



Maria Margaret Blon

November 18, 1964 - August 18, 2025

A Tribute to the Life of Maria Blon

Maria Blon lived a radiant life full of love, adventure, creativity, and kindness for over sixty years. On Monday, August 18th, 2025, her spirit peacefully transitioned to her next journey while at home, embraced by the love of her devoted husband, Thomas Blon.

Maria was born in Manhattan to parents Sue and Bill Keane on November 18, 1964. Years later, the family moved to Bronxville and then later to Churchill in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She went on to Penn State for her undergraduate degree where she met Tom, the love of her life. After marrying, they continued with their educations and Tom's naval service in Virginia Beach and Maria finished her masters in Math Education at George Washington University. Maria was excited to begin her career as Math Professor at SUNY Orange, where she later taught yoga classes and helped to create the Future Teachers Association. Students of Maria's appreciated her patient, encouraging, creative, hands-on, and supportive approaches to math education and mentoring.

For 38 years, Maria and Tom shared a deeply loving and sacred marriage rooted in nature, growth, community, and adventure. Together as partners, they built a beautiful life and raised two cherished daughters, Carina and

Anna. Maria and Tom's love, friendship, and teamwork was an inspiration to many, and will forever continue to be. Together they uplifted everyone around them as teachers, advocates, mentors, and active members of countless communities they nurtured, while exploring and traveling the world, building gardens and homes, writing poetry, and tending to the earth.

Raising Anna and Carina brought Maria so much joy, and she sought to support them in all of their dreams and endeavors. She led a Girl Scout troop and created so many adventures, crafts, and a sense of community for the girls and their families. Maria was a present, loving mom who created healthy meals from her garden, and organized fun outdoor adventures for her family.

Maria's heart was forever changed by the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, making many trips there as she devoted herself to supporting the lives of those who were impacted. Maria played a vital role in building and fundraising for the HEART in Haiti School with her daughter Carina and son in law Shad Saint Louis. Through training teachers, serving on the Board, and nurturing a vision of growth, she planted seeds of education and community that will continue to flourish for generations to come.

Maria's calling to uplift others flowed also into her passion for writing and self expression. Together with Tom, she wrote poetry that celebrated love, life and nature. Maria led and nurtured writing circles that gave encouragement and belonging to fellow writers, fostering community and connection. Through her published books—Living Passionately: 21 People Who Found Their Purpose and How You Can Too!, Hearts Blooming through Intuitive Mentoring, Create a Life You Love: by nurturing deeper relationships with yourself and others, and Haiku Journey- Maria shared the stories of many that reflected resilience, purpose, and love. Each page reflects her belief in the power of the human spirit, her devotion to helping others discover their light, and her unwavering passion for making a difference in the world.

Maria's respect and adoration for the earth was woven into everything she did. Gardening brought her peace and joy, and she delighted in sharing this love with others. She taught friends, mentees, and family how to tend the soil, exchanged seeds and plants as gifts of growth, and built community through these acts of care and renewal. She found great joy in capturing photos of flowers, trees, and animals, honoring the beauty of the natural world.

Maria's love and connection with her family, friends, and community was infinite, she supported all those around her wholeheartedly. She was proud and happy to be a supporter and encourager within all of these communities and others: Wolf Lake where she and Tom enjoyed summers and weekend trips, the Heart in Haiti School, The Hope Farm at SUNY Sullivan and other local farms and gardeners, SUNY Orange FTA, Well Worn Books, Yoga and healing arts Circles, BNI, and her neighborhood friends.

Maria was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and daughter, and a gifted teacher and mentor, an artist, quilter, writer and a poet, a seeker of wisdom, a yoga teacher and Reiki practitioner, and a fierce protector and friend of the earth. She had an extraordinary gift for uplifting others, reminding everyone she met of their worth, talents, and infinite potential. Maria was brave, bold, incredibly strong, and was always looking to grow and learn.

