Jill Nathanson Rohde

Jill Nathanson Rohde, age 74; beloved wife of Ron Rohde passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on Tuesday, November 29, 2016 after a long battle with breast cancer. She was a long time noted restaurant critic for Chicago Magazine, also a teacher and political activist. She was born in Minneapolis, grew up in Highland Park, IL and graduated from Mills College in Oakland, CA. She met her husband and received her Master’s degree at Roosevelt University. She taught Head Start and E.S.L in Chicago public schools. Later, she taught Adult Basic Education for the City Colleges of Chicago.

In 1976, she and her husband, Ron, wrote the “The good (but cheap) Chicago Restaurant Book”, a popular guide to inexpensive ethnic restaurants in Chicagoland. This led to her being hired by Chicago Magazine as a restaurant reviewer, a position that she enjoyed for the next thirty-five years.

She was involved in many union and progressive political causes. Jill helped found and for many years served on the board of the non-profit, Changing Worlds. She was also a board member of the Crossroads Fund, and Family Care Services of Metropolitan Chicago. She also supported and volunteered for many other non-profit organizations in the Chicago area.
Besides her loving husband, she is survived by brothers Marc (Jane) and Greg (Teresa) Nathanson, both of Los Angeles; brother and sisters in law: Judy Rohde Cormack, Ed and Georgette Rohde, Donna Rohde of Boulder, CO. and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins, and of course, their dog, Howie. Jill is leaving behind countless friends throughout the country. In lieu of flowers, please make any donation to Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, 70 East Lake Street, suite 720, Chicago, IL 60601; Greater Chicago Food Depository, 4100 W. Ann Lurie Place, Chicago, IL 60632; or Crossroads Fund, 3411 W. Diversey Ave. #20, Chicago, IL 60647. A memorial service for Jill Nathanson Rohde is being planned in early 2017 in Chicago.