

Barbara Gail (Malk) Franch

Barb, born in Chicago on March 28, 1949, left us late at night on March 7, 2023. She was one of a kind. Wicked smart and headstrong from the start and talented in so many ways.

This petite little girl fiercely loved her family and her chosen soul mate but also wanted an education and a career. Back when women couldn't apply for bank loans without a male co-signer, she graduated Illinois Tech with straight A's in 3 years and started a career at Sears Roebuck back in 1970. She earned every promotion and eventually directed an all-male staff as the Director of Logistics Planning. VPs and CEOs would frequently ask if Barb had approved certain projections

Having never left the Midwest before marriage, her husband introduced her to travel. Camping was forbidden but she took to travel like a duck to water. She was past 125 countries when Covid and then her third encounter with cancer finally stopped her explorations and took her from us.

Equally adept at fine dining along the Italian coast as sitting cross-legged in a Sikh soup kitchen making lunch in a volunteer soup kitchen, she loved ethnic cooking and experiencing different cultures.

She was an avid cat lover, a strong patron of the arts and a fierce supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Although her Thanksgiving dinners were legendary, what made her the happiest is when friends would come into the kitchen to learn how to make things her way as well as share their favorite recipes as well. Her only regret was never learning how to make her grandmother Sarah's honey cake