Maria's legacy is one of rich and abundant love that continues to multiply. She inspired people with her kindness, faith, creativity, and courage. She taught us how to live with joy, gentleness, and reverence for the earth and for each other. She was a light that drew people together, building community, nurturing growth, and spreading positivity wherever she went.

Her presence will forever be honored by her beloved Tom, mother Sue,

brother Paul, daughters Anna and Carina, (Shad Saint Louis,) her precious grandchildren Alaina and Thomas, and the countless students, mentees, and friends whose lives she touched. May her spirit forever be blessed, and the love she shared so freely continue to ripple throughout the world. Maria and the family were very grateful to Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Counties, West Team, for the comfort, support, and care they provided.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, August 31st at Martinez Morse Funeral Home in Middletown from 1 to 5 pm. Visiting hours will be from 1-3:30pm, and poetry, music, and personal celebrations of Maria's life from 3:45-5pm. In Maria's honor, guests are encouraged to wear white or vibrant colors and may bring a live plant or seeds to exchange with others—to reflect the radiant, growing light she shared with the world.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Maria's memory to <https://www.newhopecommunity.org/donate/>, and the <https://heartinhaiti.org/donate-to-the-heart-school/>

At the request of the family please DO NOT send any cut flowers to the Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Cedar Hill Cemetery & Mausoleum

5468 Route 9W North
Newburgh, NY 12550

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 31. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Martinez-Morse Funeral Home
33 Railroad Ave
Middletown, NY 10940
(845) 343-6918
martinezmorsefcs@gmail.com
<https://www.MartinezFuneralHomes.com/>

Tribute Wall

ND

“*Maria and I met at a breath work class at our gym and we instantly connected. Her energy was calm and maternal and I instantly felt safe with her. I struggle with anxiety and Maria was so kind to me and took the time to speak to me gently and with patience. With each class and we grew closer and we began to talk more. She gushed about how much she loved her daughters and was sensitive enough to know that I wished that I had a mother who loved me as much as she loved hers. She always took the time to remind me how smart, beautiful and funny I was.*

After our breath work class, she would enjoy her breakfast and go for a swim while I took an aerial yoga class. We'd end our activities at around the same time and would chat about anything and everything. I learned she hosted an online writing group and of her charitable work in Haiti. I was honored to be invited to participate in one of the sessions. She inspired me to start writing again.

I was in the process of a weight lost journey and Maria cheered me on. When I was able to get skin removal surgery she always made sure to text me and write a prayer down for me. We last texted in March and time just got away from me. I re-activated my gym membership after completing surgeries and looked up Maria to see how she was doing when I saw that she passed, and I am honestly still in shock.

I think what I will miss most about Maria is the way she took the time to stop everything she was doing and focus all of her energy on you. Not something you can see but only a feeling you can describe. True warmth and love. I will miss her hugs. She taught me to hug so that our hearts touched and I will never forget that.

I am so grateful for the short amount of time I got to know her and send so much love to her family, friends and community. She will be missed greatly and the love she has so clearly planted in so many people will continue to grow in her light.

Nicole Dufour - December 04, 2025 at 03:16 PM

JM

“ From Jen Peterson Magruder:

Maria and I met when the Keane family moved from New York to Pittsburgh. Maria and I became instant friends in our 4th grade class at Churchill Elementary and especially had lots of fun in Girl Scouts. Crafting, camping and hiking outdoors – even at age 9 Maria was an enthusiast!

We went to different junior high schools, but my Mom and Mrs. Keane continued our Girl Scout troop and I remember fondly getting my hair cut like Maria's at one meeting and another sail boating weekend that ended in capsizing and hysterical laughing for weeks! In 11th and 12th grade, we were Physics lab partners. It was during these years that I learned and grew from Maria's steady and quiet determination. Physics 2 was a particularly difficult course, and she would help me with how to write the labs. Note that she never let me copy but instead went over each step to help me learn it. A teacher in the making!

