



Candace Magnuson

December 20, 2009

Magnuson, Candace Faye (aka Cactus, the Wob, and Arbutus Hope Valentine to her dear friends) passed gracefully on Dec. 14, 2009 surrounded and enveloped by family and friends at her home in Minneapolis, MN. She was 59 years young. Candace was born on 14 Nov. 1950 in Farmington, MN to Clarence and Dorothy Magnuson. Candy graduated from Farmington High School in 1969 and recently attended her classes' 40 yr reunion. She also studied at Mankato State University and Normandale CC. She was awarded her cosmetology license in 1973 after graduating from Ritter Beauty School. She styled at several Minneapolis salons, most recently at Appearances in the Midwest Plaza. Candy was also a long time employee of Hennepin County Medical Center. Candace was an active member of the DFL in Northeast Minneapolis, where she was a 20 yr+ resident. She led a full, rich and vibrant life and was extensively involved in the local performing arts community. Candy was a founding member of the Ethnic Dance Theatre and The Glass Theatre Co. She appeared in productions at Chimera Theatre, the St Paul Jewish Community Center and numerous other venues in the Twin Cities and around the country. Candy also travelled widely throughout Europe researching local dance culture and dress. One of her most memorable performances was on a poster created for Metropolitan Regional Arts Council depicting her in full Croatian dance costume suspended on a canvas with the caption "Not All Art is Hung in a Museum". The advertisement adorned city buses and kiosks. Candy's hobbies included adventurous cooking, gardening,

reading, creative writing, tinkering with tools and SCUBA diving. She also took up fly fishing this past summer courtesy of Casting for Recovery, a marvelous program for breast cancer survivors at Trout Haven Resort. She is survived by her sisters, Cheryl Magnuson of Tampa, FL and Shelby Magnuson-Hawkins of Tucson, AZ, nieces Heidi and Gretchen Hawkins of Tucson Kristen (Hawkins) Stroup of Quantico, VA. And Melody Dirks of Pine City, MN. She is also survived by her heart family Donald La Course, Renee La Course, Tom Claesgens, long time companion Jim Morrison and abundant friends, clients and co-workers. She was predeceased by her father in 1995, mother in 2000 and sister Roxanne in 2002. A celebration of her life is planned for a date to be determined. Additional information will be available at legacy.com. Special thanks to the caring people at Hospice of the Lakes and her colleagues at Hennepin County Medical Center and Appearances for their love and support. "Courage is fear that has said its prayers" D. Bernard. Candy's courage and tenacity is an inspiration and a tribute to her full-out, pedal to the metal, wild child spirit and beauty. We will love and keep her in our hearts forever. Memorials preferred to Feline Rescue Ctr., 593 Fairview Ave N., St. Paul 55104 and the American Cancer Society. Washburn-McReavy Northeast Chapel 612-781-6828

Tribute Wall



“ I never had the pleasure to meet this lovely woman, but her love shines in her sister, Cheryl's eyes. God be with you all until we all meet again on a happier shore.

~

Yolanda Geddie,

Tampa, Florida

Contact Me

Yolanda Geddie - December 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ I met Candy when I moved to Farmington, MN in early December 1963. We were in 7th grade together and she was one of my first friends in that wonderful small town. We lost track of each other at various times but made a final reconnection when I was helping to organize our 40th high school reunion. When I tracked her down in order to send the invitation I learned of her devastating illness. Despite that, she vowed to attend the reunion and did so in her usual grand style. Seeing her in September at the reunion, it was difficult to believe how seriously ill she was because she seemed like the same old vivacious Candy. She was good and kind and left this world as she lived - with a sassy and charming attitude. Those of us lucky enough to have known her will never forget her.

~

Mike McReynolds,

White Bear Lake, Minnesota

Contact Me

Mike McReynolds - January 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *Candy, Though the occasions were often separated by way too much time in between, thank you for being part of my life for the last 35 years. I will miss you.*

~

Jeanne Connolly,

St. Louis Park, Minnesota

Jeanne Connolly - December 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *The Celebration of Life for our dear friend Candy Magnuson will be this coming Sunday, Jan. 3, at the Klub Haus, 1079 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55117, from 1-4pm. There will be a service starting at 1:30, and social time following*

~

Renee La Course

Contact Me

December 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *I met Candy when she was working at Dayton's more than thirty years ago. She became a friend and neighbor and I valued her friendship and generous spirit. We'll miss you and your joyful spirit, Candy!* Anne and Steve Lewis

December 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MO

“ I, too, met Candy at the Casting for Recovery weekend retreat. Her humor never failed to make us laugh. Her spirit and courage never failed to help us feel strong. Her "enthusiasm" when she caught her first fish was unbeatable! She will not be forgotten. I am proud to be able to say that I knew her.

~

Mary Olive,

Eagan, Minnesota

Contact Me

Mary Olive - December 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *My sympathy to the family and friends of Candy. I just recently met her in July at the Casting for Recovery Retreat in Wisconsin. She was the most energetic, positive and lively woman I've met in my recovery process and I felt so lucky to have spent that time with her. She was an inspiration and I will not forget her. Though our time together was short her words, laughter and message of living will last a lifetime for me. Blessings to her family and may you gain peace in knowing she touched many. A Fellow Fly Girl*
Marlene Hildebrandt Hastings, Minnesota

December 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BS

“Candy was a "Fly Girl." It was great to meet Candy at the breast cancer Casting for Recovery retreat. I was so impressed with her positive attitude and sense of humor. Candy was very supportive of all us women who had cancer. She was an inspiration and she will be missed.

