



# Roberta Dilk Bruck

JUN 11, 1935 - FEB 23, 2019



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# Roberta Dilk Bruck

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**D**r. Roberta Dilk Bruck died on February 23, 2019. She was born on June 11, 1935 in New Brunswick, New Jersey and was predeceased by her parents, Barbara Dilk and John Bruck, Jr. She is survived by her cousin, Peter Roster and family, of Ottawa, Canada, as well as her cousin, John Dilk, of Edison, New Jersey. As a scholar, scientist, teacher, avid reader and artist, Roberta was a life-long learner. After high school, she attended Douglass College in New Jersey from which she graduated in 1957 with a High Honors degree in Zoology and Botany and was elected to membership in the National Scholastic Society, Phi Beta Kappa. From 1957 to 1960 she was employed by the Department of Surgical Research at Harvard Medical School. She then attended Columbia University, where she received in 1962 an MA degree in Zoology with a specialization in Genetics. After receiving a Ph. D. in Anatomy from Cornell University Graduate School of Medical Sciences, she joined the Faculty of LSU Medical School where she taught Gross Anatomy until her retirement in 2004. Dr. Bruck both authored and illustrated the textbook *Introduction to Human Anatomy* which was published by Harper & Row in 1979. In addition to her career in the sciences and reflecting her life-long love of learning, Dr. Bruck studied Law at Loyola University receiving her JD in Law in 1993. She also held a real estate license.

Roberta was intensely interested in her local community and the world. She was a life member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW Covington-Mandeville) since 1975 and served as president from 1995-97. She was a talented artist and avid reader. As an artist she worked in many media but later in life preferred water color.

She was a member of the St. Tammany League of Women Voters since 1994 and a member of the St. Tammany Art Association and the St. Tammany Friends of the Library. Roberta was a patron of Playmakers Theater in Covington and enjoyed their



## Obituary

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numerous plays.

Through her profound intelligence and interest in everyone and every thing, her broad smile, and infectious laugh; Roberta enriched the lives of those she encountered.

Arrangements were by E.J. Fielding Funeral Home. A memorial service will be held at a later date at the St. Tammany Art Association in Covington. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in her name to the St. Tammany Art Association at 320 N. Columbia St., Covington LA 70433.

Share a memory on the tribute wall at [www.ejfieldingfh.com](http://www.ejfieldingfh.com)

"For Auld Lang Syne".



## Tribute Wall

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MK

**Marion Kennedy** posted:

It was a privilege for me to know Roberta through my years of membership in AAUW. What a mind! She obviously used both her right brain and her left brain. What accomplishments! It is almost unbelievable that one person could excel so highly. And, then, I remember her telling me she took a Stand-up Comedy course at UNO; and, proceeded to tell me a joke. And, I have two small boxes that she created using a decoupage process. As I said, it was a privilege for me to know her. May God grant her peace.

March 15 at 11:06 AM

RJ

**Roberta Carrow Jackson** shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.



February 28 at 10:07 AM

RJ

**Roberta Carrow Jackson** shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.



February 27 at 11:19 AM



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PU

**Peg Usner** posted:

For so many years she seemed to always be at STAA , taking care of business with her usual good humor and that laugh. I have already been missing her being absent at the desk. But I knew her before that as a kind and generous person in a group of progressive thinking women.

February 27 at 9:47 AM

JB

**Josephine Bienvenu** March 14 at 8:22 AM

I did not know Dr. Bruck in her later years, but always remember the Gross Anatomy instructor in my sophomore year in LSU Nursing School (1968). I always thought of Gross Anatomy as just that--gross! But through Dr. Bruck, I developed awe at the absolute beauty of what is the human body. I remember her at the chalkboard with her various colored chalk, sketching her masterpiece while teaching the intricacies of each organ system see created for us. I remember her in the anatomy lab, holding various specimens pointing out each small detail, delighting in their properties. Over the years, I periodically recalled those days spent in her classroom, and the moving (yes, moving) experience I had as my eyes were opened by this marvelous lady who absolutely delighted in her work. Thank you, Dr. Bruck, from one of your very grateful students. JoAnn Bienvenu, LSU Nursing School Class of 1971.

