



Edie Rodman

January 30, 1941 - March 16, 2020

Edie Jane Atkinson Shank Rodman, 79, passed away Monday, March 16, 2020, in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, from complications of Alzheimer's disease and ovarian cancer. Edie was born on January 30, 1941, and raised in Hartford City, Indiana, by her beloved parents Warren and Edith Atkinson. She married G. Deane Shank whom she met in church choir summer camp, and together (and after their divorce) they raised two cherished daughters Vanessa Anne Shank Drummond and Michaela Dawn Shank. Edie later married the love of her life, M. Neill Rodman in April of 1984.

Edie had an adventurous soul. She graduated from Hartford City High School, then earned a BA in Music from DePauw University in 1962. She briefly taught music in rural Maryland schools, but moved on to eclectic jobs such as early computer programmer, library bookmobile lady, therapist, and secretary. Later, she proudly earned her Master of Divinity from the Pacific School of Religion. She was ordained, surrounded by friends, at her home church, Arlington Community Church in Kensington, CA, in June of 1983. Afterward, she served in numerous ministerial positions, including interim positions at St. John United Church of Christ in Woodland, CA; First Congregational UCC in Sonoma, CA; Peace Church of Oakland (one of the first GLB churches in the country); and her home church, Arlington Community Church. Her final calling was as Assistant Pastor at Hillcrest UCC in Pleasant Hill, CA, where she and Neill married in the beautiful courtyard.

Edie relished life, and her favorite phrase to the end of her days was, "It's more fun to have fun!" She loved music and sang alto loudly and proudly her whole life with both church and other choirs, including the Contare choir with whom she toured Russia. She was an extreme cat lady, and left a legacy of happy kitties behind, including Gracie, Poppy, Carl, Thomas, Roberta, Snowfoot, Mandy, Jesse, and many others. She adored RV traveling and had looked forward to many years on the road with Neill, before he died, much too young. She was a traveler, book fiend, saguaro cactus and sunset lover, minister, nacho and margarita connoisseur, knitter, gardener, politics arguer, and friend to many.

Although Edie's last years were clouded by Alzheimer's disease, her family was grateful to have time and travel together. She adored her grandchildren, and they had the opportunity to know her better after she moved from California to Oklahoma. Her daughters had the wonderful chance to travel and spend time with Edie, including trips to her favorite childhood places in Indiana, her favorite beaches of Bermuda, and back to visit beloved friends in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Edie is survived by a host of friends and family across the country, including her daughters, Vanessa Drummond (husband Ford) and Michaela Shank (partner David Nation), and her grandchildren, Virginia, F. Russell, and Margaret Drummond. She is also survived by her brother Mark Atkinson (wife Dallas), niece Emily Tsunemori (and family), nephew Ian Atkinson, and her beloved aunt Anne Beal (and family). She is also survived by step-sons Scott Rodman, Kent Rodman, and Darren Rodman (partner Carrie Brekke).

Edie is predeceased by her parents Warren and Edith Atkinson, her husband M. Neill Rodman, and her stepson Gregg Rodman.

We cannot thank enough the kind and diligent friends who helped Edie through these last few years, days and hours. We are so grateful to Leah Thompson, Green Country Village, Caregiver Services, Brookdale North, and Comforting Hands Hospice. It is hard to adequately express how much your caring, professionalism, and friendship has meant to our family.

Due to the restrictions our country is currently facing, Edie's memorials will be postponed. Remembrances will be gratefully accepted by Washington County SPCA (16620 State Hwy 123, Bartlesville, OK 74006), Bartlesville Education Promise (208 E Fourth St., Bartlesville, OK 74003), or Oklahoma Nature Conservancy (10425 South 82nd East Ave., Tulsa, OK 74133).

Services are under the direction of Carter Davis and the Davis Family Funeral Home – Walker Brown Chapel. Online condolences and remembrances may be shared with Edie's family at www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com.

Tribute Wall

LD

“ Dear Vanessa and Ford, We were so very sorry to hear this sad news. Although I never met your Mum seeing your facebook posts of all the wonderful times you and your sister shared with her over recent years made me think she must have been a really lovely person. Heartfelt condolences from our family to yoursx

Lesa and Guy Drummond

Lesa Drummond - March 29, 2020 at 11:44 PM

AC

“ Allyson and Moses Cesario purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Edie Rodman.