We both decided to major in Math at Penn State. On our second night at Penn State, Maria convinced me to go to a square dance on the North Halls tennis courts. Lots of new students meeting each other, changing partners and do-si-do-ing. Maria had a partner, but I did not! I was pretty shy at that point in my life, so Maria went over and asked a guy sitting on the grass if he would join us. Thanks, Maria. I married that guy, John, and as of today we have been a great team for 43 years. Epic win for Maria's matchmaking!

Maria did not stick with her square dance partner, but just about 6 months later she couldn't wait to tell me about the young man she met on the bus ride home to Pittsburgh. Tom! It was clear that they were a match set from the beginning. John and I shared many fun double dates and a particularly great camping trip with Maria and Tom during our college years.

As seniors, Maria and I got our first apartment together and took turns cooking. She got me hooked on ice cream after dinner every night!! She loved her ice cream and I loved her ice cream too!

Our last semester, Maria told me she was going to take a math education course, so I jumped into it with her and it turned out to be a big part of my inspiration to teach.

We each headed to grad school in Virginia for math....Maria to VA Tech and me to VCU. We were in each other's weddings (and Maria made all the dresses for her bridesmaids herself!) Tom was out at sea a lot during those few years so I made a point of visiting Maria in Blacksburg and Norfolk often. When my first son, Matthew, was born, Maria built him a wooden toybox that we still use to this day. She built a sofa and end table out of 2x4s and gave me the plans, and I built them too. Money was short for us both, but really we liked the challenge of making our own things! Our next big step: We both became professors at community colleges and Maria and Tom settled back in New York. It was harder for us to get together then, but John and I brought our kids up to Middletown to meet Carina and Anna for the first time years later. It was an adventure as we got to go to the lake and see the plans and beginnings of their cabin. I loved seeing the beautiful life Maria and Tom were building for themselves!

Though we could rarely see each other in person, our friendship grew even stronger during the past 20 years. If I had to name one friend who always was there for me and who I always felt cared about me, it has been Maria. Thoughtful and wise, trustworthy and caring, strong yet vulnerable, mindful and brave. Any time I feel like the world is harsh and uncaring, I think of Maria and her determination to reach out and care. She has always and will continue to inspire me. I am sure that many of you here today have been inspired by Maria in similar and in other unique ways as she had many talents. What a gift she has given us; one we can pass on to others with the strength she has endowed in us.

I rejoice in and am grateful for her life.. she lived it truthfully and with joy!

Love, Jen Peterson Magruder

Jen P M - August 30, 2025 at 03:16 PM

AM

What a beautiful portrait of Maria and your friendship.

Amy - August 31, 2025 at 10:44 AM

AG

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Amy Gup - August 30, 2025 at 12:00 AM

AM

*Maria - a sister-friend to me since we were 8, a place of centered grounding in my life. I have so many sweet memories of sharing our love of nature and spirit with one another - climbing our tree, sitting quietly, telling stories, and so much laughter. I would not have become the person I am today without you and am incredibly grateful to have walked this life journey with you. May you continue to spread your light and love and joy wherever you go. May you feel the ripples, currents, tsunami of love and appreciation coming your way. May your memory be for a blessing to your family and loved ones and may each of them know and feel just how deeply you loved and appreciated them all.
Love, Amy*

Amy - August 31, 2025 at 10:38 AM

ZH

“ *Maria was such a generous and giving friend. As a wedding gift, she and the rest of the family grew, foraged, and created the centerpieces, bouquets, boutonnieres and decor for our wedding. It came out so well, my FIL couldn't believe they weren't done by a professional florist! Because of her (and their) generosity, our wedding was really beautiful. Thank you to all of the Blons for adopting us into their family and making our special day one to remember.*



Zhenya - August 28, 2025 at 04:51 PM

AB

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Anna Blon - August 27, 2025 at 09:44 AM

AB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Anna Blon - August 27, 2025 at 09:44 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Maria Margaret Blon.