~

Beth Smith,

Big Lake, Minnesota

Beth Smith - December 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Candy was my sister's best friend, from when they knew each other at Mankato State. She cut hair for several of my family members for years. She was always a treat to be around. May her zest for life and her high energy be a gift that we (all of us who knew her) decide to give all our loved ones. It seems like that would be one way to honor her. Blessings to all of you, and Peace. Laura Kunde*

Contact Me

December 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ I met Candy for the first time just eight weeks ago while on a trip to Key West. Candy was a joy to be around and did not let her illness slow her down at all. Although we did not know each other for long, we became instant friends. I'll miss her.

~

Mark Simmons,

Tampa, Florida

Mark Simmons - December 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I had the privilege of meeting Candy at the Casting for Recovery retreat this past summer. Her spirit, sense of humor and love for adventure was obvious and infectious. She knew how to make the most of her life.

[Contact Me](#)

December 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KR

“Candy attended the Casting for Recovery retreat in July and was so excited to catch her first fish. Her wonderful spirit brought so much life and fun to the weekend. We are so fortunate to have had the opportunity to be part of her life.

~

Kim Rasmussen Casting for Recovery,

Maple Grove, Minnesota

Contact Me

Kim Rasmussen Casting for Recovery - December 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ My heart goes out to you and your family. I met Candy at the Casting for Recovery retreat, she was my roommate and we became instant friends. Even though I only new her a short time, I can only imagine what a exciting life she had lead. Please give us in contact info once you have the celebration of life, I am sure some of our group would like to attend. Thank you.

~

Karen Dalrymple,

Zimmerman, Minnesota

Karen Dalrymple - December 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I had the pleasure & honor of working with Candy in the Gift Shop at HCMC. Her sense of humor was infectious. She was always willing to help out. I have never met such a courageous person. She taught me that there's no time like the present, if you want to do something, go ahead. I remember, I had phoned Candy while she was @ St. Mary's in Rochester & as we began to chat she asked "What can I do for you?" I had to laugh because her she was 48 hours out of surgery & she was still offering to help out! We are dedicating an area of the Gift Shop to our dear friend, Candy's Corner will feature her favorite "Fight Like A Girl" t-shirts & other cancer awareness related gifts. We will never forget you, Candy!

~

Renee Schumacher

December 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ We were fortunate to spend some precious time with Candy this past summer at the Casting for Recovery retreat. We were so glad to have given her a memorable weekend. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends. Love, Casting for Recovery volunteer team

~

Deb Tschida,

Maple Grove, Minnesota

Deb Tschida - December 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ Remembering Candy- the WOB, funny and fanciful, a fine combination of irony, wit and practicality; passionate explorer and absent-minded wanderer; a soft touch with all sorts of pets and projects. We went riding out at North Oaks when they still had a stable, and planned a hot-air balloon ride that never happened. But the planing was hilarious. And EDT trips and she was a rock. Thank you to all her extended Minnesota family for being with her during her last days. She will be remembered with a grand smile.

~

Teri Mohr,

Seattle, Washington

Contact Me

Teri Mohr - December 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ To Candy's family, extended family, and extended extended family (cuz everyone who knew her was her family)...my deepest condolences. When I learned that she had passed I had to write something about her which I wish to share with you here:As I write this it is 10:51pm on the day that we all suffered a loss...the loss of our dear friend and sister, Candy. I was not close to Candy through her battle with cancer...in fact, I have not seen her since long before she found out she had it. Part of the reason for my absence from her life was because of the email she sent out announcing the arrival of her cancer and asking, in no uncertain terms, that those who could not remain positive and upbeat around her were not welcome to be around her. I didn't take that request lightly, nor did I take it as harsh words. I know that I tend toward the negative, hence my reason for staying away. I did, however, remain in contact with her via email. Although most were just funnies or general announcements about her ongoing battle, there was something about her and her emails that could never be hidden....or die... no matter how bad the cancer. Her Light.That light of hers started deep within her heart – in the very center of her soul – and shined so brightly that it shone out all her pores, the tips of her hair, her fingertips, right down to her toes! I'm sure you all know what I'm talking about.....because its what she bequeathed to us...her friends and family.We have heavy hearts today because we think we can not “see’ her light, but in reality, if we look into each others eyes – the windows to the soul – we would see Candy's light shining back at us.You see when she left this wondrous gift to us, she buried it deep in our own hearts....deep within our souls...so that we may, even if only for a little while, see the world as she saw it...full of life, love, fun, and friends.This gift she left us will ultimately be what lifts the burden of grief from our hearts, and allow us to go on living....as she would have wanted. I'm sure there are many who greeted Candy upon her arrival at The Pearly Gates. Although they likely were not among her first visitors, I'm sure she will visit my parents for a while... mom must be WAAAYYY overdue for a haircut by now!We love you and look forward to the time when we can all be together, Candy. Thank You for being.....You.

~

Pat Sullivan,

Maple Grove, Minnesota

Contact Me

Pat Sullivan - December 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Oh dear Candy. I'm here to say goodbye. Through my eyes, you were always the beautiful, powerful and strong dancer queen that most little girls dream of becoming. You shared your absolute joy and passion for living with everyone in your audience of life, and I feel blessed to have been touched by your magic. The curious thing about time; it runs out while it continues to infinitely tick on. It's something so hard to wrap my head around, and yet, there is something empowering about letting go of the need to know the mystery of the conundrum. What I do know, in my heart of hearts, is that our existence on earth is simply one path of a series of many journeys, one piece of a giant puzzle of the soul. I hope your next one is exciting and wonderful, full of love and hope and laughter. You'll be there with your infectious humor, so it has to be. Many, many blessings to you on the next chapter of your higher self. With much love and sadness, goodbye Candy. Let my hugs find you on the astral plane, Rachel (Curtner) Halvorson

~

Rachel Halvorson,

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Rachel Halvorson - December 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM