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Neal Wilkins(1955 - 2017)

WILKINS, Neal Elizabeth Neal Elizabeth Wilkins, of Weehawken, NJ., passed away in her sleep on Friday August 18, 2017. She was born on September 10, 1955 in Atlanta, Georgia, and was the fourth daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Sam A Wilkins, Jr. She attended Fernbank Elementary School, Druid Hills High School and was a graduate of Williams College. She worked as an advertising account executive in Chicago and New York prior to the birth of her children. She was a voracious reader, excellent cook, and expert in knitting, some of her pieces were on display at the Newark Museum. She was a master gardener and sang in a cappella choir. She was a great hostess and tour guide of New York. Her home was always open to those who wanted to visit. She was a true animal lover and spent much time fostering kittens and stray cats. Neal's love of arts and culture, high and low, was infectious, and her eagerness to share everything from books, to favorite painters, to knitting patterns, to her own inspired crafts with irresistible. She saw the artist in everyone around her and put considerable thought into nurturing the inspirations and talents of children in particular. When Cristina Altamura, a concert pianist, teacher and friend, was searching for a place to give lessons, Neal immediately offered her own living room. While they waited their turn, students and their parents soaked in the richness of Neal's imagination, strolling through her art-bedecked house, communing with an array of friendly and semi-wild cats and chatting with a gracious, idiosyncratic, inspired hostess. She was truly kindhearted and a friend to all who met her. She will be sorely missed. She survived by her beloved children, Sam Tarakajian and Cassie Tarakajian of Brooklyn, NY., siblings Tay Wilkins(Jim Moyer) of Louisville Kentucky, Craig Wilkins of Louisville Kentucky, Martha Wilkins (Christopher Rex) of Atlanta Georgia, Sam A Wilkins, III (Melissa Murphy) of San Rafael, California and several nieces and nephews. Anyone wishing to make a donation in Neal's memory should make it to a Pet Rescue or Animal Shelter in your area. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date Arrangements was conducted by August F. Schmidt Memorial Funeral Home, 139 Westfield Ave, Elizabeth.

Funeral Home

August Funeral Schmidt Memorial Funeral Home

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