August 26, 2025 at 09:44 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Maria Margaret Blon.

August 26, 2025 at 09:44 PM

DB

“ As a SUNY Orange colleague of Maria's, I can say there is no mistaking the passion with which Maria advocated for students during her career at SUNY Orange, and I'm sure she was an inspiration and source of encouragement for many future teachers who began their education there. The last time I saw Maria was on the trails at the Middletown Reservoir, where we chanced upon each other near a tree housing a pileated woodpecker's nest, and we shared a moment in awe of nature. May she journey in peace and eternal awe of the universe. My sincere condolences to Maria's family.

Diane Bliss

Diane Bliss - August 26, 2025 at 08:53 PM

AM

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Maria when she, Sara and I created a writers' group to support our efforts to share our writing with the world. Maria did that with such determination and tenacity and inspired me to do the same. I loved her wit, brilliance and generosity and the way her heart opened to human suffering and she took action. I think of Maria as a beautiful channel for love that flowed from her immense heart in so many ways and I loved what a natural facilitator she was. She had gift for bringing people together in sacred circles, to connect and share in an intimate and authentic way. She embodied being a wise and loving mentor and I LOVED her poetry. I will treasure the books she wrote and honor our friendship by continuing to write. I'm so grateful I was able to have a beautiful visit in Maria and Tom's garden this August, and I will hold that memory in my heart and soul all the days of my life. Until we meet again dear friend, I'm going to send you meta on your birthday every year! I love you dear Maria. Thank you for being my friend and sharing your beautiful soul with me. I feel so grateful to have walked this earth plane with you. Even though our love has changed form, I know your presence is eternally with us. xx Love, Amy Rose

Amy - August 26, 2025 at 01:29 PM

AB

“ Mama,

We have had so many fun times together. Your warmth and love continues to fill my heart. I love you so much! ❤️ You always wore the most beautiful skirts that were so soothing and cool to hug your legs as a child. Our time together gardening will continue to lead me through life as your spirit has moved on from this earthly realm. I miss you so much but I feel your presence around me and I know that it will continue to support and uplift me as long as I walk the planet.

You inspired me to always follow my heart and pursue my passions. We had the best time together in Paris. This was such a special trip with you. I will continue to write down fond memories of you and things you have said to me to keep my positive thoughts going, to honor you and everything you stood for.

You are loved by so many. Forever my heart will yearn for your hug or voice or support but I have almost 31 years of your gift. Although sometimes we didn't see eye to eye and things were not always perfect, it was never a doubt that we love each other infinitely. Your love transcends all. I love you 🦋



Anna Blon - August 26, 2025 at 06:24 AM

DM

“ While I did not know Maria well, (Professor Blon to me!) she was one of my many College Algebra professors at Suny Orange. I failed the course four times before I signed up for a class with Professor Blon. She was patient with me, she gave so freely and generously of her time that I felt an obligation to work that much harder, she was able to get the concept of logarithms through my fuzzy brain, and I ended up passing her class with a B. It's been over 30 years since I left Suny Orange and I don't remember many of my professors, but she was always one of the inspirational figures in my life. RIP sweet lady.

Diane Merante - August 25, 2025 at 07:56 AM

DZ

Thank you, Diane, for sharing that. Her students were so important to her, and I'm sure she was proud of you for earning a "B" after the bad experiences you had before.

Dr. Zhenya - October 08, 2025 at 04:30 PM

DE

“ There are truly no words to express how I witnessed Maria’s spirit, her essence, her soul, however, what I can say is WOW... Her light and positive outlook rippled out in all directions, in all times, touching all who knew her and those who weren’t even aware of this special light being on Earth. Maria’s soul came to inspire, acknowledge, shift, encourage and love, and that she did.

I had the great privilege of witnessing her metamorphosis through the years, seeing her personal and spiritual growth unfold, as she continuously used her creativity to transform and touch the lives of those around her.

