



Patricia Ann Beckjord

November 15, 1947 - April 29, 2023

Patricia "Trish" Beckjord died on April 29, 2023 after living fiercely and courageously with pancreatic cancer for more than a year. Trish was born in Duluth, Minnesota, grew up in Pittsburgh, and spent her adult life living in Philadelphia, Ann Arbor, MI, and in and around Chicago, IL before retiring in May of 2020 and moving to Pittsburgh to be near her family. Trish is survived by her nephew, Stephen Beckjord with his wife Jennifer Beckjord and their son, Jackson; by her niece, Ellen Beckjord with her daughter Louise Burke; by her sister-in-law, Joanne Beckjord; and by many friends who also loved her dearly. Trish began her career as a Blood Bank Technician, held other jobs in medical technology, and then at age 43 followed her heart and attended the University of Michigan where she received a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture. Trish loved the Earth and was a passionate steward of ecological restoration. She ended her career fully dedicated to this cause at both Midwest Groundcovers LLC and The Conservation Foundation. She was a proud and committed member of the Unitarian Universalist Church. Trish loved to read, walk, sing, cook, and to authentically connect with others. She was an animal lover and provided a wonderful home to many cats throughout her life. Her family is deeply grateful to Dr. Monica Malhotra (UPMC Medical Oncology); Susan Jessell (UPMC Palliative Care); the healthcare providers and residents at Asbury Heights; UPMC Family Hospice; and Trish's community at the Sunnyhill Unitarian Universalist Church of the South Hills. Each provided such love and support for Trish that she was able to navigate

her journey with cancer as she wished and on her own terms. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, May 7 at 2 pm ET at Sunnyhill Unitarian Universalist Church (1240 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15228). The Sunnyhill Church website will offer an option to attend virtually. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy (<https://www.lebanonnature.org/>) or The Conservation Foundation (<https://www.theconservationfoundation.org/>) are accepted with gratitude. Professional services trusted to D'ALESSANDRO FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY LTD., Lawrenceville. www.dalessandro ltd.com.

Previous Events

Mass

MAY 7. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Unitarian Universalist Church of the South Hills
1240 Washington Rd
Pittsburgh, PA 15228-1833
(412) 561-6277

Tribute Wall

MM

“ *These condolences are belated, as I just came across this page. I did not know Trish personally - I am assured by many friends, including Bob Grese, that this is most unfortunate for me. As a member of the Ann Arbor Area Wild Ones, I hear references to Trish often, always conveying not only smarts and dedication about native plants, but an infectious and joyful love for the natural world. "Seasons: Reflections of a Native Plant Enthusiast" is one of my go-to books, enriching my life and that of others who didn't get to meet Trish but who are grateful for all she did and all she shared. I am sure her friends and loved ones still miss her, and I am grateful to have "met" through her words and friends.*

- Marta Manildi

Marta Manildi - September 01, 2025 at 11:00 AM

MN

“ Trish and I have been friends and “sisters” for more than 50 years. We first met as wide-eyed freshman at Wittenberg University, the campus where we both eventually earned our undergraduate degrees. During sophomore year Trish and I were roommates, and before that we had joined the same sorority. Trish’s intelligence, talent, spiritual depth, loving and gracious heart, sincerity, courage, and eternally positive attitude are all testaments to the individual that she was. Although I last saw her in 2017 at a reunion in Michigan, we kept in touch through our sorority class’s group letter which started soon after graduation. As I now say good-bye to my sweet friend, I feel blessed to have been able to follow her life’s journey over these many years, and also to have supported her in her final year as she dealt so bravely with cancer. Trish truly understood “how to make lemonade out of lemons.” Her positivity and fortitude throughout those months of illness and treatment was remarkable. I pray that she now lives on within each of our hearts as well as in everything that she so dearly loved and cherished. I will miss her, as I’m sure so many others who knew and loved her will.

Marilyn Newman - May 08, 2023 at 01:47 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Patricia Ann Beckjord.



May 05, 2023 at 05:35 PM

KP

“*Joanne, my heartfelt condolences to you and your family. We always think of Trish when we make cranberry salsa!!! She was a lovely woman.*

Kathy Peelor

kathy peelor - May 03, 2023 at 06:56 PM

EM

“*Trish and I met in the Landscape Architecture program where we shared a love and enthusiasm for native plants and habitat restoration. She had been in the program for a year before I started and was a true mentor to me, helping me navigate through the program as a non-traditional student. During those years and after we rescued native plants, explored Ann Arbor’s wealth of unique natural areas and went on birding adventures with my husband. She will always occupy a special place in my heart.*

Elizabeth McKenney - May 03, 2023 at 12:15 PM



“*I know Trish from UUSG. I was inspired by her and found her to be an absolute joy. She was a truly beautiful person, inside and out. Her kindness touched so many. Her knowledge so extensive. Her passions so shared. I'm deeply saddened to learn of her passing. My love and sympathy goes out to all whose lives were touched by Trish. May her soul live on in each of us.*

Becky Hruby

Becky Hruby - May 03, 2023 at 12:00 PM



“ *Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Patricia Ann Beckjord.*



May 02, 2023 at 11:59 PM