



Mrs. Mary Frances Manning (nee Russell)

April 4, 1928 - March 14, 2021

On March 14, 2021, Mary Frances Manning (nee Russell), age 92, beloved wife of the late Richard Charles “Dick” Manning, III.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Maryland SPCA, 3300 Falls Road, Baltimore, MD 21211.

Tribute Wall



“ Here’s a photo of Mary Frances holding me in 1952— she had come out to California to help out my mom, Patrica Sherman. They were friends for life.



Susan Sherman - April 19, 2021 at 07:18 PM



“*Mary Frances and Dick were part of the Gladstone Avenue (Baltimore) social scene, along with my mom, Kat Harrison, her beau, Ted Fletcher, Madeline and Joe Blair, Weezie Murphy, the Bradys, Raleigh and Nona Porter, the Murrays, Mrs. Sioussat, and Chi-Chi Thompson. This group was the first people you'd call if your washing machine conked out, your kid needed a ride to school, or you had too much bourbon and not enough whiskey sour mix.*

I lived there from age five to college, and it was here that my vision of Adults was formed. When Ted first met Mary Frances, he needed a memory peg to remember her last name, which was Russel. We all new what rustled- leaves. So, over time, Mary Frances's name devolved to Aunt Leaf, then just Leaf. She came when Ricky Blair started a rock band in his dad's basement- the Bedbugs (we were in second grade). Leaf came out to McDonogh when I gave an accordion recital, and when I gave an oratory speech. And Leaf joined my mom at several of my 4-H horse shows. Leaf was always there in body or spirit, and even made it up to my upstate NY wedding in 1984.

She shared my fondness for cats, and Cili's birthday was always a cause to celebrate. Leaf's Halloween costume one year was a wicked witch, and she bonded with the identity for me. Our friendship was interjected with spells and potions. It's no wonder hers was the first phone number I memorized as a toddler, and it could be rotary-dialed with four fingertips. I thought that was because she was special, so of course she got the special number. It's no wonder that my old wall safe combination was her last four digits.

I'm all grown up now, except when I think of her. Mary Frances "Leaf" Manning was a true friend, and mentor. I love you Leaf, and I'm sure going to miss you. --Chris Harrison 410-307-8026





Christopher Harrison - March 22, 2021 at 05:45 PM



Hi Chris: This is Eleanor, Dick Manning's first cousin's daughter. I was close to Mary Fran the last three years and loved her so much. She adored you. Told me so many stories of when you were little. What a loss. I don't know if I will ever really get over it. I talked to her almost every day and we laughed so hard.

Eleanor Herman - April 07, 2021 at 04:02 PM



Mary Frances was one of my moms oldest friends. I think they met in second grade. They talked nearly every week until my mom's dementia became too bad. Then I took over and found the most delightful friend. She was funny and smart; strong, and full of grace. I will miss her so much.

Susan Sherman 617-876-6961

Susan Sherman - April 19, 2021 at 07:14 PM