



Marilyn Joyce Miller Skylar

NOV 27, 1926 - AUG 5, 2021



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Marilyn Joyce Miller Skylar, writer, golfer and long-time Cleveland resident, died Aug. 5 at

94. She was preceded in death by her husband, David Skylar, former publisher of Sun

Newspapers, who died in 2016.

At the age of 89, Mrs. Skylar published “Tales from a Mad Man's Wife,” a book about her

David’s advertising and newspaper career. In it she provided an intimate look at the life of

an advertising "mad man" of the '50s and '60s, whose work brought him into contact with

Presidents Eisenhower and Ford as well as celebrities such as Liberace, Leonard Bernstein, Jayne Mansfield and Eartha Kitt.

She met her husband of 67 years at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where both majored in journalism.

She was founder and president of the sorority Beta Theta Phi. At the university she started

“Fanfare for 50,” which named the most prominent coeds in journalism.

Upon graduation in 1948, she returned to Shaker Heights where she worked for the Cleveland Press as a “copy boy.” She was paid \$27.40 a week. When she was offered a job

as a secretary in the Business Department, she quit. “I didn’t want to be a secretary,” she

said in an interview in 2016.

She got a job in public relations at the National Recreation Dept., where she received \$60 a



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week. She was proud of the fact she got the Recreation Department mentioned on the

Arthur Godfrey show.

After leaving work to raise a family, she continued to write limericks and poetry, including a

feminist musical history of The Women's City Club in 1969. She was also a stringer for the

Press and Plain Dealer. For the latter, she wrote a front page story that reported Sen. Howard Metzenbaum's neighbors were outraged by noise created from helicopters flying

him home. She didn't receive a byline for the story, which she blamed on the era's sexism.

The youngest of seven children, Mrs. Skylar was born in 1926 to Isaac and Rebecca Miller,

who were Russian immigrants. Miller, along with Eli Becker, founded the Cotton Club

Bottling and Canning Co. in 1902, one of Cleveland's earliest and most prominent Jewish

businesses. Artifacts from the company are displayed today at the Maltz Museum of Jewish

History.

As a child she took dancing, acrobatic, elocution and acting lessons. She performed at the

Cleveland Play House's Curtain Pullers children's theatre program in the 1940s, along with

Paul Newman and Joel Grey, She played Grey's mother when she was 14 in a play called

"Subgum."

She secretly took flying lessons as a teenager, hoping to get her pilot's license. The plan

was derailed when her mother found out.



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She attended Shaker Heights High School, before graduating from the Lear School in Miami, Fla. in 1944, where she and her mother spent winters after her father died in 1939.

A member of Oakwood Country Club, Mrs. Skylar was an avid tennis player and golfer. She shot five holes in one, which she found a mixed blessing because, “I had to buy drinks for everyone.”

She was irrepressibly outspoken, tirelessly opinionated, and a famously discriminating diner

— except when it came to chocolate, when M&Ms would do. She was known to pack tuna

fish cans in her luggage when she traveled internationally.

Survivors include Claudia (James Mastro) Skylar; Dean (Christine Ledbetter) Skylar; and

Stephanie (Eric) Hench. She is survived by six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Services will be held in November; burial is at Mayfield Cemetery.

In remembrance of Marilyn Skylar’s life, the family requests donations be made to the

Cleveland Play House (Education). Go to clevelandplayhouse.com/support



Events


Marilyn Joyce Miller Skylar

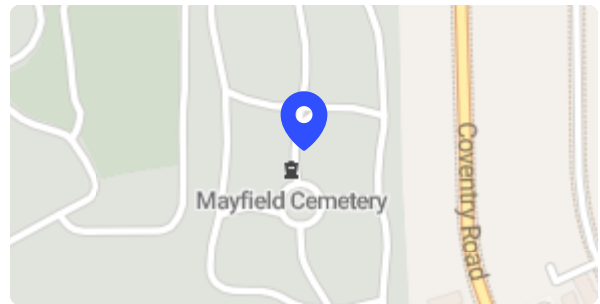
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Funeral Service


 **Monday**, August 9, 2021

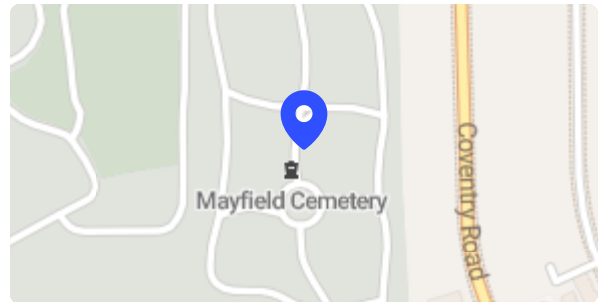
 1:00 PM ET

 **Mayfield Cemetery**
2749 Mayfield Road, Cleveland Heights OH
44106



Cemetery Details

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Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Marilyn by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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