



## Roy Abrahamson

August 23, 1928 - July 13, 2020

Roy Ernst Abrahamson, Ed.D., age 91, passed away, Monday, July 13, 2020 in Manor Court, Carbondale.

Roy was born in St. Paul, MN, to Frank August and Sophie Dorothea (Schmalz) Abrahamson, on August 23, 1928.

He married Marianne Leyhe of Wuppertal, Germany, on December 23, 1960, in San Francisco, CA.

She survives him as does their daughter, Sylvia Marie Abrahamson, of Carbondale; a nephew, David Seagren and his wife, Nancy, of St. Paul, MN and a niece, Nora Seagren and her partner, Wade Ivey, of Roscoe.

He is preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Fern Seagren.

Dr. Abrahamson was a professor of Art Education in the School of Art and Design at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, from 1965 until his retirement in 1996. He received his B.S degree in Art Education at the University of Minnesota in 1949; M.A. degree in Elementary and Secondary Education at San Francisco State College in 1952, and an Ed.D degree at Teachers College, Columbia University in NY, NY, in 1965.

He served in the US Army for 3 years during the Korean War, and he taught in the San Francisco Unified School District for eight years prior to his doctoral studies. Dr. Abrahamson served as president of the Illinois Art Education Association in 1972, and was an active member of the National Art Education Association, and the International Society of Education through Art (a branch of UNESCO). He published numerous articles in professional journals,

presented papers at national and international conferences, conducted research in this country and in Germany, and taught in Helsinki and Rovaniemi, Finland. After his retirement in 1996, he edited a posthumous book of his mentor, the late noted art educator Henry Schaefer-Simmern, entitled *Consciousness of Artistic Form*. He also taught art classes in retirement and had several exhibitions of his own art works. Roy loved to read. He was known everywhere with a book in his hand. Besides painting and drawing, including cartoons, Roy loved to write poetry. He was beloved by many, his family, and his students, here and abroad.

A private memorial service will be held at the Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home, due to the pandemic. Inurnment will be private at a later date in Pleasant Grove Memorial Park.

A Celebration of Life gathering, hosted by the family will take place next year.

The preferred form of remembrance is through the Dr. Roy Abrahamson Art Education Endowment Scholarship established at the Southern Illinois University Foundation, 1235 Douglas Drive, Mail Code 6805, Carbondale, IL 62901.

# Cemetery Details

## **Pleasant Grove Memorial Park**

31 Memorial Dr.  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
(618) 687-1145  
[crain@crainsonline.com](mailto:crain@crainsonline.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ Roy Abrahamson

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM

JB

*My name is Jill Benzer, and I am the granddaughter of Roy's mentor Henry Schaefer-Simmern. I had never met my father's side of the family, and for years I had searched. Along the way, I discovered much of value, but it was not until I met Roy that my dreams were truly fulfilled. He understood what I was seeking, without my saying it, and of his own volition, set about sharing with me all he could - profound treasures of remembrances, information and introductions to people. He did all this with great warmth and depth of humanity. He uplifted my life from darkness to light. I have now lived with the gifts of clarity and inspiration for many years. For my lifetime I will cherish Roy and Marianne for all this, and for the great honor and joy of knowing them.*

**Jill Benzer** - March 11, 2024 at 03:41 AM

JB

*I must also write in a humble effort to express the magnitude of gratitude for Roy's extraordinary work and dedication, which led to the publication of the book on Art, on behalf of my grandfather, Roy's mentor, Henry Schaefer- Simmern. This book was the Great Dream of H S-S, and for so many years he had collected material for it. How sad it was that my grandfather died before being able to see it to fruition. Who could have imagined that someone of Roy's heart and insight would fulfill H S-S' aspirations and Life's Work, with the support of Henry's wife Gertrude. With blessings to all his family and loved ones, Jill Benzer.*

**Jill Benzer** - March 11, 2024 at 04:11 AM

MA

“ On this last day of 2020 the year in which you, my beloved husband of 60 years, were called home, I want to share how much I loved you and how much you loved me. You said it best in the poem you penned for me in 1990 30 years after we were married. It was as much true then as it is today. Here are the first few lines: “BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, my heart stands still, but then it flutters like a trembling bird, unseen and unheard. BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, my mind is a swirl of thoughts, randomly related to logic or plan.....” You were so talented whether it was penning poems (subjects varied, of course) or expressing yourself in the visual arts (painting and wood sculpturing). Much of which surrounds me in our home. I find that you are living on in your art. I treasure it all!

