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Judi and Lou Friedman Obituary

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Judi and Lou Friedman '56

July 26, 2016
Resided in Canton, CT

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Obituary

Judi and Lou Friedman passed away peacefully at their home on Tuesday, July 26, 2016. They are survived by their three children: Kim Friedman (Vermont), Dana Friedman (California) and Seth Friedman (Vermont); their children's spouses; and four grandchildren.

Judi and Lou lived full lives characterized by passion, political activism, a commitment to family, and strongly-held beliefs about the pressing social, economic and political issues of our time. They relished lively debates with friends and family on topics ranging from energy policy to the upcoming Presidential election. Their strong identification as global citizens was reinforced by extensive travel within and outside the United States.

After teaching third grade for five years, Judi devoted herself to raising her children. In her thirties, she discovered writing non-fiction children's books as a way to combine her love for young children, her love of nature, and her concern for the environment. She published nine books over the course of thirty years. One environmental book geared for elementary-aged children was published in numerous countries, including the former Soviet Union, Costa Rica and Bermuda. In her capacity as the chairperson of People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE), Judi devoted many hours over four decades to educating Connecticut residents about the dangers of nuclear power and promoting solar power as a viable alternative.

After teaching English at Kingswood-Oxford School in West Hartford, Connecticut, Lou founded Westledge School in Simsbury, Connecticut, in 1968. The school, which was on the cutting edge of progressive education at the time, touched the lives of many students, faculty and trustees in meaningful ways that are still felt today.

After leaving Westledge, Lou and Judi were on the forefront of the citizen's peace movement in the former Soviet Union. This grassroots effort to end the Cold War and build new relationships between Soviet and U.S. citizens focused on annual exchanges over many years in the former Soviet Union and in the U.S. These exchanges led to some of Judi and Lou's closest friends, both in the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

Still concerned about the threat of nuclear weapons, Judi, Lou and several colleagues from the peace movement co-founded Beyond Nuclear, a national nonprofit organization that is working for a nuclear-free world.

Judi and Lou's children and grandchildren will miss their parents and grandparents every day and are grateful for many happy memories and shared experiences.

A memorial service for Judi and Lou will be held on Sunday, July 31, at 4:30 p.m. at Farmington Gardens, 999 Farmington Avenue, Farmington.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making an online donation to People's Action for Clean Energy (<http://www.pace-cleanenergy.org/>) or Beyond Nuclear (www.beyondnuclear.org).

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