

# Marjorie Zats

*Jul. 04, 1934 ~ Dec. 29, 2024*

Marjorie Joy Zats (née Cohen)

Age 90 of St. Louis Park, died peacefully on Sunday, December 29th after a brief illness. Preceded in death by parents, Tess and Louis Cohen; son, Jonathan; and sister-in-law, Rusty Cohen. Survived by sons, William (Nancy) and Randall (Ellen Hertz); brother, Burton Cohen; grandchildren, Laura (Nick Phillips), Benjamin, Jacob, Madeline and Shira, as well as several nieces, nephews and cousins. Born on the Fourth of July, Margie's light burned brighter than the largest firework and she surrounded everyone she knew with love and laughter. A beloved mother, grandmother, aunt and friend, she always encouraged and listened. Motivated by her son's dyslexia, Margie was one of the founders of Groves Academy, a school for children with learning disabilities. Unique when it opened in Minnesota in 1972, Groves now serves over 11,000 students a year. Inspired by cooking classes she had taken in Paris, Margie taught at Byerly's cooking school and authored two cookbooks. She also won ribbons for baking and winemaking from the Minnesota State Fair. She spent her later years making the best use of her wit, publishing several short story collections and novels. In 2023, she won first place in the humor category of the Midwest Independent Publishers Association awards. In her own words, taken from her final short story collection (to be published this spring): "We are friends, no matter that we've never met. We know each other and are richer for it. And so, my associate in life, I close this final chapter with what a friend would say—when you open the curtain of your day, may sunlight engulf the hours." In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Groves Learning Organization <https://www.groveslearning.org/support/> (direct link found below) Memorial Service 11:00 AM on THURSDAY, JANUARY 2nd, 2025 at TEMPLE ISRAEL, 2323 Fremont Ave. S., Minneapolis. Service will also be available on Zoom: <https://hodroffs.com/MarjorieZats> (direct link found below) Shiva 7:00 PM on THURSDAY at TEMPLE ISRAEL, 2323 Fremont Ave, S. Minneapolis.