

CROSSED THE BAR

Christine Charlotte Douglass



Christine Charlotte Douglass, 73, of Northampton, Massachusetts, died Wednesday, October 31, 2018, in Bay State Medical Center, Springfield, following a stroke the prior evening.

Born May 14, 1945, in Chicago, she was the third of five children of Benjamin and Elizabeth Douglass. She leaves behind a son, Matthew McGuire, his wife, Mingke Wang, and their daughters, Charlotte and Catherine; two sisters, Catherine Douglass and Constance Harvard; a brother, Bruce Douglass; her former partner James McGuire; a number of nieces and nephews; a universe of friends so close as to be family; and her beloved dachshunds and cats.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by a brother, Benjamin Jr.

Chris grew up in the Chicago suburb of Oak Park. She earned a degree in biology from the University of Michigan and arrived in Western Massachusetts soon after. She lived in Worthington, where she raised her son, then moved to Northampton, where she lived for the past 32 years.

She worked in a number of fields, most of them related to healthcare, which best reflected her desire to care for people of all stripes and share her warmth, love and attention.

Chris was an avid weaver and a lover of music and the English language. In middle age she resumed her childhood pursuit of the cello, which she enjoyed playing in small local ensembles and with friends. She also sang in The Hampshire Choral Society for the past several decades. Her love of literature was complemented by a loving insistence on grammatical precision inherited from her mother.

But she will be best remembered by those who knew her for her exceptional kindness. She showed true generosity of spirit not only to her friends and family, but to all she met. Countless people will remember her, whether for some specific kindness or just for her peaceful presence. While she did not practice the religion of her childhood, she in many ways represented a truly spiritual nature.

The greatest joy of Chris's later years was the birth of granddaughters Charlotte and Catherine, with whom she spent as much time as she could in Northampton and in their home in New York City. Just weeks before her passing, she finished construction on a treehouse and playset so that they would always feel like "Nai Nai's house" was a second home to them. Although they didn't have nearly enough years with her, the time they spent with her in their young lives will be with them always.

Chris especially delighted in spending several weeks with them every summer in the Belvedere. They are now the third generation of the Douglass family to have grown up loving the unique character and beauty of the Club and Charlevoix, the third generation spending sunny hours playing tennis and swimming at the beach, gathering inside for board and card games on cool or rainy days, and visiting Lake Michigan Beach to watch the sunsets.

Chris was an organ donor. Her remains were cremated and her ashes will be spread in private ceremonies at places of significance to her and her family in Massachusetts and Michigan.

Donations in Chris's memory may be made to Dakin Humane Society, 163 Montague Road, Leverett MA 01054. Alternatively, friends and loved ones may honor her life by caring for one another, being kind to animals and those in need, and promoting harmony and peace in the world.