Her commitment to raise her consciousness and spiritual self was inspiring, always embracing ways to be the best she could be to benefit all those she came in contact with.

Maria touched me deeply and though I was her mentor, she indeed, on many occasions became mine.

May her spirit live on in each of us, may we share our love and kindness to all beings, as she so kindly did. 🙏👏🙏

Dechen - August 24, 2025 at 09:01 PM

KW

“*Maria was such a dear friend and our lives intersected in so many ways. We paddled around Wolf Lake and hiked the trails together, watching for birds and picking blueberries. We went to seminars where we willed spoons to bend and learned that who we are goes beyond our bodies--an experience I go back to now that she is no longer physically with us. We talked easily and excitedly about sustainability and equity; about poetry and writing; about education here and in Haiti--nothing was forced, and with Maria, nothing was superficial. She taught me about plants and forgave my brown thumb, offering me her homegrown veggies as recently as this summer. I will miss her kindness and encouragement, her compassion and intelligence, her willingness to dive in and make things happen. And when I wallow in missing her too much, I remember our bright orange hikes, and the time we ran into a baby bear walking her to her car in my driveway and, at the height of social distancing during the pandemic, we looked at each other and decided that yes, we will hide out in the car together until the bear moves on--laughing with our hearts pounding.*

To Tom, Carina, Anna, Sue, Paul, Shad, Alaina & Thomas, I know your grief is raw and my heart goes out to you. I hope the upcoming celebration of Maria's life, and the messages here help to lighten your load.



Karen Weissman - August 24, 2025 at 04:52 PM

ZH

That was beautiful, Karen.

Zhenya - August 24, 2025 at 05:13 PM

SF

What a great photo and tribute. You capture her spirit here!

Sara Giita Flores - August 24, 2025 at 05:47 PM

SF

“ *What a beautiful gift Maria's presence and heart were to the world. I am so grateful to have known her.*



Maria and I met through an online group in 2019 and became close when I invited her to join a small writers group I was starting along with Amy Rose in 2021.

We encouraged each other, gave loving feedback on our writing, sent each other loving energy, and laughed together. On so many occasions, I received the gift of her presence. She had a way of making me feel so seen, understood, and supported. She was an amazing listener and a compassionate cheerleader.

Her writing reflected the good will and joy in her heart, and my wish is for all four of her published books to be continually read and enjoyed in the world.

After the pandemic, Maria came out to visit me and her childhood friend Amy Gup in Colorado. We went hiking and I discovered how incredibly fit and adventurous she was. Maria was so loving with my kids and got gifts for my daughter and I at the thrift store! She was always giving generously.

Maria had a playful spirit and was always so open and authentic. She gave me deeper confidence in my creative gifts through her praise. I am sad to say goodbye to such a dear friend and am grateful to witness the legacy of love she has left behind.

Sara Giita Flores - August 24, 2025 at 04:38 PM

ZH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Zhenya - August 24, 2025 at 02:17 PM

ZH

Maria and Tom helped me to create and run my Russian Mardi Gras party, even in the crummy weather, they drove all the way over to Putnam Valley and helped to celebrate and share the day. Maria even made one of the dishes I didn't have time to, and everyone loved feasting on stuffed crepes before we set the Mardi Gras dummy on fire. It was a lot of fun! You could always count on Maria and Tom, and often the whole family, to help out and to show up and support you whether it was taking down chairs or making food.

Zhenya - August 24, 2025 at 02:21 PM

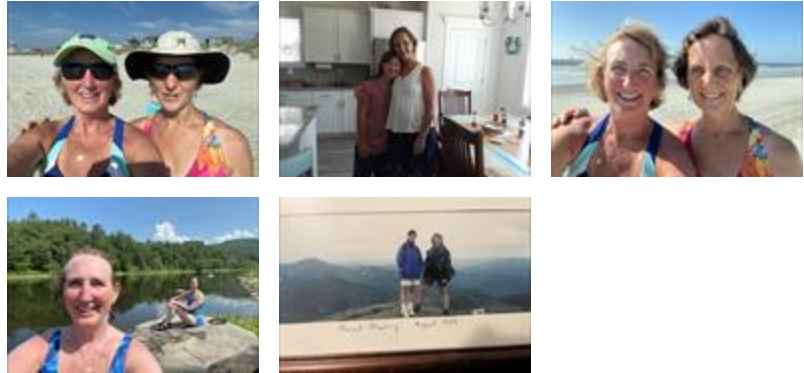


“ *Rest well, Maria! Your commitment to teaching touched my heart! Your tenderness left a mark on my life. Even after I graduated from Orange County Community College and I would run into you in the community, your tender ways remained constant! Thanks for shining and helping me to desire that level of kindness and tenderness! You occupied your place on this earth well! I love you, Maria, and I will miss seeing your radiant welcoming smile!!!!*

Deborah Tobestressed - August 24, 2025 at 05:03 AM

JH

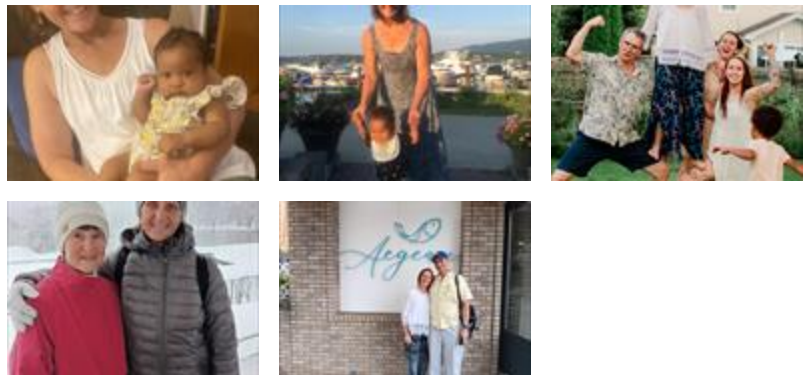
“ Will miss my adventure buddy forever! Farewell my friend 🌹❤️



Jane Harrington - August 23, 2025 at 03:21 PM



“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Carina Saint Louis - August 22, 2025 at 04:11 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Carina Saint Louis - August 22, 2025 at 04:08 PM

“ With Deepest Gratitude

Maria Blon had a way of seeing people—not just for who they were in the moment, but for who they could become. She saw me that way. In 2015, I was just beginning my journey as a Permaculture teacher, filled with passion but still unsure of how to put it into practice in the wider world. It was Maria who extended her hand and heart, inviting me into the HEART in Haiti community. That invitation changed everything.

Maria didn't just open a door for me professionally—she opened one within me. Her belief in the power of human connection and community-centered work helped me find the courage to take risks, to trust my instincts, and to serve in a way that felt meaningful. She reminded me that real change doesn't always come from grand gestures, but from the quiet moments of trust, generosity, and love.

Because of Maria, I was able to begin important work in Haiti, bringing renewable energy solutions like biogas to schools where children were learning to dream of a better future. But what stays with me more than any project is how Maria made me feel—valued, supported, and inspired to keep going, even when things didn't go as planned.

She lived with an open heart. She uplifted others simply by being herself—kind, joyful, deeply compassionate. Her legacy lives on in the countless lives she touched, and in the seeds she planted in people like me. Seeds that are still growing.

Maria's spirit will always be with me—in the work I do, in the people I teach, and in the quiet confidence she helped me build. I am endlessly grateful for the light she brought into my life.

With love and remembrance,

Kathy Puffer

Kathy Puffer - August 22, 2025 at 02:09 PM

ZH

That was beautiful, Kathy.

Zhenya - August 24, 2025 at 02:13 PM

SF

*I agree that she had an amazing gift for making people feel seen.
Thanks for sharing.*

Sara Giita Flores - August 24, 2025 at 04:24 PM