



## Molly Ruth Proffer

December 22, 1951 - October 25, 2020

Molly Ruth Proffer (née Magilow) passed away on Sunday, October 25th at 6:25 a.m. at the family home. The daughter of Melvin Magilow and Esther Zelda Kleinman, she grew up in the Brookside neighborhood of Kansas City, Mo. where she attended Southwest High School before traveling to Poughkeepsie, N.Y. to attend Vassar College. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, and briefly considered (but then thought better of) a graduate degree in Philosophy, choosing instead to return to Kansas City. Here, she worked in advertising and later at Hallmark. She met her husband, Don Proffer, and together they created and ran a successful media production company, Proffer Productions, for 40 years.

Molly was her own woman. She cared deeply about her connection to her family and her friends, but she always emphasized the small things in life that make it all worthwhile. She was a huge fan of drinking 1 ½ glasses of wine, reading for the joy of reading, and spending time with her loved ones; and she was not too particular about what that entailed. She was the first person to laugh at a joke, even if it only really merited a chuckle. She had the ability to advise without being patronizing, and to criticize with compassion— a line few people learn to walk.

Molly was happy to be around the famous, to be glory-adjacent, but she really didn't care for the spotlight much herself. She lived down the hall from Meryl Streep at Vassar, and once rode in a limousine with the international soccer star Peilei, when she was an alternate cheerleader for the Kansas City Chiefs. She liked being behind the camera, not under the lights. An athletic woman all her life, she loved games like field hockey, squash, and tennis. She tried jogging, but it was too boring.

She was deeply devoted to her family and to her community. She dedicated the majority of her considerable energy and talents to serving others. She enjoyed a good detective story and lived for lively conversation full of laughter and confidences. Her clear vision and bright humor will never be far from our minds. She is survived by her husband, Donald Proffer; daughter Abby Lordan and son-in-law Joe Lordan; two sons, Ben and Alex; granddaughters, Riley Ann Lordan and Madison Rose Lordan; brothers, Lee and Roger; and a dear stepmother, Audrey Leban. A brief service will be held at Rose Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations are encouraged to the Alzheimer's Association, Heart of



# Cemetery

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## Rose Hill Cemetery

6900 Troost Avenue  
Kansas City, MO,

# Events

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## OCT Private family service

29

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Rose Hill Cemetery  
6900 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO, US

# Comments

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“ I just want everyone to know she is in our hearts and is still with us.

**Madison Lordan** - July 20 at 08:03 PM

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“ Madison Lordan lit a candle in memory of Molly Ruth Proffer



**Madison Lordan** - June 25 at 09:39 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Madison Lordan** - June 24 at 11:23 PM

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“ Hi I'm her granddaughter and she taught me two things that she should. One time my grandpa was in a fight with her. He yelled and made me cry. Molly got bold and said "Don, you made our granddaughter cry!" He said sorry and grandma knew where the thing they were fighting about was. Another thing she taught me is yoga. She taught me the tree, downward dog, and a few more. She taught me a summersault. The day before her death I didn't even see her. Months later Grandpa gave me a necklace grandma wanted to give me. I got compliments. I loved telling people how she gave it to me. At tennis a few days ago, I imagined she was there. I'll truly miss her. At sleepovers at her house my sister and I weren't sleepy, so she read us story's. I'm actually at her house now, wishing she'd tell me a story. Just last night I pulled out a yoga mat and did some yoga. Maybe a little summersaults too, hehe. I love her dearly.

**Madison Lordan** - June 24 at 11:16 PM

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“ Sad to hear the news. I went to Vassar with Molly, she was two classes ahead of me. Molly was fun, engaging, very smart, and gorgeous. I had fantasies of being her boyfriend, which would have been the privilege of a lifetime. I just loved her to death, in a very tender way. I could have had my arms around her 24 hours a day.

Molly did a senior project on mysticism that was the talk of the school. A senior thesis and presentation in the art building. I got substance from that that has fueled a lifetime of appreciation for the subject. Very good times.

I was sad when she graduated and went back to Kansas City, but that was always what was going to happen. My love for her has stayed the same over the years -- maybe it's why I've always been single.

A really fine person. Warm memories.

Condolences to her fine family.

Bob Sherwood  
Vermont

**Bob Sherwood** - December 04, 2020 at 05:54 PM

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“ I knew Molly and her husband from high school. She was always a cute sweet person. Our daughters played basketball and softball against each other in grade school.

May your memories of Molly during happier times sweeten this sad time.

Howard Hirsekorn

Howard Hirsekorn - November 13, 2020 at 09:16 PM

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“ "And somewhere, midst the winter snows,  
in dim light, I'll remember  
the perseverant struggle  
of the last rose of November."

