



## Irina Mozyleva Siegel

May 31, 1968 - May 27, 2020

Irina Mozyleva Siegel of Beacon, NY took her final breath at 10:44 PM on May 27, 2020 at age 51, held close by her family and friends. Nikolai Petrovich Mozyleff, her father residing in Belarus, endured news of this devastation by phone. Her mother, Lia Mozyleva, predeceased her in 2009. Her sister, Tamara, also of Belarus, survives her. Her parents-in-law, Burt and Karen, greatly grieve her loss, along with other friends and relatives in the United States and around the world.

Irina's immediate survivors, her husband Aryeh and daughter Leah, are grateful for the relief she finally attained after 6 years of agonizing bodily traumas. They are grateful to Irina for so gracefully distracting herself from the pain that they could almost forget she was suffering. Grateful to the team of doctors who worked hard to heal and comfort her—who in 2016 brought her back from the brink of death to give the family 4 more precious years. And most grateful for the adventure they shared with this amazing woman, this brave spirit, wife, mother, and comrade; an adventure filled with blissful highs and difficult realities that could not be wished away but were never allowed to rule over family life. All of it together sealed a tight family bond.

On May 31st, 1968, Irina Mozyleva was born in Miory, in the Vitebsk Region of Belarus, then part of the Soviet Union. At age 6 she was plucked from grade school by State talent scouts and placed in a dedicated musical boarding school where students worked at their instruments and voices for hours every day. She remained in this rigorous system through college, then jumped at the chance to transfer to the Moscow Conservatory of Music. From there, she sent a cassette of her singing to the Julliard School in NYC, and was invited to America to enroll, all expenses paid. She came and settled in to study, and then, seeking a more intimate style of training, she transferred to the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, having won a full scholarship there. After graduation she went on to join the Merola Opera Program, which traveled the country performing fully staged operas. She moved to NY where in 1997, after a magical, musical, and international courtship, she married Aryeh Siegel—twice. She gave birth to their daughter Leah on New Year's Eve 1999 a few days after they moved to Beacon.

While raising their daughter with her husband, Irina pursued her singing career in Beacon, NYC, and around the country. She stayed committed to her Russian church music, and also produced a number of independent musical projects. She poured herself and her immense talent into every show and lived her diva dream in a variety of venues.

Appointed Choir Conductor of the Russian Orthodox Church in NYC, she remained a chief soloist. Each year at Easter she would hush the large crowd of worshipers when she began a hymn that became dearly anticipated each Easter night. Out of sight with the choir, her soaring voice gave the assembled some assurance that angels were among them for the moment, and they knew they were lucky to have her. Irina was also a dedicated music teacher in local schools and gave private lessons in piano and voice. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Solaris Voices Scholarship Fund for Musical Education, to benefit students in her beloved City of Beacon. Checks can be made out to Solaris Voices, with Irina Mozyleva Siegel in the memo section, and mailed to 42 Mason Circle, Beacon, NY 12508.

In 2014, Irina was diagnosed with an extremely rare type of an extremely rare cancer for which there was no known cure. That, and unintended side effects of treatments, took a harsh toll, leaving her in constant pain although she scarcely let it show in public. Her body was a map of scars from multiple surgeries, some to repair damage, some to implant pain-relief devices and metal supports. She joked that she was partly bionic and recovered from every operation with hardly a complaint. She was a steady customer and a bit of a celebrity at both Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Mount Sinai Hospital. She ruled the doctors and nurses with a sweet complicit smile and addressed them all as “Darling” with her rolling Russian “R”.

In 2016, after losing the ability to sing due to radical surgery, Irina immediately redirected her creativity to clothing design, opening ClothFactor, a retail sewing studio that she ran next door to her home at the Lofts at Beacon. She grew the business successfully for a couple of years, which made her even happier than singing and satisfied her deep creative urge. It also gave her time and a place to be alone with her pain, to try to wrestle control back from her illness. Irina never liked to see herself in a “battle”; she viewed her rare cancer more as a sly opponent to outwit.

She steeled herself to be ready absorb bad news around any corner with grace and dignity, but she also held out true hope that somehow, she might be cured. She came closest with cutting-edge immunotherapy trials at Mt. Sinai Hospital. Finally, her doctors determined that further treatment would have more risks than benefits. She made a heroic effort to stay with her family as long as she could. And when, after deep discussions about

final wishes and expectations, she felt Aryeh and Leah could somehow manage without her, and she let herself quietly slip away into peace just a little sooner than anyone thought.

Irina's battered body has been left aside, but her undying spirit leaves its touch in so many ways on so many lives. A true Diva in the best sense of the word, she kept creating to the end. We've lost whatever she might have crafted next but are richer for this adventure she encouraged us to share.

May her memory be a blessing.

To send a personal condolence please visit [www.riverviewbyhalvey.com](http://www.riverviewbyhalvey.com).

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Patrick J. Halvey of Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, LLC.

# Comments

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“ Dear Siegel Family,  
I am so sorry this condolence comes so late. I just recently learned of Irena's passing and am so very sorry for your loss. I am saddened to hear of her suffering. She was a beautiful soul indeed. I had the pleasure of meeting Irena when she first moved to Beacon. We were both new moms and she would come to the shop on Main St. where I worked every week so we could visit, share mom advice and have some girl time. I even got to share in the joy of seeing her daughter Leah crawl for the first time right in that shop. I knew that Irena before even getting the privilege of hearing her sing. Her voice was simply angelic and we loved getting to see her local performances. She loved her family so and was such a blessing to our community. I will always remember her laugh, smile and beautiful spirit. May she rest in peace.  
Michelle Henderson

Michelle Henderson - July 02, 2020 at 07:39 AM

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“ Dear Siegel Family, Please accept my sincerest condolences to your Family. It is with much sadness to hear that Irina suffered. I was a neighbor of Svetlana Murphy. I remember Irina and Leah visiting and playing with Valeriya and Marina. Irina was so full of life, but most of all her voice, was the voice of an angel. We attended several of her concerts in Beacon. We will remember her beautiful smile, and may she find everlasting Peace. Linda Ager

Linda Ager - June 20, 2020 at 11:48 AM

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“ Dear Siegel family,

We would like to express our sincerest condolences to your family. Each of us has fond memories of Irina. Throughout Irina's life, she served God, her family and people who surrounded her. I was appointed to help serve in the Synodal Cathedral in 2001. I remember how Irina so beautifully glorified God through her singing. Irina was always an example of meekness and humility. My wife and son also have fond memories of Irina. They first met her at a Russian Orthodox musician's conference in Princeton in 1999. They were in awe of her talent and approachability. My wife and son remember how Irina's voice floated like an angel above the large group of conference participants. Irina generously shared her knowledge with others. We believe that Irina will be vouchsafed to praise God with the Angels. May Irina's Memory Be Eternal!

Father George, Tatiana and Sergei Kallaur

**Father George Kallaur** - June 02, 2020 at 02:46 PM