Recently I came across a poem (this one is not by you, but could have been). You will like it as much as I do. “Please don’t be sad now that we are apart, celebrate Christmas with me in your heart. Our best Christmas is still yet to come, for Heaven is where the first Christmas is from. And so I look forward to when you’ll be free to spend your first Christmas in Heaven with me. I am waiting with the angels, and until that day I’ll keep sending my hugs and kisses your way.”

Our very first Christmas here on earth was two days after we were married and were honeymooning. What a good time we had. So long, my beloved, I’ll see you “when i’m free.....”. Your loving wife, Marianne.

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Marianne Abrahamson - January 01, 2021 at 03:51 PM

MA

“ *Marianne Abrahamson sent a virtual gift in memory of Roy Abrahamson*



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**Marianne Abrahamson** - January 01, 2021 at 02:18 PM

DB

“ *Roy was one of my favorite patients. I loved listening to his stories and he painted me two cherished paintings that I look at everyday. We will miss him so much and our condolences to his wonderful wife Marianne.*

*Dr. Angela Baxter*

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**Dr. Angela Baxter** - September 03, 2020 at 03:47 PM

BC

“ *Met Roy and Marianne at the pool at JALC, he was as kind of a man you would ever know. He was part of a group of us that regularly played a rousing game hitting a beach ball, he would really get into it. Roy will be missed and my condolences to Marianne and his family. Bill Roy Cooper*

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**Bill Cooper** - July 21, 2020 at 01:26 AM

KE

“ *Roy and Marianne came late into our - Kendal and Eleanor -lives. But we always enjoyed our times together. Roy was a noble human, a marvelous example to any and all. I feel confident he gave freely of himself to every person in his path. May the joy he shared be the best for all of us. And peace be to Marianne and Sylvia. We love you, Roy, and your light still shines brightly in our hearts.*

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**Kendal & Eleanor** - July 15, 2020 at 07:08 PM

JB

“ Longtime Norwood Drive residents will remember Roy and his beloved roses. I remember looking at all his artwork on the walls when I watched over his and Marianne’s house a few times when they traveled. He was a good, gentle man. RIP, Roy. Fred and Jacquie Betz

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**Jacquie Betz** - July 15, 2020 at 07:37 AM

MJ

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Abrahamson family. When I was organist at Grace United Methodist Church in Carbondale, it was always a pleasure to see the Abrahamsons sitting close to the front...I appreciated the wonderful smiles on their faces. Mr. Abrahamson always had a smile on his face when he was talking and listening! It always seemed that he enjoyed living every time I was able to talk with him! I pray that the Lord will be with Marianne and Sylvia and give them His peace and comfort each day.

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**Marilyn Juhlin** - July 15, 2020 at 07:31 AM

SA

“ Dream lesson from Dad: It is very important to remember your dreams and keep a dream journal (See you there Dad)

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**Sylvia Abrahamson** - July 13, 2020 at 12:57 PM

SA

“ Dream lesson from my Dad: if you see a beautiful landscape or image in your dream and you want it to last look at your hands and then back to the image. (It works!)

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**Sylvia Abrahamson** - July 13, 2020 at 12:55 PM

SA

“ *Dream lesson from my Dad: If you see a monster in your dream ask it to play a game of checkers. (Works every time)*

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**Sylvia Abrahamson** - July 13, 2020 at 12:53 PM

SA

“ *When I was very little my Dad told me that someday when talking to someone on the phone we would be able to see them (video chat).*

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**Sylvia Abrahamson** - July 13, 2020 at 12:51 PM

SA

“ *My Dad taught me all creatures are God's creation and have a right to live. We had a designated bug jar. There were exceptions of course if the insect was hurting us or very hard to catch.*

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**Sylvia Abrahamson** - July 13, 2020 at 12:50 PM

SA

“ *I am very grateful my dad taught me that death is an illusion and that we are not our bodies. I am very blessed to have him as a father. Onwards and upwards.*



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**Sylvia Abrahamson** - July 13, 2020 at 12:45 PM