May her memory always be for blessing.

Craig & Linda Salvay - November 09, 2020 at 07:04 PM

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“ Donnie Joe, I know it's been many years and I believe the last time I saw you was at your wedding. You were so happy...and now my heart breaks for you with the loss of your beautiful bride. So hard to believe and understand sometimes. Please know my love, thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Marsha Pfeiffer - October 29, 2020 at 11:23 PM

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“ To family & friends gone before us,  
To family & friends behind us,  
To the ones we're with now,  
To the time we meet on the other side.  
Rest In Peace Molly.

So sorry Donnie Joe. We'll talk soon. Frank

Frank Mathews - October 29, 2020 at 06:05 PM

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“ The world could not have lost a kinder woman. I grew up going to the Proffer house every weekend and she was always so welcoming and fun to be around. It was a blessing to have known and grow up with her family. Blessings to her and the Proffer family.

**lenny tocco** - October 29, 2020 at 05:23 PM

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“ I recall an especially vibrant spirit in Molly. May the words of her many friends comfort you in this difficult time. May her memory be for a blessing. Stephanie P. Ledgin-Toskos

**Stephanie P. Ledgin-Toskos** - October 29, 2020 at 09:58 AM

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“ Anita K. Parran lit a candle in memory of Molly Ruth Proffer



**Anita K. Parran** - October 28, 2020 at 04:00 PM

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“ Patricia Champion lit a candle in memory of Molly Ruth Proffer



**Patricia Champion** - October 28, 2020 at 03:28 PM

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“ Don & Family:

We haven't worked together for quite a while but I remember Molly's always bright smile and good nature, even when times in the studio were stressful. So very sorry for your loss. May her memory be a blessing for all of you.

Anne Flescher Schulman

**ANNE SCHULMAN** - October 28, 2020 at 12:30 PM

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“ Molly was always one of my favorite people. So smart, so fun, so full of life. Nothing better than getting the VO work over and then chatting about anything, laughing about anything and enjoying anything the other found curious or dumbfounding. Molly was one of the best and this world is less without her. Bless her, always.  
Jim Birdsall

**JIM BIRDSALL** - October 28, 2020 at 11:58 AM

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“ It has been several years since I worked with Molly when she produced the Jewish Federation's 75th Anniversary video. She was not only a joy to work with but her professional expertise made the experience most memorable. I shall always remember her reassuring smile, her caring and her professionalism. Your loss is shared by so many whose life she touched. May her memory be for a blessing.

Deborah Granoff

**Deborah Granoff** - October 28, 2020 at 10:58 AM

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“ I worked with Molly and Don on several occasions and always found them to be both incredibly friendly, detail oriented and professional. I'm so very sad for you all that her sparkling personality is gone. I pray the memories of her beautiful life filled with love and laughter will sustain you in the very hard days ahead. May God's peace and comfort surround you at this difficult time.

In His Love,  
Shelly Horner

**Shelly Horner** - October 28, 2020 at 10:29 AM

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“ Where to begin. Probably the late 1990s. Like many of Molly's friends, what started as a professional relationship became so much more. In simple terms, I worked with Molly on videos for nonprofit organizations. Our meetings that started out to plan a project would inevitably turn into two women talking about their kids, husbands, hopes and dreams. Sometimes Don would walk in and say hello. Molly and Don hired the best people too. I loved getting to know the guys behind the cameras. Molly asked the best interview questions and wrote the best scripts. Scripts that literally touched audiences to tears. Later, rather than lose touch with people, Molly would gather friends together in the office on Quality Hill for a late afternoon glass of wine. We became grandmas around the same time and shared that joy. I'm so glad Abby's kids had a chance to know Molly and Molly to know them, although far too short. Don, this is so hard. Her memory WILL be a blessing.

**Trudi Galblum** - October 28, 2020 at 09:59 AM

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“ Don & Family,  
Your sad news came to me from Peg. While it has been some years since we were together, I remember Molly's beautiful smile & gentle voice. Holding you all close in my heart and prayers. Dory, Zac & Drew

**Dory Hamburg** - October 28, 2020 at 07:12 AM

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“ Don and family -- G-d bless you during this so difficult time. It's such a blow to hear of Molly's passing. Molly was an angel -- wise, caring, compassionate, joyful. And always a gentle professional. She knew what was best, but coached in a way that helped me discover for myself. It was always a joy to work with her.

I know you will forever carry her heartfelt smile with you, and in time, I hope you will be comforted by wonderful memories.

