

Luba Dorothy (Brook) Reep, 94, died Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022 at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany, NY, surrounded by family.

Luba was born Dec. 26, 1927 in Brooklyn, NY to Alexander and Evelyn (Joffe) Brook. She graduated from Adelphi College with a major in psychology. She went on to attend graduate school for social work at the University of Illinois, where she met her husband, Howard Reep, in 1949. While they came from very different backgrounds, they connected over their shared values and a mutual admiration of the author A.A. Milne. They were married in 1950 and, after Howard's time in the military, settled in Huntington, NY, to raise their family.

Once their children were older, Luba returned to school to obtain her master's in library science, graduating in 1972. She worked as a librarian at the Landing Elementary School in Smithtown, NY, until her retirement in 1983. In 1988, Luba and Howard relocated to Amherst, MA.

Luba and Howard were active in the Unitarian Universalist church for many decades. Luba served as a founder of the Huntington UU Fellowship in 1955 and as its president in 1977. After their move, she and Howard became members of the UU Society of Amherst. Their church community was especially important to them during Howard's battle with Alzheimer's and his death in 2002. Luba moved from Amherst to Oneonta, NY, in 2011, and then to the Albany area in 2015, to be near family.

Luba was passionate about social action, including civil rights, affordable housing, and pro-choice causes. When their youngest daughter came out to them in 1980, Luba and Howard became staunch advocates for gay and lesbian rights during an era in which most people were less accepting. In recent years, Luba often expressed that she hoped to live long enough to see Donald Trump leave the White House, and she was happy to get her wish.

Luba was a lover of animals, nearly always having at least one cat or dog in her home. She enjoyed dabbling in creative pursuits including writing, watercolor painting, and singing in the church choir. She was a voracious reader and also loved to travel, listen to classical music, and spend time with her family.

Luba was predeceased by her husband of 51 years, Howard Reep; her parents, Alexander and Evelyn Brook; her brother Peter Brook; her brothers-in-law Stephen Reep and Dan Reep; her sister-in-law Kathy Payne; and infant daughters Susan Reep and Lisa Reep.

She is survived by her daughters Debbie Reep MacLeod and her husband, David MacLeod, of Albany, NY, Catherine Reep and her husband, Rob Kurnit, of Woodstock, NY, and Lynette Reep and her spouse, Morgan Shore, of Burlington, VT; her granddaughters, Emily Maskin of Brooklyn, NY, and Jessica Maskin and her husband, Spencer Kline, of Raleigh, NC; her brother

Richard Brook and his wife, Susan Brook, of Bloomsburg, PA; and many nephews, nieces, and close friends.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, 2023, at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany (405 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12206). In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Luba's honor to Doctors Without Borders or any animal shelter.