



Renee Maisel

Jan. 29, 1928 ~ Jun. 07, 2025

Renee Maisel, 97.

Renee lived a full and vibrant life. Born during the Great Depression and raised in St. Paul by her grandmother, Renee developed resilience, compassion, and a passion for learning. She graduated as valedictorian from Mechanic Arts High School, earning a scholarship offer to Smith College. Instead, she chose to attend the University of Minnesota, where she met the love of her life, Mel Maisel, on a blind date. They were married a year later and remained devoted partners and best friends for 72 years.

Renee was an avid reader and a gourmet cook with a passion for travel and entertaining. Her culinary skills were legendary among friends and family, and she enjoyed hosting wonderful dinners in their home. She was a partner in a prominent catering firm, and shared her appreciation for art and culture as head docent at the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

She and Mel traveled extensively, visiting every corner of Europe, the Americas, and much of Southeast Asia - including a memorable visit to China where she spent time with giant pandas. In later years, they embraced new adventures by relocating to Scottsdale for two decades before returning to Minnetonka, then spending winters in Palm Desert.

Renee had a generous heart, opening her home to her younger brothers when they were starting out. She cherished time spent with family and was extremely proud of her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by her two children: Adrienne (Michael Hugo), and Andrew Maisel (Vickey Weir); four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Renee was preceded in death by her husband, Mel, and her three brothers—Marvin, Elliott (Rosanne), and Ira.

Private Services were held.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to NPR or to a charity of the donor's choice in Renee's honor.