



## Gisela Rotraut Black

February 26, 1936 - May 12, 2026

Gisela Rotraut Black passed away on May 12, 2026, at Heron Point in Chestertown MD. She was 90 years old.

She was born on February 26, 1936, in Coburg, Germany, the daughter of the late Alexander Ortlepp and Kathe (Hohn) Ortlepp. She attended schools in Germany, and she spent a year in England as an Au pair to help with her English. Back in Germany she met the love of her life at a dance. She married Bruce Black in Coburg before moving to California and then later to Maryland in the early '60's. The two drove across the country with only a chest of drawers strapped to the back of their VW Bug and two small daughters in the back seat. A few years later a son was born. Gisela worked as an executive assistant at the University of Maryland for many years. Her love of animals and dachshunds was especially strong. She enjoyed the water and long walks. Spending time with her various German clubs and was a part of the Heron Point community for over 15 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband.

She is survived by her children: Kathrin Black, Kristina Learch, and Stephen Black; brother, Reiner Ortlepp; nephew Phillip Ortlepp, niece Hanna Noor grandchildren: Alexandra Gray, Aiden Learch, and Claire Learch; and one great-grandchild, Kit Alexander Gray. She was a loving and kind soul who will be greatly missed.

# Tribute Wall

RB

“ For many years, I have had the highest regard for Gisela because of her kindness, her devotion to her family, and her consistent cheerfulness. I believe she had a happy life until Bruce died and then later she had to leave her home. She and Bruce seemed to have had an enduring affection for each other, and I'm sure losing him left a hole in her heart. In her quiet way, she made the world around her a better place, and certainly made the Arts & Sciences Student Affairs office (where I knew her) a better place. I look back on those years long ago when Gisela, Joanna Foster, and Mary D'Annuzio were my my daytime family, and I smile. I feel fortunate to have known such a wonderful person.

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**Robert Brown** - June 23 at 10:03 AM

JW

“ God speed dear Gisela!  
Your quiet, friendly and warm presence will be missed by all of your friends here in Chestertown. And the difficult, painful and heart wrenching suffering those past few years were undeserved and difficult to comprehend. You have earned a very special place in heaven and our loss is a great gift for your friends and relatives awaiting you there.  
To your children our deeply felt condolence. All of us, particularly the German speaking Ladies of the Luncheon Club share in your grieve.

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**joe wiedemann** - May 20 at 08:23 AM

MU

“ *Marie Usilton lit a candle in memory of Gisela  
Rotraut Black*



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**Marie Usilton** - May 19 at 12:27 PM

BS

*We remember Gisela as a dear friend, whom we first met , along with Bruce, in the German Lunch Club more than a decade ago. During the intervening years we shared many happy times: dinner at each other's home, Saturday breakfast at Beverly's and kayak adventures on local creeks followed by lunch at Waterman's. We send our heartfelt condolences to her family.*

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**Brigitte and Jack Stenger** - May 20 at 03:37 PM