



Angelika Gerda Speckhard

June 17, 1939 - August 3, 2022

Angelika Speckhard passed away on Wednesday, August 3rd at her home in St. Paul, MN, the way she was hoping to; in her own bed by her windows overlooking the gardens, with the windows open and a summer breeze blowing in.

Angelika was born in Marienwerder, Germany on June 17, 1939, as one of four daughters to Oskar and Berta Ziermann. She finished high school in Ansbach, Germany in 1958 and enrolled in teacher training college. In 1960, Angelika married Luther Speckhard and moved to Madison, WI. They later moved to New London, WI, where Angelika stayed at home raising their 5 children out in the country, right off the Wolf River.

After raising the children, Angelika returned to school to earn a degree in horticulture, traveling to Longwood, PA and Boston, MA for horticulture internships. After completing the program, Angelika settled down to a job with Milwaukee County, working in their greenhouses. It was in this job and city that Angelika established her robust "second-half" life, rich with good friends, garden parties, family visits, travel, painting, storytelling, art shows, concerts, and volunteer work.

In December 2020, Angelika moved in with family in St. Paul, MN. There she enjoyed her room under an old oak tree, spending her days looking out over the flower gardens, reading books, watching movies and hosting family and friends' visits.

Angelika is survived by her five children, Michael (Beni) of Commerce, GA;

Rebecca (David Pérez) of Glendale, WI; Elisabeth (Tom) Mulvaney of St. Paul, MN; Chris of Green Bay, WI and John of Portland, OR; her ten grandchildren, Camille, Paul, Christina, Robin, James, Emily, Sam, William, Lily and Ellie; her sister, Gisela Feurer; many dear friends and a host of nieces/nephews. Angelika is preceded in death by her parents, her husband Lu, her sisters Maria and Elisabeth, as well as some good friends.

First and foremost, Angelika loved her family, her friends, and the earth in all its natural beauty. She was an avid gardener and enjoyed hiking, camping, travel, good food, good drink, and good company. Angelika was a force to be reckoned with; fiercely independent, lively, and always up for anything. She is dearly loved and will be sorely missed.

A memorial service and scattering of ashes will be scheduled for a later date; details will follow. In lieu of flowers, please donate to any of Angelika's favorite charities: The Urban Ecology Center, Planned Parenthood, Death with Dignity, or Nature Conservancy.

Photo gallery with pictures from Angelika's life, put together by granddaughter, Emily Pérez.

". . . Wo kein Weg mehr ist,
ist des Wegs Beginn!"

From Manfred Hausmann "Weg in der Dämmerung"

Tribute Wall

SD

“ How did Angelika carry it off? I'm referring to her tangy sense of humor. Nothing carelessly said got past her perceptive comments, yet I always laughed with her. What an honor it was to be picked as a friend. I regret that I met her so late in her life, especially since she was a fellow Wagnerian! Loved hearing about her rich family life, and feel for their loss.



Susan Duehl - September 21, 2022 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ When we moved from Kansas City to Milwaukee in 2004, we met Angelika and she became quickly a very dear friend whose opinions and wisdom were cherished. Even when we moved to Germany in 2017, I often thought about the good times we had. When I think of Angelika, I recall the many hours we were able to spend together either with extra long coffee breaks after Emily's German lessons on Fridays at our house or the times we spend over wine in Angelika's garden, during Thanksgiving dinners and numerous other events. Angelika was a very special person and I will be forever grateful that our paths have crossed. I am truly going to miss her.



Barbara Merten-Brugger - August 11, 2022 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ When we moved from Kansas City to Milwaukee in 2004, we met Angelika and she became quickly a very dear friend whose opinions and wisdom were cherished. Even when we moved to Germany in 2017, I often thought about the good times we had. When I think of Angelika, I recall the many hours we were able to spend together either with extra long coffee breaks after Emily's German lessons on Fridays at our house or the times we spend over wine in Angelika's garden, during Thanksgiving dinners and numerous other events. Angelika was a very special person and I will be forever grateful that our paths have crossed. I am truly going to miss her.



Barbara Merten-Brugger - August 11, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Angelika was my closest friend. I expected nothing but honesty and truth from her. I was often shocked and surprised by what I heard, but never disappointed, she gave what I asked for. You could always rely on her for a reality check and an evaluation of any situation which you found yourself in. She kept me grounded. I will miss her as long as I am alive. I've never met my match like I did in my great friend, Angelika.



Stewart Dempsey - August 09, 2022 at 12:00 AM

VS

“ *Michael, Becca, Zwiesi, Chris and John,*

I am sorry to hear of the passing of your mother. I have many fond memories of her when we spent time in New London, especially the week she and your dad watched all of us (except Jody, maybe?) while my parents took a trip. It was no doubt quite a chore to watch nine little kids, but I don't remember a cross word or impatience. I remember she took us for hikes through the field around your farmhouse. Even then her love of plants was obvious, as she pointed out wildflowers, clover and milkweed, and handled them so carefully as we took a closer look.

I hope that you find comfort during this time of loss and remembrance. I read in her obituary that there might be a memorial - if so, and if you are so inclined to have the extended family present, I'm sure that many of us would welcome the opportunity to share in that celebration.

*Peace and blessings,
Dan*

Valpo Dan Speckhard - August 07, 2022 at 12:00 AM

GH

“ *Some of my best "Angelika memories" are sitting in her garden, eating good food and drinking wine, having interesting conversations in German and sharing childhood memories. I will miss Angelika dearly.*



Gudrun Hren - August 06, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ We are so saddened to hear of Angelika's death. We know she will be sorely missed. We are thinking of all of you as you go through this difficult time. God be with you. Love, Uncle John & Aunt Gloria

John and Gloria Speckhard - August 05, 2022 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ My deepest condolences. Angelika will be sorely missed! We have all been fortunate to see her enjoying her life, her unique way!
Peace and love,
Tricia

Patricia War - August 05, 2022 at 12:00 AM