Peace to you, all.  
Jackie Hermanson

**Jackie Hermanson** - October 27, 2020 at 05:59 PM

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“ My thoughts are with Don and their kids, grandkids. I posted a brief note on Facebook for some of her Southwest friends. Here are a few:

Denton Sanders

So sorry to hear this. I still remember her smile.

· Reply · 2d · Edited

Edi Swartz Connor

Oh no, this is so sad! Thank you for letting us know. Thoughts and prayers to her family!

· Reply · 2d

Larry Oliver

Saddened to hear this RIP Molly.

· Reply · 2d

Edwin O'Dell

Condolences

· Reply · 2d

Wanda Casey

Prayers to her family

· Reply · 2d

Mary Zemelman Covitz

Thanks for the info. So sorry

· Reply · 2d

Ralph Turec

So sorry hear this. Molly was a wonderful person. Molly will be missed. R.I.P.

· Reply · 2d

Grant Anthony

NO ! I am SO sad to hear this ! Adequate words escape me. My prayers and condolences are extended to her husband, her family, her friends, and the Southwest "tribe" for yet another loss ...

· Reply · 2d

Gale Shultz

Oh how sad to hear this news. Prayers and thoughts to Molly's family and friends.

· Reply · 2d

Sylvie Markowitz Radvinsky

Oh my, this is so very sad. Sending my thoughts and prayers to her family.

· Reply · 2d

Stephanie Raphael

So sad to lose a good friend. Thinking of you, Morrie dear.

· Reply · 2d

Linda Edwards Paul

Sending virtual hugs to Molly's family and friends.

· Reply · 2d

Pamela Rosenberg

So very sorry to hear this news. Prayers to her family.

· Reply · 2d

Jeremy Lips

very sad day indeed!

· Reply · 2d

Dina Giesler

Oh my, this is such sad news. Prayers and condolences to her family.

· Reply · 2d

Roberta Agron Tenzer

So shocked and saddened to hear. I remember just seeing her a year ago at the 50th reunion. Condolences to her family.

· Reply · 2d

Sue Lyddon Hall

Molly was one of a kind! She will definitely be missed by all those who knew and loved her.

· Reply · 2d

Adair Weingart

I don't know why I was thinking about her just yesterday. I was thinking about the front row of our choir picture. Shorties.

She was a lovely person. My condolences .

· Reply · 2d

Deanne Crain

I am saddened to hear this news, sending prayers to her family.

· Reply · 2d

Linda Gibian

I'm so sad to hear this. We had such fun at JCNichols. May her memory be for a blessing.

· Reply · 2d

Tony Loudis

Oh my! So very sorry to read of the loss of a wonderful girl. Prayers to Don and the family, for peace.

· Reply · 2d

James G Buzalas

Condolences go out to the family along with prayers. I now am so glad the class of Southwest was able to have our 50th reunion last September, I was lucky to have a chance to catch up with Molly and her husband while enjoying dinner at our table.

Re... See More

· Reply · 2d

Susan Plunkett Peterson

This makes me so sad! Molly was such a kind person to everyone. My prayers go out to her family and all who loved her.

· Reply · 2d

Jay K Footlik

So sorry, Morrie

· Reply · 1d

Sam Trave

Oh no , she was so full of life to me and her husband Don was a great friend of mine from grade school I thought he was so lucky to marry her.

This is the saddest news I've heard in a long time pray for her family

· Reply · 1d

Bari Rozzo Aloviz

I'm so sorry for your loss

· Reply · 1d

Denton Sanders

Hardly a better soul or person could be lost. Didn't know her, never talked to her but I

though about her, thought she was great.

· Reply · 1d

Denton Sanders

Some people you just know are the best.

· Reply · 1d

Denton Sanders

Thanks friend's.

· Reply · 1d

Ralph Turec

Thank you for the updated Morrie. Condolences to Don and his family.

· Reply · 1d

Vicki Hermann Mayea

So sorry to hear about this. Seems news like this just keeps coming.

Maurice Goodman - October 27, 2020 at 05:55 PM

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“ Molly was the perfect cheerleader at Southwest High School. She was not only perfect in every way, smart, cheerful, but Molly was nice to everyone. The sweetest person that one would remember from High School. That is saying so much from a school as large as ours was. 59 years later, at our last reunion, she was still just as sweet.

I was one who never made a good high school transition from junior high, I didn't care at all for high school in the way Molly did, yet her attitude always made me feel welcomed any time she walked by with a big hello for me! She was inclusive of all. I loved that about her! She will be missed.

Prayers to her family.

Margo Aldridge - October 27, 2020 at 04:27 PM



“ Dear Don, Abby, Ben & Alex....

