



Connie Meislahn

November 1, 1986 - March 11, 2024

Constance Elizabeth Meislahn, 37, born November 1, 1986, of Sylvan Lake in Mundelein, Illinois, passed from earthly life on March 11, 2024, of complications from an extremely aggressive cancer. Her partner and her parents held her at the end; her brother watched over her child nearby. Connie cherished life, reflected in her choice of a vegan lifestyle. She could not bear the production and slaughter of animals for human use. She mourned the imbalance of nature brought about by modern agricultural practices and shared her knowledge with others. Any turtle haphazardly crossing the road would have been safely carried across on Connie's route, because she stopped to shepherd turtles to protection. One day as a child she recognized a certain angst in a a stray Labrador and brought him home, where, unclaimed, the dog became a beloved family pet for many years. Pugs were her favorite dogs, and the two in her current home will miss her affection and care.

Spatial awareness and economy of movement were her fortés . Connie's ability to bring order to a task or a room seemed nearly magical, both in deftness and speed.

She spent almost her total work life with Best Buy, Inc. Mentored by those who recognized her talents, she progressed from organizing displays to building Magnolia rooms, Best Buy's showrooms for premium brands of audio and video entertainment. Eventually, she led her own team for the transformation of vast empty spaces into orderly and inviting retail stores. She must have

been a pretty good boss because her team bought her concert tickets when her favorite band came to town. Her most recent position as a resource person for malfunctioning Best Buy computer-driven displays lessened her travel time so that she could be home more with her family.

Connie's creativity was nurtured by her art teacher at Crow Island School, her wood shop teacher at Washburne School, and her graphic design teacher at New Trier High School (Winnetka, IL). Projects from her childhood and her adult life adorn her parents' and her own homes. Her family and friends loved to listen to her happy and exuberant chatter, and they valued her advice and expertise on all matters technical as well.

With her long-term partner Jesse Paredes, Connie affectionately wove together the families in her life created by birth and adoption. "An amazing and selfless person," Connie held a varied group of family members within the bonds of her love and care. She is survived by Jesse Paredes, Phoebe Leigh Paredes, Harry and Nancy Meislahn, Douglas Meislahn, Madison Biester, Elijah Hills, Adeline Hills, Linda Shea, Brent Caldwell, Tina Dean, and Amber Dean. All wish to honor her kind, courageous, and loving heart.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) of Norfolk, Virginia or to the Dattoli Cancer Foundation of Sarasota, Florida or share a memory at www.burnettdane.com. Connie was laid to rest next to her Meislahn grandparents in Memorial Park Cemetery, Skokie, Illinois on March 15. A Celebration of Life will be held on June 1 at 10 AM in the Garden Room of the Winnetka Community House, 620 Lincoln Avenue, Winnetka, Illinois. A children's corner with coloring sheets and building blocks will be provided.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 1. 10:00 AM (CT)

Garden Room of the Winnetka Community House
620 Lincoln Avenue
Winnetka, IL

Tribute Wall

SE

“ I still can't believe Connie is gone. It is quite heartbreaking. Connie and I were both adopted, and when we first met at New Trier, that's how we connected. Her parents were not fans of me, but they never really understood the connection we had. Being adopted is such a unique experience.

I was so happy for her when she was able to connect with her biological family. It really helps heal the hole in your heart not knowing where you came from or why it all happened. Despite all the hardships she faced, she turned out so well. She will be greatly missed.

Sean - December 22, 2024 at 12:02 AM

EC

“ I am finding out belatedly about Connie's passing, which is a sudden and terrible reminder that the two of us fell out of touch over the past two decades. Connie was a dear friend to me as a child, someone whose kindness and care shone through in all things. Her passing is just unfathomable. My heart goes out to all of those who loved her.

Elizabeth Cross - December 20, 2024 at 10:29 AM

CM

“ Connie had a joie de vivre that was contagious. She was a loving and dedicated friend and will be sorely missed.



Carol Meynen - May 19, 2024 at 09:42 PM

CH

“ I may have worked with Connie through teams, but i always loved working level 3's with her. She always told me stories and talked about her life. We would always joke that we would put her in my luggage when I needed to go to my hawaii stores.



When i didn't know who to contact, i would reach out to her and she would know exactly who i needed to email and have a name. I always got a positive vibe from her and when she talked about her life... she made me know that she was a strong woman. I'm going to miss messaging her and sending her random messages and saying connnnnie i miss you!

It sucks that i never got to meet you in person, but i'll always have my memories of working with you. Connnnnie i'm going to miss you.

Carolynn Hidecker - April 17, 2024 at 04:21 PM

NM

Thank you for your kind remembrance of Connie. Connie's Family

Nancy Meislahn - May 19, 2024 at 03:17 PM

RS

“ I only knew Connie through Teams and emails, as we both had the same role, just in different areas of the country. But what I did know of her, was that she was such an awesome and caring person, and always willing to help in any way she could. She was always quick to reach out and let me know what was going on, giving me a heads up if any issues were coming my way. She helped me a ton when I was new to my role and had any sort of question or needed help with something. It was always a joy to see her name pop up in my inbox, because I knew with her sense of humor, there would always be some sort of joke or silly banter along with the information she was sending my way. One of my favorite lines she sent me recently was "If I could roll my eyes any harder, they would fall right out of my head!" in response to a silly issue ticket received at one of my stores. I laughed so hard that day. Thank you Connie for making my days a little brighter. You will be missed here in the Functionality family. <3

Ronny Schrock - April 16, 2024 at 01:59 PM

NM

Thank you for your kind remembrance of Connie. Connie's Family

Nancy Meislahn - May 19, 2024 at 03:18 PM

JR

“ I only known her via emails, pushing issues that only her and her team would have been able to assist. She was one of the few people, consisted with her job, providing the right information I requested and always with a friendly attitude, even from her emails. I do offer my condolences to her family and closest friends, and I know she will be missed with us at Project Team.

J Rodriguez-Ramos - April 03, 2024 at 01:53 PM

NM

Thank you for your kind remembrance of Connie. Connie's Family

Nancy Meislahn - May 19, 2024 at 03:19 PM

KS

“ *I'll miss you cuz!*

Growing up together, playing together at family holidays and seeing you during your shopping trips to woodman's.

I'm happy you found happiness with jesse & phoebe, though be it short lived.

You will be missed. Rest in peace! 💜

Kelli Stice - April 02, 2024 at 08:12 AM

NM

Thanks, Kelli!

Nancy Meislahn - May 19, 2024 at 03:19 PM

NM

Dear Karlene, When I walked into the Garden Room to place the tablecloths for the reception , your floral arrangement of white lilies and blue iris greeted me on the piano. It's beautiful and our family very much appreciates that you regarded Connie highly. Since your flowers were on the piano, I will tell you that in addition to hymns, our pianist will be playing Finlandia (Connie's birth grandmother was Finnish), Flow Gently Sweet Afton, Feed the Birds from Mary Poppins, and Nemo's Theme from Finding Nemo. Your flowers will augment those selections. I hope I can find your street address to send you a proper thank you note. Connie's Mom Nancy

Nancy Meislahn - June 01, 2024 at 12:23 AM