



Maria Jonzier

March 28, 2024

Maria Galland Jonzier was the youngest of four children, born on July 22, 1934, to Eugene Galland and Elizabeth Krause Galland, in Geneva, Switzerland. She was the baby of the family, thus earning the nickname “Cikite” or “little one” derived from Italian, her father’s native tongue. Growing up, she was adored by her parents and her siblings.

From a very young age, Maria had the eye of both a naturalist and an artist. She loved being out in nature. She loved colors and beautiful shapes.

Throughout her life, Maria loved to travel, explore, and learn as much as possible, both within and beyond the boundaries of her home country. She traveled as often and as far as she could, taking in different cultures, cuisines, traditions, music, and art. She had spunk and drive and she loved life.

Following high school, Maria enrolled in Geneva’s Ecole des Beaux Arts, in the study of studio art, where she thrived. After graduating, she became a specialist in the restoration and conservation of oil paintings. Her expertise was sought by those who valued the care and time she devoted to all her projects. She had an eye for light and color. She never rushed but took the time to do her work right and brought many a work of art back to life by restoring areas of chipped paint, repairing tears, and removing yellowed and hardened varnish. Her goal was, as best she could, to restore each of the works assigned to her to the condition of the original piece.

Later, becoming a fine artist herself, Maria created the most beautiful ceramic objects, glazing them with her own mixtures of color and baking them in her

own kiln. She also sculpted with hammer and chisel on many different kinds of stone, creating willowy and gracious curves and shapes, some abstract and some realistic. Over the years, she generously shared some of her works with family and friends and had some displayed at local art shows.

In recent years, working with a hammer and chisel became a bit more difficult. Yet Maria did not stop her creative work. Rather, she took up painting in water color. She sometimes complained that she wasn't very good at it but everyone who saw her work knew better. She was extremely good at it. Her favorite subjects for watercolors were inspired by what she observed in nature: a view of the shore at sunset, a bird on a branch seen through a window, the early morning view from a porch on a mountain cabin following a nighttime snowfall. For many years, Maria and her sister, Mathilde, were on a Nassau County registry of residents willing to take in wounded or lost wild animals and birds to house them, feed them, and bring them back to health so they could be released back into the wild. Maria took her responsibilities seriously and in an outdoor structure erected adjacent to her home, carefully and kindly fed and cared for a series of animals and birds, including several opossums, a pair of swans, several raccoons, and at least one wounded owl.

Maria was an avid gardener of flowers, fruits, and vegetables and a wonderful cook and baker. Her Quiche Lorraine and Mirabelle Tart were exceptional. As all who knew her knew well, Maria had an infectious laugh and an exceptional sense of humor. She loved to laugh, to tease a little, and to make others laugh. She always seemed to have a twinkle in her eye when she did so. She was a lover of all varieties of music, ranging from the classical cello of Yo Yo Ma to African party music and she loved going dancing at Reggae clubs in New York with her friend Françoise.

With her love of nature and the outdoors, in recent years, even as Maria's health failed, she insisted on having a bird feeder at her kitchen window and keeping it filled with only the very best quality of seed, as well as hanging a fresh geranium plant in a basket outside her window where she could see it,

as soon as the threat of frost had passed.

Maria was a loving mother to Catherine and Marc and a loving grandmother to Shannen and Antony. She was a sweet and kind mother who loved her children and saw to their every need, indulging their love of nature, animals, birds, bugs, and even snakes. Following the birth of her grandchildren, she relayed many stories of good times spent with them and of the joy her grandchildren brought her.

Maria was a devoted wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, great aunt, grandmother, and friend. Her family and friends will miss her greatly. May she rest in peace.

Previous Events

Graveside

APR **22**. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Nassau Knolls Cemetery
500 Port Washington Blvd
Port Washington, NY 11050-4295
(516) 944-8530

Tribute Wall

AR

“ So many memories since we first met this "Great American Aunt" in 1985 (and later with our sons). She immediately adopted us and introduced us to the her family, including her sister Mathilde and her son Marc, in all simplicity and to our great delight. We have so many memories of our fantastic visits to Great Neck, where she showed us her artistic flair and shared her love of animals. We'll always have fond memories of Cikite and her family. We don't have the words to ease your pain, but please know that our thoughts are with you. André and Danielle & the boys. (Geneva / Switzerland)

André Reichlin - April 23, 2024 at 05:13 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Roslyn Heights Funeral Home - April 22, 2024 at 08:21 AM

DA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Daphna - April 21, 2024 at 03:30 PM

RH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Roslyn Heights Funeral Home - April 21, 2024 at 09:24 AM

RH

Rob, Mayra, and Cikite

Roslyn Heights Funeral Home - April 21, 2024 at 09:26 AM

DA

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Daphna - April 20, 2024 at 05:18 PM

MJ

“ *She loved life to all
People art animals of all kinds.All whol new her will remembers her
humer and sacasm*

marc jonzier - April 20, 2024 at 03:44 PM

MA

*She filled the room she walk In with joy and and smiles
I miss her precious presence*

marc - May 08, 2024 at 12:49 PM

AM

“ My Aunt Cikite was a precious encouragement throughout my life. We loved to look at little amphibious creatures together, hold them and care for them, when I was a child. She took time to nourish values like compassion and art within me as I grew up, and... she always modeled an enduring good humor through the ups and downs of a day; to find ways to laugh in the face of undesirable circumstances in life is also a gift. I will cherish the memories and the imprint she has left for me and my family. Truly a beautiful soul.



Amanda - April 20, 2024 at 10:38 AM

DS

“ Cikite was a light in the room. She was an important and valued member of our family who always saw the bright and positive side of any situation. She was a talented artist, she was kind, she inspired us to be all we could be, and we will all miss her. ❤️

Daphna and Sergio - April 19, 2024 at 11:01 PM

GJ

*Ma chère tante, si jolie, si belle.
Tu étais une excellente artiste. Un femme simple, une artiste sans prétention.
Avec toi s en va une artiste suisse qui avait un savoir faire , le savoir faire des artistes de ta génération.*

Galland jacqueline - April 20, 2024 at 12:14 PM

DA

English translation: “My dear aunt, so lovely, so beautiful. You were an excellent artist. A simple, modest woman, an artist without pretension. With you gone, a Swiss artist of elegance, grace and poise has left us. You had the elegance, grace and poise of artists of your generation.

Daphna - April 20, 2024 at 03:56 PM

PM

“ *It was my good fortune and joy to know Cikite and to enjoy many happy times with her. She was warm and loving. I will always cherish these memories. Paul Menszer*

Paul Menszer - April 18, 2024 at 10:15 PM