LS

**Lynnette Soules** March 8 at 5:22 AM

Rode the old Greyhound/trailway buses commuting to NO for many years with Roberta. Also in aye with her. She was an asset to any group. RIP dear one. Lynnette Soules



RJ

**Roberta Carrow Jackson** posted:

When we were together, Roberta was Ro and I was Berta. We did lots of things together--saw movies, plays, went on art museum trips, birthday lunches--and in her last years, she joined my family for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Being the taciturn sort, she didn't talk much about herself, but I want to share with you some things I did know about my friend. When I first met "the other Roberta," she was a near-daily St. John's Coffeehouse denizen, covering her table with newspapers, bags of books and whatever origami or scrapbooking project she was working on. She rarely spoke to anyone but when she did, it was with that distinctive Jersey accent and a laugh that rang to the walls. So I had to meet this unusual, elderly lady who always sat by herself making things. I went to her table, asked if I could sit, she loudly replied, "Sure!"...and sort of politely answered my questions about her project, but kept her head down to work on it. She wasn't lonely at all, her brain was on fire and she was involved in a million things. A few weeks later, I was hired by the board of the St. Tammany Art Association to run the office and kick-start all kinds of programming. On my first day, I walked in the front door and was still closing it when a shout came from the front desk: "Hi!!!" and Ro's arm shot up in the air, holding my building key. This laconic lady was the main reception volunteer, usually a job for a high-energy, bubbly socializer. She knew it wasn't a great fit, but she didn't care--the Art House needed someone to answer the phones, so she did it, and reliably, for years, as the socializers would come and go. Meanwhile, she'd work on dozens of art projects right there among the craziness of a busy reception desk. Eventually, we updated the desk-to-office phone system, built up the volunteer pool and hired more staff, so she was able to step away from the desk and keep making things. Though she always thought herself more artist than scientist, she was a highly regarded educator at LSUHSC School of Public Health, retiring in 2006 as Assistant Professor of Cell Biology and Anatomy. She earned her PhD from Cornell Univ. Medical College in 1967, and a highlight of her professional accomplishments included publishing a book on Human Anatomy (1979, Harper & Row). Dr. Bruck-Kan, as her students knew her, was active with and supported numerous groups concerned with the arts and community, education and scientific advancement, especially the St. Tammany Art Association. A dedicated volunteer and patron, she served on the STAA board of directors as Corresponding Secretary, hand-making and mailing welcome cards to every new and renewing member. She created and maintained a media archive, compiling thick binders of articles and photos to document the goings-on at the nonprofit. She exhibited mixed media creations in the members' gallery and rarely missed a Second Saturday Art Walk, fundraiser or festival night. She was a member of the Louisiana Watercolor Society, and exhibited in their shows at Christwood's Atrium Gallery. She brought her knowledge of anatomy to Bill Badon's monthly life drawing group, one of her favorite activities at the Art House. Similarly, she was teacher as well as student, participating in dozens of studio art classes. She brought academic rigor to her surveys on Asian and Middle Eastern art—they were comprehensive, compelling and funny. She loved pointing out the comical, strange and gross things that occurred down through history--so much so that many years prior, she did stand-up comedy under the moniker, "The Very Gross Anatomist." She once said that, when her time came, she hoped to have a memorial at her dear Art House, where her friends could come together to eat, drink and be merry. So, sometime this spring, STAA will host a potluck with a brass band, drinks--probably including



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absinthe, her favorite--and her many watercolors on display. All are invited to celebrate and share memories.

February 27 at 8:06 AM



**Roberta Carrow Jackson** shared 4 photos to the **Memories Album** album.



February 27 at 8:06 AM



## Media

**Roberta Dilk Bruck**  
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February 28 at 10:07 AM





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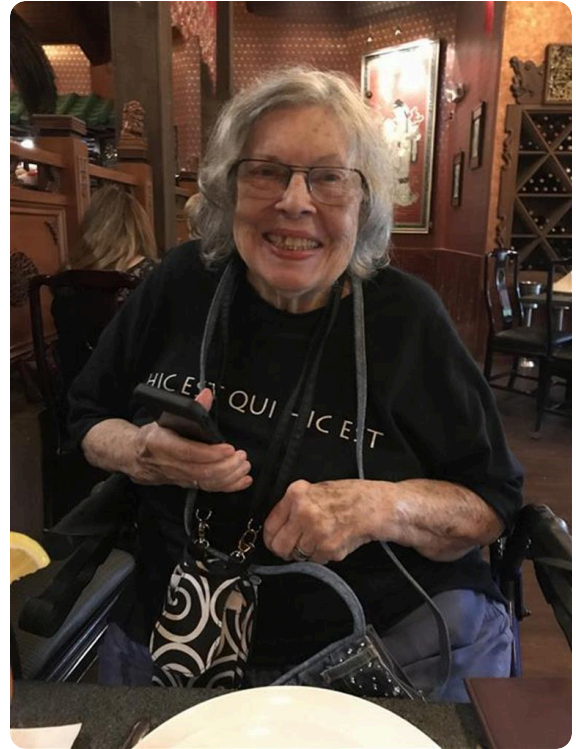
February 27 at 11:19 AM





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## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Roberta by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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