

SIEBER



MARY GILBERT SIEBER

Mary was born with a best friend — her twin sister, Esther. Thus she always knew complete acceptance and love, and in turn offered it to a wide circle of friends and family. She had an innate calm, greeting all the weathers of life with gentle-natured equanimity.

Mary Elizabeth Gilbert Sieber was born January 16, 1931, in Chicago, to Martha and Riley Gilbert, and passed away June 19, 2006, in Houston, Texas, with her husband John by her side. She is missed profoundly. As one friend said, "It's hard to imagine the world without Mary in it."

"Words and church music have been the leit motifs of my life," she wrote. Growing up primarily in New Orleans, she graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Newcomb College of Tulane in 1952 with a degree in English literature, and spent a year as a Fulbright scholar in England, where she continued her study of literature and organ music. She later moved to New York City to enter publishing, working at Harper & Brothers and McGraw-Hill, and singing in the Church of the Ascension choir. There she met John, married, and moved to Houston in 1957, where she joined the choir at Christ Church Cathedral, a joyous alliance she continued to the end of her life. She worked as an editor and research librarian at Exxon from 1979 to 1994, one of her many editing jobs, both fulltime and freelance, paid and volunteer. Editing was her obsession: from the League of Women Voters newsletter, to technical reports at Exxon, to the Women's Journal at Brigid's Place, to novels, poems, dissertations, as well as books on human sexuality.

Her passions included women's issues, dark chocolate, language, weather, her grandchildren, reference books, beachcombing, snow, The New Yorker, blue, llamas, La Traviata, murder mysteries, angels.

"All who would win joy must share it/ Happiness was born a twin." Mary left behind her husband of 50 years, John; daughter Ann, of Houston; son Jack, of Boston; grandchildren Sarah and Henry; aunt Laura Doyle; and many adoring friends. She was preceded in death by her twin, Esther Walton Gilbert Duncan.

A celebration of her life will be held at Christ Church Cathedral, 1117 Texas Ave., Houston, Texas, at 3:30pm, Saturday, June 24, 2006. Parking reserved in the Binz Garage at Fannin & Texas. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Mary's name to Brigid's Place, Christ Church Cathedral, 1117 Texas Ave., Houston, TX. 77002.