



## Ilona Laurel Melgaard

March 24, 1939 - September 9, 2020

Melgaard (Sjovall), Ilona Laurel March 24, 1939 - September 9, 2020 (Age 81). Ilona died at her home in Blaine, Minnesota surrounded by family. Ilona is survived by her loving husband, Hans, her devoted son, Andrew, her sister Ramona Sjovall and step-children Becky (Evan) Newton, Christine, Hans (Dani), and Tim (Marie) as well as grandchildren, great-grandchildren, cousins, nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents Einer and Norma Sjovall, and her brother Roger. Ilona was born near Karlstad, Minnesota. She graduated from Karlstad high school in 1957 and worked for several years in Minnesota before moving to Norway where she worked at the Agriculture University of Norway for seven years. While in Norway her extensive travels included an African safari. Upon her return to the United States, she worked as an office manager at McEachran Dental in Minneapolis. Ilona and Hans married in 1977. They lived near Lake Calhoun and welcomed their son Andrew in 1978. Ilona was a member of Central Lutheran and Plymouth Congregational Churches. At Central Lutheran, she assisted with the vacation bible school. Ilona was active as a Cub Scout leader in the Linden Hills area. In 1991, the family moved to North Oaks where Ilona continued working with the Boy Scouts in Troop #63 and later as an Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop #416, which is when she earned the esteemed Wood Badge, scouting's highest leader achievement award. She had an adventurous spirit, even winter camping on a -40F night. Ilona loved the outdoors and travel. She was a great support to friends and family. She

enjoyed hosting social gatherings. She cared greatly for children, animals and the natural world. She fondly recalled fishing trips with her father and took her son and stepsons on fishing adventures. With Hans, she traveled extensively to the Caribbean, South America, New Zealand, Asia, Europe and Australia. Ilona will be greatly missed by friends and family in the United States, Norway and Sweden. A Memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made in Ilona's name to the Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance at [braininjurymn.org](http://braininjurymn.org)