 AM

SR

“ Eddy, Andrew, and I are sad to hear about Martha. She and her 3 daughters were a large presence in our lives from ages 3 through the high school years. We have many photos (on film!) and happy memories. We wish Marigold, Marisa, Sarah, and their families the best and will see them at 3pm today.

Susy, Eddy, and Andrew Rothschild - August 28, 2025 at 09:55 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Martha Sherman Gerstein.



August 27, 2025 at 09:09 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Martha Sherman Gerstein.

August 27, 2025 at 09:09 PM

ES

“ *Ebony S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martha Sherman Gerstein.*

Ebony S. - August 27, 2025 at 06:14 PM

JH

“ *Jen, Dan, Carder, and Ellie Horsfall purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Martha Sherman Gerstein.*



Jen, Dan, Carder, and Ellie Horsfall - August 27, 2025 at 06:03 PM

RD

“ *Rees Broome CA Department purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Martha Sherman Gerstein.*



Rees Broome CA Department - August 27, 2025 at 05:47 PM

SW

“ *Sandy and Bill Wester purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Martha Sherman Gerstein.*



Sandy and Bill Wester - August 27, 2025 at 04:48 PM

WS

“ Will and Brienne Schmidt purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Martha Sherman Gerstein.



Will and Brienne Schmidt - August 27, 2025 at 03:48 PM

WS

“ Will and Brienne Schmidt planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martha Sherman Gerstein.

Will and Brienne Schmidt - August 27, 2025 at 03:48 PM

SG

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Sarah Gerstein - August 27, 2025 at 03:19 PM

MP

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Marisa Pineau - August 27, 2025 at 03:18 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Martha Sherman Gerstein.



August 27, 2025 at 03:07 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Martha Sherman Gerstein.

August 27, 2025 at 03:07 PM

SG

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall

Sarah Gerstein - August 27, 2025 at 02:43 PM

SG

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Sarah Gerstein - August 27, 2025 at 02:43 PM

MA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Marigold - August 27, 2025 at 02:24 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Northern Virginia Jewish Funerals - August 27, 2025 at 02:01 PM