

## Family and Friends

Yesterday afternoon, April 19, Marney died at home. I want to thank you all for your support, thoughts, prayers emails and cards during these last 19 months. They have repeatedly lifted her/our spirits.

Her courage and grace during this time are what I think about now. She faced the cancer head on...she endured the many treatments and often the accompanying pain. And her gracious presence, even in our shared tears and doubts and fears, is what I'll remember. It was unfortunate that we were cheated out of clear verbal conversation for the last two months, with her loss of voice, only whispering, compounded by my failing ears.

Our children were with her the last four days. They were so helpful, taking turns with the vigil, talking to her, helping with the caregiving and morphine dosing. And the turning was sudden, and I think a blessing. As son Nick said: she was sitting in the garden pulling weeds on Friday, sitting in a wheelchair outdoors on Saturday, able to sit in the living room on Sunday, and by Monday couldn't leave the bedroom. Marney said to me, I'd like as long a time as possible fighting this cancer and then when that's over, it would be good to have a quick decline. Nineteen months turned out to be Marney's "long time" and it was enough to enjoy two Christmases, two Easters, see her three children individually and all together- and grandchildren - several times, make a trip to the beach, and finish her dream of sharing a book of poetry.

The image I'm holding right now is of the two of us, exhausted by the interrupted nights, napping Sunday afternoon, curled around each other like two cats. My son took a snapshot to help my memory.

In the end, we shared stories, described photos, read scripture, sang 60's & 70's folk-songs and church hymns, said our prayers, and watched her breathing. Her last breath came gently.

Marney's joined her ancestors now, and gone on in her journey. Whatever your understanding and images of this transition may be, please be glad for Marney. And please keep us in your prayers a little while longer. I trust there'll eventually be a turning for me and the children. So grateful for you all,

Love,  
Dave