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| **Obituary**   * *"Dear Marilyn; Thank you for wonderful times fishing and..."* * *"Your bright smile and infectious love of life will always..."* * *"This women gave me a chance and trusted and believed in me...."* * *"Aunt Marilyn, I love you more than words can express and I..."*     **http://ak-cache.legacy.net/legacy/images/Cobrands/Herald/Photos/18A402C70ca661685AuvU2B0C2A5_0_18A402C70ca6616E9BKng2B33477_003003.jpgMarilyn Rene Spiegel**, 69, passed away on Thursday, May 15th. Marilyn was born in Biloxi, Mississippi, where her father was in the Army Air Corp. She moved to New Jersey with her parents Ruth and Murray Cohen in 1946. Marilyn attended Irvington High School until 1960, when she moved with her family to Hollywood, Florida. Marilyn graduated from South Broward High School in 1962 and enrolled at the [University of Florida](http://www.legacy.com/memorial-sites/university-of-florida/?personid=171077910&affiliateID=150). She graduated Summa Cum Laude in just three years. Marilyn married in 1965. She was a beloved high school [teacher](http://www.legacy.com/memorial-sites/teachers/?personid=171077910&affiliateID=150) in Dade County for seven years. Marilyn was a devoted mother to her three sons, Brett, Sean and Dean, sharing her love and warmth with her children and their friends. She was known for her ever-present smile. While raising her sons, she became a school volunteer and child advocate. Her passions were her children, her advocacy work and her love of boating. Marilyn was a pseudo mother to a generation of children who grew up on Miami Beach. She was known for her warm and giving nature. During most summers, Marilyn and her family enjoyed the beauty of boating and diving in the Caribbean. From 1998 to 2000, Marilyn was President of the Dade County Council of the PTSA. As President, Marilyn oversaw 350 local PTA units throughout Dade County. With the PTSA, she worked on legislation to help children and parents throughout Dade County and Florida. She also was one of the originators of the anti-bullying movement in Dade County, working with Equality Florida to protect children from bullying and violence. She was well known in Tallahassee for her earnest, passionate and knowledgeable lobbying on behalf of the state's children. Marilyn was beginning a new chapter in her life, with her fiancé Harry Carlip before their untimely deaths. Marilyn is survived by her sons, Brett, Sean and his wife Sarah, Dean and his wife Karina, and 3 grandchildren Connor, Adrian, and Samantha. She is survived also by her sister Susan Homan and her husband Richard. Funeral services will be held at noon on Wednesday, May 21 at Beth David Memorial Gardens/Levitt Weinstein (3201 NW 72nd Ave, Hollywood, FL 33024). In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to Miami-Dade County PTSA or Equality Florida.  Published in Miami Herald on May 20, 2014 |  |