



Elizabeth "Liz" Christopher

June 9, 1941 - September 15, 2020

Elizabeth "Liz" O'Hara Christopher of Birmingham, was born June 9, 1941 in Woodland, CA and died September 15, 2020 in Novi. Liz was the only child of Dr. John and Katherine O'Hara, and the granddaughter of Noah Dietrich, chief financial advisor to Howard Hughes for over 30 years. She was class president of Sarah Dix Hamlin High School in San Francisco and attended the University of California, Berkeley.

Liz loved and adored her three sons and their families – John William (Elizabeth) of Winnetka, IL, David Noah (Wendy) of Atlanta, GA, and Michael O'Hara (Laura) of Farmington Hills, MI. She felt blessed to enjoy a lifelong, sibling-like relationship with her sister-in-law Olga McLaren (Theron) of Houston, TX, and remained close with her beloved nephew, Chris McLaren (Tevia), also of Houston. She was married to William Christopher for 27 years.

Liz spent many cherished years in Vienna, VA, where she found wonderful, life-long friends. She enjoyed Bible study through Holy Comforter Church, games of all sorts, volunteering, fundraising and playing tennis, which she continued after the family moved to Michigan in 1977. After her divorce in 1989, Liz demonstrated resilience in starting a career in her late 40s, most notably for 18 years at Metro Detroit's Common Ground Sanctuary as a crisis counselor, facility manager and annual leader of Art in the Park.

Liz was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1998 but continued to work, and enjoy her vibrant and friend-filled life in Birmingham, MI, and more recently at Fox Run Retirement Community where she lived for her last five years. In addition to her sons, Liz is survived by six grandchildren, all of whom treasured their time with Grammy Liz growing up – Caroline, Lily, Vivien, Cole, Jean and Layne.

Throughout her life, one of her special gifts was her gentle, caring spirit – to make strangers into friends, to make friends into family. Liz was able to connect with those around her in a profound way which endeared her to everyone she met.

Given current Covid-19 restrictions, a Celebration of Life will be scheduled in the future. If desired, contributions may be made in Liz's memory to her church of more than four decades, Nativity Episcopal Church, 21220 West Fourteen Mile Road, Bloomfield Township, MI 48301 www.nativityepiscopalchurch.org, to Common Ground Crisis Helpline, Attention: Donor Relations, 1410 S. Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302 www.commongroundhelps.org/donate, or to the charity of your choice.

Cremation arrangements in care of, Jowett Funeral Home, 1634 Lapeer Avenue, Port Huron.

Jowett Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family with arrangements.

To view the obituary and share memories, please visit www.jowettfuneraldirectors.com

Tribute Wall

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“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Curtis Cooper - September 17, 2020 at 10:18 PM

BK

Beautiful

Brenda and Bobby Kennedy - September 18, 2020 at 12:14 PM

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“ Liz Christopher made everyone around her feel cared for, cared about and listened to. I’m grateful for the 25 years of having her in my life and the standard she set as a human being. Liz has been an example of looking past faults to see good things, caring about, and caring for, as many people as possible, and working hard to make real contributions (the kind you don’t always notice until they’re no longer there) to causes she cared about .

We would kid her about losing her keys or purse someplace, mangling stories or trusting in someone she shouldn’t, but the universe looked out for Liz. Some of us called her Mr. Magoo, after the cartoon character who would walk over open manholes without managing to fall in. The truth is, Liz spent so much time caring about those around her – her boys, their families, her church, her friends, the people of Common Ground – that there wasn’t much room for those small details. But when it came to others, she made small details feel big in the best way.

I’m happy and sad for us all.

Curtis Cooper - September 17, 2020 at 10:09 PM

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“ *I'm still weeping from losing Liz. I wanted her to live forever. Although I haven't seen her in a number of years; and she and I only managed to connect every couple of years by phone, our calls were lengthy news filled and full of laughter. we worked together at Common Grind and Art in the Park. I still remember the first week after I began working with Liz in 1990. By the fifth day, she pulled me into her wonderful world. She was kind to everyone she met. Family may not know this; but Liz was in charge of working with court placement workers at Common Ground. Many of them kept contact with her long after their hours were finished. Many came back for Art in the Park so they could help Liz, more than one told me that she had changed their life with her kindness and support. She was a true angel placed among us and I will miss her for the rest of my life.*

Becci Reedus - September 17, 2020 at 12:23 PM