



## Ruth Elizabeth Borgman

October 27, 1944 - December 2, 2019

Ruth Borgman Date of birth October 27, 1944

Ruth Elizabeth Borgman died in her home in St Augustine on Dec 2, 2019 from a recurrence of a brain tumor first diagnosed in 2001. She was 75 years old.

Ruth grew up in Connecticut, and graduated from Bassick High School in 1962. She graduated from Wheaton College in Illinois in 1966. She received a Masters degree from the University of Puerto Rico and a doctorate from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, where she taught for several years. She then returned to the US and taught Latin American Studies at the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. In addition, she was a certified Shiatsu practitioner.

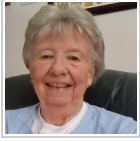
Ruth's strength and intellect and care for others were deeply felt by her students, her Shiatsu clients, her family and her many friends, and her leaving creates a great absence.

She is survived by six brothers and one sister: Dean, Donald, Paul, Peter, Daniel, John David, and Joanne. She is also mourned by her sisters-in-law and brother-in-law, and her many nieces and nephews. The entire family is grateful to her niece, Elizabeth, who made the last 18 months of Ruth's life at home possible and enjoyable.

Ruth wished to be cremated without a service, and information about a future celebration of her life will be provided when details are known.

The family gratefully declines flowers. In lieu of flowers please feel free to make a donation to your choice of charity or organization in Ruth's name.

# Tribute Wall



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



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**Betty Feiler** - December 17, 2019 at 06:14 PM

FM

*Ruth*

*Friend, brother, lover and admirer of a beautiful, educated, intelligent and friendly woman -Ruth-. I'm Federico, Jorge's brother, who was Ruth's partner and friend in Columbia and Mexico. We are Ruth's family in Mexico (López-Medel family).*

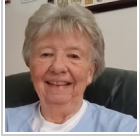
*Life does not end but continues beyond the physical, now Ruth's soul is with the soul of Jorge (my brother), they will surely be laughing and talking about their anecdotes and visions and will meet others who came forward.*

*Ruth, I thank life for agreeing with you and even if you are not physically, you will remain in my thoughts, ideas, memories and heart.*

*My condolences to your family and thanks for always joining us.*

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**Federico Gabriel mLópez Medel** - December 19, 2019 at 04:23 PM



“ To all the Borgman family I send my deepest sympathies. I too am very sad that Ruth will no longer be with us. She has been a wonderful lifelong friend. We were born on the same street in Black Rock Connecticut lived in the same neighborhood until we graduated from high school, went to the same grammar school and high school also the same youth group, Black Rock teenagers, and Black Rock church. Whenever Ruth and I connected over the years it was like No Time had passed. We just picked up where we left off . The whole Borgman family was very instrumental in helping me grow in my Christian faith during those early years. A few years ago Ruth moved to St Augustine and I lived outside of Orlando Florida. We reconnected and got together often. We went on several day trips here and there, did luncheons talked about the good old days, laughed a lot and shared a lot. She was a very caring person and was a huge blessing to me over all of these years. Thank you Ruth for being my forever friend. I will miss you greatly❤️. Boopsie

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**Betty Feiler** - December 17, 2019 at 06:08 PM

HT

“ Dear Borgman's,

*I send my deep condolences for the loss of your wonderful sister.  
And I'll share an impression :*

*Our Ruth had Panache, with a capital P! Always sporting a chic haircut, in the face of small disappointments or major heartbreak Ruth would toss a pretty scarf around her neck , shake her fancy earrings, stick out her chin and" keep on keepin' on", often with laughter, always with stubborn determination. She never failed to inspire my admiration. And my love.*

*I wish you peace and comfort,  
Hazel Temple*

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**Hazel Temple** - December 16, 2019 at 02:02 PM

SS

“ *I have known Ruth virtually all of my life. My memories of her are vast and significant and are always popping up in my dreams. I am trying to put them all together and will share them with you, dear Joanne, Paul, and all of the Borgmans as it evolves. She sent me a wonderful picture early this year. It greets me every morning - the two of us smiling, healthy and younger - raising a glass of wine to celebrate life. Those were the days, my dear friend. I miss her every day.*

*Susan (Geisler) Sevcik*

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**Susan Sevcik** - December 14, 2019 at 08:18 PM

NG

“ Dearest Borgman Family, My hear is so saddened to hear of Ruth’s passing. My favorite memories of her are when she lived with my family in Puerto Rico. They ADORED her. My Aunt and Uncle always bragged about her Spanish, saying she sounded just like a local.

My most favorite memory was surprising her in Madrid when she was studying abroad. That was such a beautiful time together. She has a special place in my heart.

