



Ellen G. Calderini

November 16, 1935 - January 8, 2016

Age 80, passed away on Friday, January 8, 2016 at the Saline Evangelical Home in Saline, MI. She was born November 16, 1935 in Dayton, OH, the daughter of Gerald C. and Elinor (Bratten) Grout. After graduating from Oakwood High School, Ellen attended Northwestern University, graduating with a B.A. in English Literature in 1957. She was president of the Delta Gamma sorority and very active in the arts community on campus. Upon graduation, she worked for NCR back in her hometown. Feeling the pull back, she returned to Chicago and met Charles Calderini of Winnetka. They were married on June 10, 1961 and moved to Lake Forest, where their 3 children were born. Ellen continued to be active in the Junior League of Chicago and in other community service capacities as they raised their family in Northfield. Ellen continued her education, pursuing her love of service to others by earning her Masters degrees in Psychology (DePaul University, 1980) and Social Work (Loyola University, 1985). She served the mental health community in Chicago for the next 25 years. She moved to Chicago's Gold Coast in 1991 and reveled in her love of the Chicago Symphony, Lyric Opera and Art Institute. At the Lincoln Park Zoo, she spent time visiting with the apes, inspired by the trip of a lifetime she made to Rwanda and Uganda. Above all else, she loved her family: her children Tom (wife Kathy and children Jack and James, of Marlborough, MA), Sarah (husband Daniel and children Charlie, John and Catherine, of Ann Arbor, MI) and David (Denver, CO). Time with her children and grandchildren was her happiest and most peaceful

place. She is survived by two brothers, Jim and Philip Grout, and is preceded in death by her brother David. Ellen fought a long and difficult battle against Alzheimer's Disease with courage and dignity. The grace that she brought with her along this journey was inspiring to all who were by her side. Because she was always striving to make the world a better place, her family asks that any donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association, www.alz.org. She would have also wished for any visitors to the site to learn more about the disease and appreciate the need for dedicated research, compassionate care and understanding. Her brain has been donated for study at the Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease Center at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, <http://www.brain.northwestern.edu>. Services will be held on Saturday, April 30 at 10:00am at the Northfield Community Church-400 Wagner Road, Northfield, IL 60093. She will be remembered for her love of nature, man, and beast; also her passion for music, dancing, Shakespeare, and playing in the ocean waves. Memories of her lively laughter and infectious smile will be treasured forever.

Tribute Wall



“ *Ellen G. Calderini*

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Thea Reeves - February 03, 2016 at 03:01 PM

“ *We were sad to hear the news of Ellen's passing. She was a beautiful and graceful lady. We have fond memories of her. What a darling picture of Tom, Sarah, David, the cat and dog. That is a treasure. We wish to send our most sincere condolences to the Calderini Family from friends in Colorado.*

Jim and Edye Slovic

Jim and Edye Slovic - January 20, 2016 at 07:16 PM

Thank you Jim and Edye--we so appreciate your thoughts and support at this time!

Sarah Nicoli - February 01, 2016 at 06:07 AM

MA

“ *Lovely woman, lovely life! Rest in Peace Ellen.*

The Apleys

MAriAnn apley - January 15, 2016 at 11:54 AM

SN

Thank you Apleys!

Sarah Nicoli - February 01, 2016 at 06:07 AM

PG

“ *3 files added to the tribute wall*



phil grout - January 12, 2016 at 10:06 AM

JS

“ *Though we haven't seen any of you in many, many years, we have such wonderful memories of your mother as a next door neighbor and working with her in the Jr. League. She was a wonderful friend and we send our thoughts and prayers to all of you. I had just asked Marilyn Norehad about her just last week. I'm just so sorry she and you had to go through the Alzheimers illness. We send much love, Jeannie & Denny Scully*

jeannie scully - January 10, 2016 at 07:24 PM

SN

Thanks Jeannie and Denny! You guys were great neighbors and friends to my mom. We appreciate your kind words--thank you for taking the time to reach out to us. We wish you all well! Sarah

Sarah Nicoli - January 13, 2016 at 03:02 PM

SN

“ 8 files added to the album *Life 2*



Sarah Nicoli - January 10, 2016 at 01:19 PM

SN

“ 16 files added to the album *Life*



Sarah Nicoli - January 10, 2016 at 01:06 PM

KM

“ I never knew Ellen, but I know she raised a fine man in his son, my old friend David. It has been a privilege to call Dave a friend since we first met over 20 years ago, studying Geography at the University of Wyoming.

Dave always spoke very highly of his Mom, and I know she was a very positive influence in his life - as I'm sure she positively influenced a great many others through her good work, her love for her family, and her fondness for music and nature.

*Kevin McNamara
Nederland, CO*

Kevin McNamara - January 10, 2016 at 11:09 AM

SN

Thanks Kevin--your name just came up in conversation last night here in Ann Arbor (not sure why at this moment??). Thanks for being a good friend to Dave all these years! Sarah

Sarah Nicoli - January 11, 2016 at 05:16 AM

KA

“ To Ellen's family, I can't imagine the grief you must be feeling. Hopefully your special memories will help you cope. My first memories of Ellen, years ago, was that she use to walk and walk the halls of EVH. She stood out with her beautiful red hair. She always had a smile, even a couple of weeks ago I went to her bed and said Hi. She looked at me and smiled, with that great smile. Take care, Kathleen (daughter of Lillian).

Kathleen - January 09, 2016 at 07:35 PM

SN

Thank you Kathleen, another daughter of a "walker". We've loved seeing your mom over the past 3 years. I know that those 2 ladies would've likely been great friends in "normal" life, not just roommates as their life-light was fading. Best of luck on your family's journey as well...it is not an easy road, we know. God's grace will be with you.

Sarah Nicoli - January 11, 2016 at 05:23 AM