I am so sad to learn of Molly's passing. When I first met her at Lane and Associates, I was awed by her talent as a copywriter. But as we worked together, it was really her wonderful smile and cheerful attitude that made her so special to me. Years later I worked with Molly, Don and Ben on a video project for our Grandparents Against Gun Violence group and was again back to the awe stage: she so totally "got it" and wrote a script that perfectly conveyed the message. Her obituary captured her essence - and made me wish I had met her sooner so I could have enjoyed her wonderful attributes longer. I know you will miss her and remember her with love, as so many of us in the community will as well.

Sending love and sincere sympathy to each of you.

Judy Sherry

**judy sherry** - October 29, 2020 at 10:14 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Pat Lordan** - October 27, 2020 at 04:23 PM



“ Dan and I are so very sorry for your loss. Visiting with Molly and Don and family was always a bright spot on our trips to Kansas. It was a joy to co-grandmother with Molly. Living so far the way from Kansas we knew Joe, Abby, Riley and Madison were in good hands. A quiet source of relief. Molly will be truly missed. Our sincerest condolences.

**Pat Lordan** - October 28, 2020 at 11:03 AM

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“ Don, I was so sorry to read of Molly's passing. It's been years since I worked with you, but I have often remembered you both with fondness. It was always a delight to hear from Molly, and I am saddened that she is no longer with us.

**Julie A Tenenbaum** - October 27, 2020 at 03:44 PM

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“ Hard to believe Molly is gone. We will always remember and cherish her smile, her optimistic approach to life and belief that we can solve nearly any problem if we remain calm and work together as a team. I learned to appreciate her patient "can do" approach while working with Molly and Don on several United Way campaign videos over the years. Our love to Don and Molly's family during this difficult time. Her memory is a blessing to those who knew her and loved her. May she rest in peace.

**Ron Howard** - October 27, 2020 at 02:41 PM

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“ My deepest sympathy in the loss of your beloved Molly. I remember her quite well. She could light up a room when she walked in. May her memory always be a blessing to all who knew her. Sid Kanter

**sid kanter** - October 27, 2020 at 02:25 PM

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“ Don - and family, I'm so sorry to see this. Molly and I worked together on several projects over many years. May her memory be for a blessing. Hoping the family, and those who were inspired by what she created, find comfort in her legacy.

**Sam Goller** - October 27, 2020 at 02:10 PM

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“ Don, Abby, Ben & Alex....  
My heart hurts, like yours, knowing Molly is not with us. What a loving and lovely soul...a special friend and community partner. My memories are focused on her persistent - but gentle - way to solve problems, and the delightful laugh and presence she brought to both a board/ committee table, and to lunch or social hours. She made my world so much better. I am missing her right now.  
Sharing sorrow and love  
Kathy Dunn

**Kathy Dunn** - October 27, 2020 at 02:01 PM

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“ Walter J Fink lit a candle in memory of Molly Ruth Proffer



**Walter J Fink** - October 27, 2020 at 01:51 PM

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“ We worked with Molly and Proffer Productions on the video for Sasone, our community-wide program for Jewish children with special needs. I so vividly remember that Molly was not only professional and creative, but held our hand throughout the entire process as if we were best friends. She was the light that walked into the room. May her memory be for a blessing. - Hoping the family finds comfort in the days and weeks to come. Steve Passer

**Steve Passer** - October 27, 2020 at 01:08 PM

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“ Although I have not seen Molly probably since graduating high school, I remember her well. She was one of the nicest people I new in Jr. High and she was always a pleasure to be with. To this day, I remember that she could do the absolutely perfect cartwheel. As I read through her obituary I can see that how she was as a teenager, when I knew her, was how she lived her life - kind, smart, willing to listen, thoughtful. My condolences to the family. May her memory be a blessing and comfort to you.

Bari Tulchinsky Efron

**Bari Tulchinsky Efron** - October 27, 2020 at 01:07 PM



“ Don and Family, so soory to hear about your loss. My prayers are with you. All my love  
Dottie

**DOROTHY M Bragg** - October 28, 2020 at 11:46 AM



“ Molly was a light in the world, sweet, tender, compassionate, sparkling, witty, smart, and fun. What a deep loss. With love, Deborah and Ron

**Deborah Shouse** - October 29, 2020 at 03:11 PM



“ May Molly's memories and pictures of her radiant smiles, kindness, energetic exuberance be a blessing to all who knew and loved her. She made a positive difference in this world and is missed by so many. Condolences and prayers to her family and friends.

**Deborah Powell** - October 30, 2020 at 08:39 AM