



Gretel Geist Rutledge

December 20, 1941 - January 11, 2015

Gretel Geist Rutledge, 73, of East Lansing, passed away January 11, 2015 at Munson Hospice House.

Gretel was born on December 20, 1941, in Urbana, IL to the late Robert John and Margaret Antoinette (Story) Geist.

On December 28, 1973, Gretel married Frank C. Rutledge in East Lansing.

Gretel earned her Masters of Fine Arts from Michigan State University. She then went on to become a respected professor in the Theatre Department at MSU for 30+ years. She was a true artist, and when she wasn't working, enjoyed fiber arts, print making and silk painting. Gretel was a founding member of the Grove Gallery Artist CO-OP in East Lansing. She was the recipient of several awards for her costume design, her mentorship and her artwork. Gretel supported the MSU Men's Basketball Team and was a proud season ticket holder. She also enjoyed travelling all around the world with her family.

Gretel was preceded in death by her husband in 2008.

Gretel is survived by her daughter, Jennifer (Autumn Williams-Wussow) of Beacon, NY, her son, Weldon (Pippi) Rutledge of Maple City, sister, Kathe (Steven Sternbach) Geist of Brookline, MA, and step-daughter Andrea (Richard Kief) Rutledge of Washington DC.

Memorial contributions in memory of Gretel may be directed to the First Church of Christ Scientist of Greater Lansing, the Michigan State University Theatre Department or the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy.

The family will celebrate Gretel's life in March at her home in East Lansing.

Please visit www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com to share your thoughts and condolences.

The family is being served by Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Comments



“ Gretel, The kindest, sweetest, most loving, caring, sensitive, nonjudgmental friend a person could have. You walked into my printmaking class at LCC may years ago while you were on sabbatical and we immediately bonded on so many levels. Though miles kept us apart in recent years, we never lost touch. I am going to miss you so much. Fran (Ron)

Francia Trosty - February 16, 2015 at 08:18 AM



“ Gretel, neighbor, friend, dog walking buddy I miss you! Walking by your house every day shedding a tear that you are gone, but trust me not forgotten. Whether walking Daisy and Lucky, talking work, theater, art, family stories, cottage, camping outings - always open, sharing, giving of yourself. Delivering fruit cake, yule logs at holiday time - I met you when you had Bambi and then Daisy and of course Coco and Sam - you and I always out when no one else was - often late at night in all kinds of weather. I treasure (thanks to Lynn) "Charlotte Waiting" hanging in my house where I see her and therefore you every day. Much love my friend who so enriched my life. Maureen

Maureen McCabe-Power - January 26, 2015 at 09:01 AM



“ I met her at the Patriarch "dog park" and we'd walk and talk about many things...about her love of costume design, certainly. She and Daisy were a beautiful pair... We'd be talk ing and realize our dogs were off somewhere... I can still hear her calling, "Daaaaaaiiiiiisyyyyy"... And how happily she would come running to her and turn right around again and off she would go... And we'd return to our conversation... I miss her...

George Hirai - January 19, 2015 at 11:30 AM



“ We feel so blessed to have Gretel as a dear friend! Loving, caring, and always a joyful smile! We'll never forget her sweet laugh! Much love, the Wynn family

DeAnna Wynn - January 19, 2015 at 08:13 AM



“ Gretel was and is a lovely artist and person with a lovely smile. We enjoyed fun lunches at creative local eateries. She provides comfort when needed. Her devoted church work, love of family, church and friends radiates. She is thoughtful and

loving.----Joy Schaberg (Rich)

Joy Schaberg (Rich) - January 16, 2015 at 12:40 PM



“ We were saddened to hear the news of Gretels passing. The Rutledge family have been wonderful neighbors, she will be greatly missed. From all of us at Shooks Farms

Daryl Shooks - January 16, 2015 at 08:45 AM



“ What an amazing teacher and friend. She helped shape me as an artist and theatre professional. She will be missed.

Billy Wilburn - January 15, 2015 at 01:50 PM



“ At this time of need may Jehovah, the God of all comfort be with the family. Psalms 147:3 says "He heals the brokenhearted; He binds up their wounds." I hope these words bring comfort now and in the months to come.

Sally - January 14, 2015 at 07:13 PM



“ Amazing woman and true friend to theatre and especially theatre at MSU. She will be truly missed.



Jacqueline Babcock - January 13, 2015 at 02:57 PM



“ Gretel Geist Rutledge. An extraordinary woman, friend, mother, and artist. Gretel embraced life and friendship and motherhood and creating art with full on passion, commitment and courage. My fondest memory of Gretel? There are so many...Gretel and I shared a large working studio space at Grove Gallery in East Lansing, but we also shared a mutual desire and commitment to help the gallery succeed. In addition to being one of the founding members of the gallery, Gretel was our book keeper for

the past four years, not an easy task. She was instrumental in helping propel the gallery forward and moving in a positive direction. She is and will remain a big part of Grove Gallery & Studios.

I am so grateful to have met Gretel seven years ago, and am honored to call her my friend. Most often, Gretel and I talked more than we worked in our studios, but that was okay. We fed each other's soul with laughter (and sometimes tears), great stories, and unconditional love and support. Gretel was never afraid to be who she was – a feisty, often opinionated woman, who always spoke her mind, but who also had the BIGGEST heart, was fiercely loyal beyond words, was incredibly generous, and lived her life honestly and true to who she was. Make no mistake – There is only ONE Gretel! There is no other quite like her...I'm glad about that!



deb cholewicki - January 13, 2015 at 01:59 PM