Norma Lopez-Cepero Galyon

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**Norma Galyon** - December 10, 2019 at 02:51 PM

JM

To all the Borgman Family,  
How very sad I was to learn of  
Ruth’s passing. Thank you especially Joanne for keeping in in your family’s circle.

Ruth and I knew each other since kindergarten though there was a 50 year void in our friendship. Fortunately we reunited during our 50th high school reunion. With both of us in Florida, visits became possible. They always included reminiscing about our younger days and of course walks on the beach, seafood and wine.

I always admired Ruth for her intellect, kindness and zest for life. I can’t drive through St. Augustine with fondly remembering her.

Judy Wargo Moorhouse

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**Judy Moorhouse** - December 19, 2019 at 05:44 PM

JB

*Ruth was one of the best friends I've ever had in my life and I will miss her always. She was such a dynamic, difficult, opinionated, super smart woman there is no one who can take her place. She even once yelled at me for not liking the poet Anna Akhmatova. I mean how many people will you ever meet in your life who get mad because you don't like Anna Akhmatova? Ruth got mad in part because she wanted me to love what she loved, just as I wanted her to love Walt Whitman, who she would not even read! Clearly, we didn't always share the same taste, but we did share a similar passion and I suspect a lot of other people also felt themselves tethered to her with strong feelings.*

*Years ago Ruth and I took a four-day camping trip to Virginia and what did we pack without even checking with each other---poetry books and about five bottles of wine each. I remember laughing when she opened the trunk of her car and I saw her wine bottles sitting there. For the next several nights, we sat around a small campfire, sipping wine and reading poetry out loud. I'm thinking of one of those poems now. It's by e.e. cummings, who we both loved with all our heart! Here's one line from the poem and I have taken the liberty of changing one word of it, to make it say what I want to say at this moment: "If there are any heavens, Ruth will (all by herself) have one." Now that sounds right to me.*

*--Jane B*

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**Jane Bosveld** - December 22, 2019 at 10:45 PM



*Ruth and I met in NYC in 1987. It was love at first sight. We "clicked" at once and that was always to be the case with us. I saw her fairly often on trips East and once stayed with her at her home in CT at Christmas-time. As others have said, Ruth had beauty, fine intelligence and good humor and an immense love of life. She was great fun to be around. And above all, she was spiritually grounded, had a quiet but profound faith. She was a hero of mine. So strong and lacking self-pity as she faced what she had to face--and it was a lot. I admired her tremendously. Always courageous, always asking about me. Ruth, I will always remember and love you. I see your smile. Dear one, I know you rejoice now.*

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**Michael Haines** - December 28, 2019 at 02:40 PM

SC

*My condolences to Ruth's family. I'm happy that I spoke with her a few months ago when her brother was visiting and he shared with me what was going on with Ruth's health. Ruth and I talked for a bit and, altho she was a bit fuzzy, she was still her lovely, jovial self .... the Ruth I had come to know over the years.*

*Ruth was my mother's, Jean O'Neil, neighbor in Southport, Connecticut, for many years. They were wonderful neighbors and friends to each other, my mother tending to Sebastian, Ruth's beloved kitty, when Ruth was at work and, Ruth, always keeping an eye on my mother as she was aging and keeping me posted on how she was doing. Without Ruth, I could never have managed many things with my mother's decline and eventual passing, being so far away in New Mexico.*

*From Ruth's relationship with my mother, our own friendship grew with Ruth visiting us in New Mexico and my husband, Barry, being her traveling companion and driver on her trip along El Camino Real in Mexico. With Ruth's knowledge of the history and command of the language, it was great for Barry, who is an avid traveler, to have her for his guide. For Ruth, she had a a big strong guy who loved to drive negotiating the route. They were perfect companions and, knowing the two of them, they probably drove each other a bit nuts on the trip. But they reported that a lot of laughs were had and many adventures enjoyed together.*

*Ruth was a character with a capital "C" with a presence that was larger than life compared to what a regular nice woman would normally have. Knowing her enriched my life. Rest in peace, my friend.*

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**Sue Chiverton** - January 01, 2020 at 01:37 PM

SJ

*I turned on my iPad tonight on May 26, 2021, and up came this page about Ruth. I did hear of her passing sometime in 2020. To me Ruth represents God speak smile. She could always point out the humor or ridiculousness of what we were obsessing as teenagers or beyond. I think Boopsie and I took her to her first movie at the Beverly theater. In passing we did wonder what Jesus would do if he came that day and found us at the movies. But we went anyway and enjoyed ourselves. Ruth was not dealt an easy hand. But she did seem to maintain her bright intelligence and sense of humor no matter what. Her loss is huge.and I bet she's having a good time in the great beyond.  
Susan Jordhamo may 26, 2021*

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**susan jordhamo** - May 27, 2021 at 12:26 AM