Allyson and Moses Cesario - March 24, 2020 at 05:29 PM

SF

“ Ed and I send our deepest sympathy to you, Vanessa and Michaela, as you mourn the loss of your beloved and amazing mother, as well as to the her grandchildren and other family and friends. Although we never had the privilege of knowing Edie personally, we know something of her spirit which surely lives on in you, her beautiful daughters.

May Edie Rest In Peace. May the Holy Spirit, the Divine Comforter, be with each of you.

Lovingly, Sue and Ed Fox

Sue Fox - March 24, 2020 at 03:29 PM

SL

“ 1 file added to the album *Edie Roadman Tribute Wall*



Susan Lauffer - March 23, 2020 at 01:28 PM

KN

“ My first memories of Edie are of a progressive, intellectual, forward thinking, universally minded woman. She welcomed all of her girls’ friends into their home and happily engaged in discussions, relaxing walk through the lush garden or time together to appreciate and commune with nature and eating something ‘healthy’. I remember Rev Edie officiating at Vanessa and Ford’s Wedding and how I never ceased to be amazed by her breadth of interests and desire to understand the world and its inhabitants. There was a mini library in their basement. She probably thought there should be more cats and fewer people in the world.

I have the life long blessing of Vanessa’s friendship since she moved to Kensington from Littleton, CO. Thankfully we had each other during Mrs Schlatter’s 5 th grade class and continued in education and proximity through Cal and moves to Virginia. Ford and Vanessa provided the safest, most complete care possible for Edie. Her time with Michaela and Vanessa and extended family and time with her cat her her joy and light.

Edie helped others become closer to God and appreciate the world around them. Even as her short term memory waned, she still found happiness in the current moment.

I will never forget her and am privileged to have known her. May God’s eternal light shine upon her .

With our love and prayers
The Noel Family
Leesburg Va

Kimberlyn Noem - March 21, 2020 at 12:34 PM

DS

“ I was just thinking of Edie a few days ago, thinking of how I wished I had had the opportunity to get to know her better. As it was, in a short time of acquaintance, we had some really good laughs! My condolences to her family and other friends. She is missed.

Dorothy Streutker - March 20, 2020 at 07:48 PM



“ *Marcia Burr lit a candle in memory of Edie Rodman* ”



Marcia Burr - March 20, 2020 at 06:00 PM

SL

“*Edie was one of the most vibrant people I have ever known. She was intelligent, witty and fun. She was eager to experience all that life had to offer, while also being thoughtful, generous and willing to help others.*

Edie and I shared a love of gardening. I remember the joy with which she welcomed me into the splendid garden she had created on the slope behind her California home. There were several separate sitting areas, a vegetable area, lovely flowers and trees and fences under which wild kittens would wander into the garden and offer themselves up for adoption. I particularly remember sitting with her in the sun, having a class of wine and eating raspberries from the garden.

Edie bravely transitioned to life in Oklahoma, compensated by the time with Vanessa and her family. She remained full of joi de vivre long after the Alzheimer's set in. She loved meeting and visiting with people. Her warm and inviting personality drew them in. The loss of Edie will be felt acutely by many friends here and in California.

The photo is from Edie's visit to Madison, and a rainy day trip to the Mustard Museum!

Love at Vanessa, Kayla and the rest of Edie's family.

Susan Lauffer

Susan Lauffer - March 20, 2020 at 11:12 AM

LP

I met Edie a few years ago. She loved her cat! Edie was always smiling and ready to chat. I'm sorry for your loss of this fun lady.

Linda Prentice

Linda Prentice - March 20, 2020 at 01:19 PM

DF

I am so glad I got to know Edie after she moved to Bartlesville. We had some good meals together and enjoyed the book club together. And we certainly enjoyed Kitty Cats together. She was fun and enlightening to talk with. And had a beautiful smile. She will be missed.

Donna Kay Fenstermaker

Donna Kay Fenstermaker - March 21, 2020 at 10:38 PM