



Winifred Strange

March 5, 1945 - January 25, 2024

Winifred Strange, 78, of Bradenton and formerly Anna Maria Island, died Jan. 25 at her home. Born March 5, 1945, in Red Bluff, California, to Verdon Earl Strange and Winifred Arabella Rose, Winifred was raised with older sister, Catherine Evleshin, who nicknamed her Pinky.

After graduating from California's Chico State College 'Pinky' began graduate studies in psychology at the University of Minnesota earning her Ph.D. there in 1972. There, as a faculty member, she later married her great love and research collaborator, Dr. James (Jim) J. Jenkins. Married at her mother's home in California September 6, 1978, Jim's children--Bob, Lynn, and Chris became her family: their children--together with the grandchildren--brought great maternal joy to Winifred, as did her spiritual grandson, the late Christopher (Chris) Chisolm (to whom she was MomMom) and his daughter Eliza.

Professionally, Dr. Strange had many passions and pursuits. In academics, she was heralded as a pioneer in cross-language speech perception research, focusing on the influence of linguistic experience and perceptual training on non-native speech perception. She served as a faculty member at the U-Minnesota, the University of South Florida, and the City University of New York-Graduate Center, mentoring more than 50 doctoral students and young colleagues. Dr. Strange was known as a strong advocate for women in

science and was honored by the Acoustical Society of America with its rare Silver Medal for 'contributions to the advancement of science, engineering or human welfare through the application of acoustic principles.'

As Winifred sought to balance work-life passions, she continued a life-long interest in dance, opening Monarch Arts dance studio in her later years. She delighted in opera and old movies and tap danced throughout her lifetime. Annual Solstice parties were celebrated on her beachfront deck or condo lanai. For years, Winifred practiced meditation with a tightly bonded group. An active Democrat, she was known to shake a fist at injustice, raise a hand for equality, and wrap her arms around all in her expansive group of friends, colleagues, and students.

Survivors include her sister, Catherine (Nathaniel Pratcher), their children and grandchildren, cousins, Fred and Richard Strange and Stephanie Meineke; stepchildren Lynn Jenkins, Christopher Jenkins, their children and grandchildren, as well as those of the late Robert (Bob) Jenkins. Spiritual great-granddaughter, Eliza Chisolm and mother Kristine; and many friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held March 3, 2024, 1:00pm at her dance studio at 862 62nd St Circle, #103, Bradenton, FL 34208.

In lieu of flowers donations can be sent to Monarch Arts at the Dance Alliance of Bradenton (above) to establish a dance scholarship fund for children from low-income homes or you can make an online donation in support of the students in the Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences Program, CUNY-Graduate Center in Memory of Winifred Strange.

Previous Events

A Celebration of Life

MAR 3. 1:00 PM (ET)

Monarch Arts at the Dance Alliance of Bradenton
862 62nd St Circle, #103
Bradenton, FL 34208

Tribute Wall

DE

“ Winnifred(Pinky)—you had so much energy! I am indebted to you—you were the one that got me my first university job in Japan —at kanazawa university! Thankyou! And great memories of hiking around the hills in Nara together—and getting lost. Hard to believe you have moved on. 🥹
Donna erickson

donna erickson - March 02, 2024 at 03:18 PM

JW

“ Jungmee, Bob & Winston purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Winifred Strange.



Jungmee, Bob & Winston - March 01, 2024 at 11:16 PM

SM

“ I'm Pinky's cousin and was privileged to have lived in the same town with Pinky, Catherine and their beloved mother Winnie for about six years. Pinky was such a vibrant, fun and wonderful young girl and I have so many memories of all our shared family experiences. She grew into a magnificent woman who was so accomplished and talented but always remained a humble, down-to-earth woman. I have admired her since I was about six years old and my admiration for her has never waned. She is sorely missed.

Stephanie Meineke - February 06, 2024 at 08:07 PM

CF

“ With sad heart, I read of Winifred's passing. As a fellow faculty member, I cherished her spunky spirit and her awesome intelligence. There was never a dull moment at our faculty meetings! My sincere condolences to her family.

Carol Fernandez - February 01, 2024 at 10:22 PM

AC

“ I am so saddened to hear about Winifred's death. I knew her first as Pinky when I was a graduate student at the University of Minnesota in Speech and Hearing Sciences. Pinky was a postdoc and a dynamic figure in the Center for Research in Human Learning. She and Jim Jenkins were in the early days of their vowel space research. I suggested a variation and then we worked on a project that turned out to my first presentation (and subsequent publication) for the Acoustical Society of America. This invitation to collaborate came at a time when I began to doubt myself as a researcher. It did change my life at that point. Her unflagging optimism and always-on-target critiques made her a wonderful colleague. We continued to see each other at ASA meetings since the 1970's. I also visited her and Jim at the CUNY Grad Center several times. Her contributions to the field of speech perception continue to influence today's science. But, when I think of her, I always remember her infectious laugh and never-ending energy and her kindness to so many students and colleagues.

Arlene Earley Carney - February 01, 2024 at 09:34 PM