



Drucilla N. Ekwurzel

May 23, 1941 - September 7, 2020

Drucilla (Dru) North Ekwurzel passed away September 7, 2020 in Pittsburgh, PA. She was born May 23, 1941 in Derby, CT, to Jacob Arnold North and Edna Ells North.

Dru attended Northfield (now Northfield Mount Herman) High School, a community she actively participated in throughout her life. Dru began her undergraduate studies at Barnard College (NY) and obtained her BA at the University of Pittsburgh. While studying economics as a graduate student, Dru began her career at the Journal of Economic Literature (JEL) in 1972. Upon her retirement, the American Economic Association recognized her accomplishments: "Dru was instrumental in creating the EconLit database Dru adroitly guided the Association's progress in electronic publishing over the decades." She was especially proud of the journal's self-sustaining revenue stream that reduced the cost of membership for economists globally.

Dru opened her home to family members and friends for extended periods. At times some guests would appeal to Mom to rein in Dad's tendency to "ask for help" on house renovations. When Dru and husband Lars moved their family to Squirrel Hill in 1972, they became a catalyst that transformed their corner of a friendly neighborhood into an extended family. Dru welcomed a parade of kids into her home and became a stalwart support for aging neighbors and their families. Dru valued her network of close friends, especially Danielle Packer, her roommate in NYC, and vacation and "chardonnay companion" over the years. Throughout her life Dru looked forward to visiting Thompson Lake, ME, where family and friends gathered over generations.

Dru was happy traveling and spending time with Nathan, especially during retirement. With Nathan's around-the-clock care and help from doctors and nurses at Hillman Cancer Center and Shadyside Hospital, Mom fought steadfastly for life. The family is grateful for the exceptional care by Canterbury Place Family Hospice. Mom's ashes will be laid to rest in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, New York.

Survived by partner Nathan Nissim, daughter Brenda (Vicki Childers) Ekwurzel, son Erik (Elina Garrido) Ekwurzel, grandson Matthew Ekwurzel; siblings Jim North, Dan (Sue) North, Rob (April) North, brother-in-law Rocky Placella, brother-in-law Kari Ekwurzel (Colleen) Ekwurzel, sister-in-law Kaaren Ekwurzel Wallace; nieces and nephews David Placella, Susan Quattro, James Placella, Cathleen Jackson, Scott North, Brittainy North,

Alexandra Anthony, Tanya Ram, Mark Ekwurzel, Ryan Ekwurzel, Thea Patterson, and Soren Ekwurzel. Predeceased by husband Lars Ekwurzel (10/31/2001) and sister Mary Placella (4/13/2016). Professional services trusted to the care of D'ALESSANDRO FUNERAL HOME and CREMATORY LTD., Lawrenceville.

Comments



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Drucilla N. Ekwurzel.



September 15 at 10:16 PM



“ "My fondest memory of my friend Dru was when she chose to spend a few days with me after my Bob died. She knew I needed support, even though she had to leave Nathan for a few days. She came with me to get Bob's ashes and then we went home. The urn was very heavy and she offered to carry it but I declined. We then spent five days together and it was such a comfort to have her with me. I'll never forget it. " - Danielle Packer

Danielle Packer - September 14 at 03:08 PM



“ I was blessed to have worked with Dru. Her legacy doesn't stop at the the "dissemination of economic thought," though few people have the vision to be instrumental in developing such an important and lasting contribution to our world. What she did for all the people who had the opportunity to work with her was equally memorable and lasting. Dru gave people an environment in which they could reach their full potential. She saw every employee as an individual, one with something to say that was very important, one that was worthy of her confidence and respect. She made each and every one of us better. We all felt welcome in her office and in her home. I think of her often with love and gratitude. I am so sorry for your loss and pray that the memories of her well-lived life bring you comfort at this difficult time. -Denise Maiden

Denise Maiden - September 14 at 08:59 AM