



## Leslie A. Morgan

June 7, 1952 - August 27, 2019

Leslie A. Morgan, 67, of Cedar Falls, IA, died August 27, 2019 at NewAldaya Lifescapes, Cedar Falls, after a lengthy, brave battle with multiple autoimmune diseases.

Daughter of Richard C. and Juanita Morgan, Leslie was born on June 7, 1952 in Houston, TX. Her family later moved to Fullerton, CA, where Leslie earned her Bachelor of Music at California State University. Leslie moved to Grinnell, IA in 1977, teaching voice at Grinnell College while pursuing the Master of Arts and Doctor of Musical Arts in Voice Performance at the University of Iowa. In 1986, Leslie joined the faculty of the School of Music at the University of Northern Iowa, where she held the position of Associate Professor of Voice. Throughout many years of her tenure, Leslie balanced her devotion to teaching with the demands of a notable singing career, performing leading roles in prestigious opera houses throughout the United States. Esteemed by her colleagues and students, she is joyfully remembered for the power and beauty of her voice, the depth of her passion for music, her kindness, and her inimitable sense of humor.

In private life, Leslie dedicated her time to friends and family, providing years of transitional care for each of her parents throughout their later years. In leisure, she was most often found spending time with her beloved “puppies”, reading, or walking along the dike that overlooked the plentiful gardens

created by her own hands and design. In recent years at NewAldaya, Leslie's kindness and compassion broadly touched the lives of her caregivers and many new friends, all of whom who will miss her greatly.

Leslie was preceded in death by her parents, and survived by her sister, Susan Young, nephew, Dr. David Young, niece Barbara Young Fazio and many dear friends.

A memorial service celebrating Leslie Morgan's life will be held Tuesday, September 3rd at Richardson Funeral Service, 615 Main St., Cedar Falls. The service will begin at 6:30pm with a time for gathering immediately following. In addition, there will be an informal remembrance at NewAldaya, 7511 University Ave., on Wednesday, September 4th from 2pm to 4pm in the Library.

Memorials may be directed to Susan Joynt, 4019 45th Street, Des Moines, IA 50310. Memorials will be used to fund voice scholarships at the University of Northern Iowa.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

SEP 3. 6:30 PM (CT)

Richardson Funeral Service  
615 Main Street  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
(319) 266-3525  
richardsonfuneralservice@gmail.com  
<http://richardson.funeralplan2.com>

## A Time of Remembrance

SEP 4. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

NewAldaya Lifescapes Library  
7511 University Avenue  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

# Tribute Wall

AR

“*Leslie was amazingly dedicated and accomplished, wonderfully patient as a teacher, and so giving --in the way that only artists can give to the world. This post is 6 years late, as I have just learned the sad news. My best to all of her family and friends.*

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**Anne richards** - January 12, 2025 at 04:07 PM

JB

“*I went to a memorial for David Thorsen, our choir director at CSUF in the early 70's this weekend. I was saddened beyond belief when a classmate informed me of Leslie's passing. I vividly remember sitting in the recital hall as a sophomore when Leslie first sang for the voice and choir students. I've met people in life who had great feelings and perception for others, but after hearing Leslie I felt I knew what God's angels must sound like. We all were awestruck with her voice. And such a sweet personality. I've spoken of that voice all my life and indeed the memory still resides in my head today, 50 some years later. Leslie, her boyfriend and I were very good friends during college. We were always together and we shared a lot of good times. I had many classes with Leslie and sang in the Operas with her. My best memory if when I asked her and Don to sing a duet for my accompanying class. So sweet. We fell out of touch after college as I pursued a career outside of music only to return to it for good in my 30's. Always singing in choirs I spoke of Leslie to everyone saying "I knew a soprano who has a voice belonging to the angels". I know that she is singing in that heavenly chorus now.*

*Jim Brown, Fullerton class of '73*

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**Jim Brown** - October 27, 2022 at 04:50 PM

GL

*Today I was saddened by the death of a classmate named Jubilant Sykes. He was an incredible voice in the University Singers at California State University at Fullerton. I googled Jubilant to get the details of his demise, but afterwards wondered about "The Star" voice at the college, Leslie Morgan. I was devastated to find that the wonderful soprano voice I remembered had been silenced in 2019. She was such an incredible singer! So much talent! I was lucky enough to know her, be friends, and perform with her in operas and University Singers under David Thorsen. I loved when we performed Die Fledermaus and Leslie played the part of coloratura soprano Adele. Every night she was absolutely fabulous and flawless!! What a voice!! My memories of her amazing talent will always be there. Another notable incredible voice in Die Fledermaus was mezzo-soprano Diane Elias as Prince Orlofsky!! Can you imagine all these incredibly talented people performing at the same time at the same college!!*

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**Gary Lee** - December 10, 2025 at 12:35 AM

