



Ellen Ruth Nagler Kusun

May 15, 1938 - May 1, 2019

Ellen Ruth Nagler Kusun (80) passed away unexpectedly but peacefully on May 1, 2019 in Houston, Texas. She was born on May 15, 1938 in Vancouver, B.C. to Samuel and Victoria Nagler.

In 1959 during a trip to San Francisco, Ellen met Sherman Allen Kusun of Texarkana, Texas. Six weeks later they were engaged to be married. Broke and hoping to build a better future together, Ellen moved with Sherman to Austin, Texas where he attended The University of Texas Law School. In Austin, Ellen felt at home. Her outgoing, friendly, and somewhat unconventional personality fit right in with Austin's alternative vibe.

After Sherman's graduation, the family moved back to Texarkana. Although Ellen had a bit of culture shock transitioning from British Columbia to her new life in Texarkana, Ellen embraced her new home with grace, enthusiasm, and her ever-present sharp wit. For the next 30 years, Ellen made her mark in Texarkana while raising her three children. She became deeply involved in the community and obtained undergraduate and graduate degrees at East Texas State University at Texarkana which allowed her to cultivate a successful counseling practice.

After becoming empty nesters, Ellen and Sherman retired to Austin. Ellen quickly became integrated into the Austin community where she made friends wherever she went. She took advantage of the arts and fine dining scene, and often gave piano performances that showed off the classical music lineage that was passed down from her concert pianist mother. She and Sherman were part of the group that founded Temple Beth Shalom. She was also an active member of both the Anti-Defamation League and Planned Parenthood.

Ellen loved to throw a good party and make new friends. In the process, Ellen captured everyone's attention with her beauty, humor and wit. Up until the end, Ellen kept up with her friends from Vancouver, Texarkana and Austin, all of whom she held dear to her heart.

Ellen also loved traveling the world with her husband Sherman. She had especially fond

memories from a trip to Vietnam and Myanmar, where they learned about a little known culture and sampled the local fare.

Ellen is preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, Sherman. She is survived by her sister Jane Cherry and brother Henry Nagler. She is also survived by her son Stuart and daughter-in-law Jana, her son Robert and daughter-in-law Angela, and daughter Joelle Kusun Miller and son-in-law Aaron. In addition, she is survived by her grandchildren Rachel Daniller-Varghese and her husband Drew, Sam Kusun, Gayla Kusun, Max Kusun, Lane Miller, Allie Miller, and several nieces and nephews whom she adored.

Funeral services for Ellen will be on Sunday, May 5th at 1:00 PM at Austin Memorial Park located at 2800 Hancock Drive Austin, Texas 78731. There will be a reception immediately following the graveside service at Temple Beth Shalom at 7300 Hart Lane, Austin, Texas 78731

The family requests that any donations in honor of Ellen be made to Austin Speech Labs, Planned Parenthood, or Temple Beth Shalom in Austin.

Events

MAY **Funeral** 01:00PM

5

Austin Memorial Park
2800 Hancock Dr, Austin, TX, US, 78731

MAY **Reception**

5

Temple Beth Shalom
7300 Hart Lane, Austin, TX, US, 78731

Comments



“ Cousin Ellen & Sherman were so incredibly warm and inviting from the first time we met at my parents home back in 1976. They ended up inviting me to join them and their kids to travel back to Texarkana Texas in their Jolly Green Giant Motorhome via Las Vegas (my first time), Grand Canyon, New Mexico, Amarillo TX (Sutphens for Ribs) and on to Texarkana. At Texarkana I was introduced to Southern Hospitality and Cheese Grits.

21 years later, I had the pleasure of a long weekend with Ellen & Sherman at their beautiful home in Austin. The river had overflowed that summer, so Austin was a bit of a mess, but we had such a great time, and I even visited the first Whole Foods (did not know what it was at the time, and kind of a coincidence since I was with Amazon when we acquired Whole Foods.).

I have not seen Ellen since maybe 2003, but always recall her infectious smile, with and energy. Her life was a great gift to our family and to all who met her. We all feel something's missing, but Hashem has great plans for her in Heaven, B"H.

Warren Nagler
Arizona

Warren Nagler - May 06, 2019 at 09:30 PM



“ infectious smile, wit and energy (not with -- spell check hmm)

Warren Nagler - May 06, 2019 at 09:32 PM



“ I knew Ellen through my mother and met her as a teenager in Texarkana. She was—really until the end—irreverent, funny, and ready for anything. Even after Sherman passed away and she survived the stroke, she didn't slow down one bit. They say people never forget how you make them feel and Ellen had a way of making people feel alive and full of mischief. I thank her family for sharing her with all of us, but how could they not? She was wonderful!

David Wyatt - May 05, 2019 at 09:12 AM



“ We will miss Ellen very much. She was a dear person and friend to Planned Parenthood and to me. My best thoughts and prayers go to her family and all who loved Ellen.

Ken Lambrecht
President & CEO
Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas

Ken Lambrecht - May 04, 2019 at 11:33 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Scott Wyatt - May 04, 2019 at 04:05 PM



“ West Lake Hills, TX, March 2017

Scott - May 04, 2019 at 05:13 PM



“ Cindy Arnold lit a candle in memory of Ellen Ruth Nagler Kusin



Cindy Arnold - May 03, 2019 at 07:04 PM



“ Ellen was always the nicest host for the many family get together events in Texarkana. The only thing I can remember not liking was the cold beet soup she served on one occasion. My own mother gave me a life long aversion to beets. However, her soup looked gorgeous.

Ellen was one of the best Canadian imports ever. She will be missed.

Steve Bishkin - May 03, 2019 at 06:12 PM



“ We all loved Ellen for her quirky wit, warmth and caring. Always remembered fondly
Therese Nagler

Therese Nagler - May 03, 2019 at 01:56 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Bertha Shipp - May 03, 2019 at 01:13 PM



“ Dancing Queens

Bertha Shipp - May 03, 2019 at 01:16 PM



“ Ellen had marvelously wry wit and it was truly a treat to be in her presence. Living in Austin with my mother for a year, Bruce and I had the pleasure of being with Ellen a few times before she moved to Houston and we had a quite a blast a time or two over margaritas. Our hearts go out to her dear family and friends. - Scott Wyatt

Scott Wyatt - May 04, 2019 at 04:57 PM