



## Marjorie Fern "Margie" LaRoe

May 9, 1944 - May 21, 2021

Marjorie Fern LaRoe (Margie) was born at Waterman Hospital on Mother's Day, May 9, 1945. She was the youngest of three children born to Edna and Clarence LaRoe of Eustis. She was raised at the family home/farm on the eastern edge of Eustis with her older brother Gene and older sister Marnell. She always considered herself a farm girl and took pride in her family and their business and success in the community. Her brother Gene is retired and lives in Eustis with his wife Cordella. Her sister Marnell is retired and lives locally as well. Margie attended Eustis High School before attending college at St. Pete Junior College.

For some time she attended and worked for the University Florida as a student and graphic artist. She studied fine arts at U. of Fla. studied under renowned artist Jerry Ulsman. She maintained both her interest and skills in these areas though out her life. She attained a Bachelor's Degree in fine Arts before she left the university. She was a high spirited redheaded girl with seemingly endless energy and enthusiasm. She loved animals and always valued them and their care.

While in Gainesville she and her husband raised Great Danes for many years. They had many champions during this time were quite successful of the dog show circuit. She eventually moved on to secretarial positions for several companies starting in Jacksonville. A corporate move took her to Texas where she was an executive secretary for several years before returning to Eustis to care for her aging mother. At this time she took a position as secretary to the Lake County School Board and secretary to then Chairman Jerry Smith. She also followed up on her interest in folk music, spurred on by Friday night music played at the Eustis Street Grill. After several years she retired from the school board and focused on art, music and her writing and storytelling interests. She sang well and played percussion. She and her partner Joel Kelley ran the radio show called 'The Florida Folk Music Review' for several years and participated in folk festivals though out the state. Margie was an active member of the Friends of Florida Folk and was a volunteer and performer for twenty years at the Gamble Rogers Folk Festival, The Will McClain Festival, The Lake County Folk Festival and the Florida Folk Festival as volunteer, MC, and performer. Her flashing red hair and dazzling smile were trademarks as a performer, friend, sponsor and organizer.

Ms. LaRoe became a Board Member at the Trout Lake Nature Center and was the longest standing member at the time of her passing. She donated time, money, service and art work at the center and was highly regarded for her energy and her help with many projects. She well liked and loved by all who knew her. She was an avid gardener worked long hours planting flowers and caring for them at her home.

She is survived by her partner of 25 years, Joel Kelley, her brother Gene and his wife Cordella, her sister Marnell Hayes, and many nieces, nephews and grandchildren in the family.

It has been requested that any flower donated be living so they can be planted in her memory. Any donations are to go to Trout Lake Nature Center 520 E. CR 44, Eustis, FL 32736.

Memorial Services will be held in the Hamlin & Hilbish Chapel on Wednesday, May 26th at 11 AM with Rev. Mario Bolivar officiating.

To view the service online, click the link below at service time or anytime after:

<https://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/viewer/54667>

# Events

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**MAY**   **Memorial Service**   11:00AM

**26**

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Hamlin & Hilbish Funeral Directors Chapel  
326 East Orange Avenue, Eustis, FL, US, 32726

# Comments

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“ As "Uncle Eddie and Robin", my husband and I came to Florida six years ago. Margie was one of the first to welcome us with open arms to the Florida folk music scene.

I remember her acting as hostess at the Lake County folk festival in the humorous songs building. She had a wad of toilet paper stuck on the bottom of her shoe. Of course, I surreptitiously told her about it, and she just laughed- apparently it was on purpose! This would be Margie's way, provide a silly little laugh to people who thought they were saving her from embarrassment, and also providing the perfect opportunity to say hi, introduce herself, and meet someone new.

What a lovely soul, she will be missed.

May happy memories of wonderful times spent with Margie be of comfort to all who loved her.



**Robin Mahonen** - June 01, 2021 at 06:56 AM

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“ Margie was a great friend in elementary school and beyond. Our parents were friends as well. I remember staying at their home when we were in elementary school. We were also in 4-H Club together. We spent many hours at the Lake County Fair for quite a few years with all kinds of projects from food, to plants and animals. She truly was a sweet and giving person. She never forgot who you were even if she had not seen you in a few years. It is hard to imagine that she had to leave us so early. Sincere condolences to Joel and her family. Judith Haselton Baugher

**Judith Haselton Baugher** - May 26, 2021 at 01:38 PM

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“ My sister and I went to EHS with Margie, and were in 4-H together for years. She was very sweet and had a zest for life. We had a nice chat at the 50 Reunion in 2019. She will be greatly missed. Prayers for Gene, Marnell, and Joel.

**Sonja Haselton Arthur** - May 26, 2021 at 01:26 PM

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“ Such a loving spirit. Our hearts go out to Joel and her family. Her kind, loving spirit touched so many.

**Cat & Steve Reel** - May 24, 2021 at 03:32 PM

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“ I met Margie at Trout Lake and loved the storytelling she did there. We will miss you.  
Ruth Harnden

**Ruth Harnden** - May 24, 2021 at 01:49 PM

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“ Margie and Joel were some of the 1st people I met at Will McLean Fest years ago. Margie and Joel invited me into the world of Florida Folk Music and a whole host of wonderful friends since. Whenever they were at a show where I was singing, there was no question that Margie would harmonize on Superman with Joel on the 12 string. She was the true spirit of love, friendship and determination with anyone she meet. I will always be blessed and forever grateful that Margie came into my life and allowed me to be her friend. You can now sing Superman with my dad up in heaven. God Bless

**Mark Smith** - May 24, 2021 at 12:34 PM

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“ Margie was one of the most beautiful people I know. Always kind to any and all she met. Her light is not with us now, but shining in heaven.  
Sending condolences to all the family.  
Pam Reynolds Webb Styx

**Pam** - May 23, 2021 at 09:59 AM

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“ Margie was one of the finest people I ever met. She shared her love for life and music with everyone she met and encouraged all of us who aspired to write and perform songs. She and Joel gave many of us a home away from home in their beautiful ancestral home in Eustis as we pursued our musical dreams. She literally lit up a room with her beautiful smile and wonderful sense of humor. She will live forever in our hearts and memories.

**Larry Mangum** - May 23, 2021 at 08:57 AM



“ Margie was a most wonderful person. She made everyone feel as if they were a very special person in her life. We will miss her so.

**Jeannette Carlisle** - May 24, 2021 at 10:22 AM

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“ Gene and Marnell, I'm so sorry about the loss of your sister. May the Lord give His love and peace to you at this sad time. John Greenlee.

**Herbert (John) Greenlee, Jr** - May 22, 2021 at 11:26 PM