ND

“ I am JUST seeing this today...was sharing my joy of Mrs. Morgan to my dear friend Amy and we decided to look her up...I had graduated in '93 and had gone back a few times since then hoping to hunt her down...when I had seen she'd passed I was devastated...she only coached me in vioive for 2 years until I changed my Major but OOOOOH how fond I was of Leslie. I went to see her perform at Iowa and I was RIVETED. Yes. Her voice was captivating. She has been etched in my mind as a powerful presence. I went on to be “just” a homemaker, homeschooler of 11 children and sang ANYWHERE I was allowed to...many a church solo and guitar in hand around a fire...Lesie was an icon, an inspiration...and after leaving a very condemning restrictive and abuseive husband and religious cult, I love Jesus in that full way I had about me when I knew Leslie in the '90's...although my zest to spread Jesus to her is now a WHOLE lot more robust and tempered with the knocks of this world than the Jesus I tried to present her with...(I wonder if in heaven she is belling even now about it as I write) I remember her graciousness as she pulled up between Bartlett and Lawther in her Mercedes and asked if I, a whopping 20yr old, wanted to drive to breakfast at Village Inn...her taking that big of an interest in me has had such a lasting effect...I loved Leslie. She was bigger than life. And even know, I know she planted something deep down in me that I will only be able to unpack on the other side. May I see her there and give her a warm embrace for the beauty that she breathed into my life.

Nora Wiedemeier Dirkx

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Nora Dirkx - August 21, 2021 at 08:04 PM

DH

“David and I are very sorry to hear of Leslie's passing. Sharon came to the University of Northern Iowa the same year that Leslie did, and both of us were her colleagues at UNI for many years. Her smile and laughter were contagious, and oh, her voice! Our sincerest condolences to her family. She will be missed.



Sincerely,  
Sharon and David

Dr. Sharon A. Hansen (UNI 1986–1994)  
Dr. David J. Rachor (1989–2014)

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**Dr. Sharon A. Hansen** - September 04, 2019 at 12:44 PM

VM

“Leslie was such a dear soul, a very loving and caring person. Even though distance kept us apart growing up, it was even more exciting when their family arrived for a visit back home in Houston. Leslie was always so interested in everyone and what we had been doing. She could tell tales and carry on good conversations finding many reasons for a good, hearty laugh—a joy to be around. I can hear that laugh in my memory today. Leslie was very perceptive with people, an attribute that probably served her well with her teaching others. I admired all that she accomplished and was fortunate to see her on stage in Crystal City one summer. Leslie will always remain in my heart and her memory will bring smiles.

Vivian Morgan

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**Vivian Morgan** - September 03, 2019 at 05:58 PM

SY

*Dear Vivian, Thank you for your kind words about Leslie. My sister was very fond of you. Bless you. Love, Nita*

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**Susan Young** - September 11, 2019 at 07:36 AM

JM

“*Leslie Ann was such a sweet little girl & full of fun. I remember playing with her when she was little. After the family moved to California we didn't get to see her very often. After she was grown & had been teaching opera in the local university, she came to Houston for a visit. My husband, P.M. & I were there for a visit from Hereford, Tx where we lived at the time. Leslie was so excited to see us. P.M. would tease her about singing "opera" since it was not his "thing" & she would jump right back & give him a hard time about being from West Texas. They both loved to tease & when something was funny Leslie Ann would laugh by singing a very high opera note. It was just natural for her. Our kids thought that was great. We loved her & will miss her.*

*Jeannette & P.M. Miller*

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**Jeannette Morgan Miller** - September 02, 2019 at 10:25 PM

SY

*Dearest Jeannette, I enjoyed reading your comments. Yes, Leslie wasn't a country music fan. Much love to you, Nita*

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**Susan Young** - September 11, 2019 at 07:45 AM

SM

“ Everyone who knew Leslie knew she was compassionate and had a big heart. I found out she had big lungs too. When she was visiting me one time in Colorado I took her for a hike. Since she was from lower elevation I thought I would be taking it easy with her. When we started up the mountain I had trouble keeping up. All her vocal training had given her a big lung capacity.

Another time she was performing in Central City Opera. My sister, Vivian, and I went up to see her. I really enjoyed it. Seeing her in it make it come alive for me.

As a child she would squeal with delight when she got something she wanted. I think she still did that as an adult. I think in fact the last time she was here it was over Baskin Robbins ice cream. She relished each bite.

We felt that we had a family resemblance. We decided that we both had grandpa's nose.

We didn't get to see each other much, but she was much loved.

Shirley Morgan

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**Shirley Morgan** - September 01, 2019 at 08:36 PM

SM

“ Shirley Morgan purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Leslie A. Morgan.



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**Shirley Morgan** - September 01, 2019 at 06:51 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Leslie A. Morgan.*



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August 30, 2019 at 07:21 PM