



Maya Elizabeth Maloff Rilkoff

May 17, 1988 - January 28, 2014

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of our beloved Maya "Papaya". Maya was born in Trail on May 17, 1988 to Katya Maloff and Sam

Rilkoff. She grew up in Thrums, B.C. and attended Castlegar Primary, Twin Rivers Elementary, Stanley Humphries Secondary School and Selkirk College, where she completed her associate degree.

Maya was an accomplished person in many fields. From kindergarten to Grade 6, she was in the Russian Bilingual program. In grade 7, Maya enrolled in French Immersion. She was an honour roll student. She achieved the equivalent of Grade 6 piano in the Royal Conservatory of Music. Maya was also one of 20 girls chosen from Grade 11 in British Columbia to attend the Minerva conference which supports young women who show leadership. At the age of 16, Maya was selected as a Rotary Exchange student. Her first choice, Thailand, was the country in which she spent a year. She came to love this country, its people, its customs and its food, especially the extremely hot food and dragon fruit, and made many friends there. She spent 9 months with her main host family; her host father was the governor of the province of Chanthaburi. She spoke Thai fluently and also learned to play some Thai musical instruments. Maya was a member of the Vision of Peace choir and also of the Union of Spiritual Communities of Christ.

Maya was also a gifted athlete who demonstrated talent from an early age. She had many athletic pursuits including volleyball, basketball, x-country and downhill skiing, snowboarding, soccer, rugby, dance, running, biking and hiking. Being six feet tall, she was an asset to her teams. She was honoured with most valuable player in many games of her high school sports career. In Grade 9, she was chosen to represent the Kootenay region for basketball in the B.C. summer games.

One of Maya's passions was traveling. She traveled all over Thailand, to Russia and Germany after graduation, Quebec, Florida, California and Hawaii. Maya also loved to dress up and from a young age would switch outfits several times a day, some of which she sewed herself. On graduation, she was deemed most eclectic dresser.

Our beloved Maya "Papaya" was a free spirit that did not fit into any kind of mould. She was a bold, cheerful, determined and strong-willed woman with presence. Maya was always keen to try new experiences. As a good public speaker, keen learner, independent and creative thinker, she was a great storyteller. Maya had a big and generous heart and she showed compassion for all beings.

Maya loved children. One of her dreams was to become a teacher. When Maya was in Grade 2, she was asked to write about who she wanted to be when she grew up. Maya said she wanted to be a mom. This dream was realized on January 7, 2014 when Maya became a mother to Charlene.

Continued ...

For Maya, this was her utmost accomplishment and biggest joy. All she wanted to do from this point on, was to spend time with Charlene.

In her 20's, Maya's life took a different turn. Maya bore more challenges in her last 5 years than most of us will ever face in a lifetime. One of the ways in which she dealt with those challenges was to write, sing and create. She remained close to her family throughout. She loved to spend time with her grandmother, Elizabeth Maloff, making pyrahi, helping with borsch, working in the garden, giving massages. She was very close to her cousins Tamara, Sasha, Robin and Alena and her aunt Vera and uncle Ceral. She went on many

adventures with Sasha and Tamara. Her high school graduation year was made extra special because of her close bond with Lucy from Switzerland, Ferreol from France, Tanchita from Chile and her good friend Jesse Schmidt.

Maya is survived by her daughter Charlene, her mother Katya Maloff, her father Sam Rilkoff, step-father Poul Henriksen, grandmother Elizabeth Maloff, soul sisters Tamara and Lucy and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Maya was predeceased by her grandmother Ann Rilkoff and grandfathers Sam Rilkoff and Cecil Maloff.



In Memoriam
Vechnaya Pamyat

Preserving the memory of our deceased family members and friends