



## Sigrid Helga Brunel

February 8, 1939 - June 24, 2021

Sigrid Helga Brunel, age 82, passed away June 24, 2021. She was born February 8, 1939, in Berlin, Germany, to William Ditzl and Anni (Dewald) Ditzl. Sigrid moved with her family to Ethiopia when she was eleven. In Addis Ababa, she studied painting. In her early twenties, she moved to San Francisco, learned to sail and navigate, and continued to paint, exhibit and sell her works. She has sailed extensively between Hawaii and Tahiti and has traveled around the world. Her travels have taken her to Southern Africa and back to California via South America.

Sigrid is survived by her loving partner of 23 years: Argentina Kapp; cousins: Christine Slusser and Jim Slusser; sister-in-law: Karen Ditzl, and a host of friends internationally, and in the United States of America.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday July 3, 2021 at 4:00pm at the Reflections at Rest Haven-Funeral Home-Rockwall Location.

# Events

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**JUL**   **Celebration of Life**   **04:00PM**

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Reflections at Rest Haven Funeral Home - Rockwall Location  
2500 State Highway 66 East, Rockwall, TX, US, 75087

# Comments

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“ 19 files added to the tribute wall



**Kimberly Gyllensten** - July 11 at 04:06 PM

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“ Grace M Marselis lit a candle in memory of Sigrid Helga Brunel



**Grace M Marselis** - July 05 at 02:24 PM

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“ Kim lit a candle in memory of Sigrid Helga Brunel



**Kim** - July 04 at 06:16 PM

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“ Sigrid was initially Marlene’s friend. Denise met her and Tina through Marlene. Immediately, it was apparent that each of us had a friendship with her.

Sigrid had an incredible intellect and many talents. She was the Renaissance women of our time. Denise shared the love of art, appreciation and creation with Sigrid. They would show their art together. We loved her art so much that Sigrid would gift us paintings. We love her paintings that grace our home. We will remember her every day as we see Sigrid’s artistic expressions.

We loved sharing the holidays at our home and at Sigrid’s and Tina’s home. It began at our house and then we would split the holidays with Thanksgiving at their house and our holiday dinner, December 25th, at our house. We will remember her every holiday from now on.

Our dinners were filled with energetic discussions regarding multiple topics with a large variety of friends.

Sigrid was a favorite of our Las Vegas friends and we sought out events we could attend together. Although Sigrid tended to be a quiet person, she added much to our lively conversations. Our friendship was strong. It will endure in our hearts and memories. We miss her and we were sorry about her pain and struggles during the last few years of life.

We are thankful that Tina was with Sigrid to fill both with the sharing of their love.

**Denise Duarte** - July 03 at 05:37 PM

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“ I met Sigrid through my friend Barbara in Las Vegas. Me and my husband went to one of her art shows and fell in love with 2 pictures, Sigrid had painted, one showed a man in the desert and cactuses, the other picture showed 2 girls at the beach. My husband and I could not afford to buy the pictures at that time. A few weeks later I invited Sigrid for coffee and as a gift, she brought those 2 pictures:) Sigrid and I often met for more coffee and wonderful conversations. Another time Sigrid gave me a painting lesson and explained to me the mixtures of colors. I lost my husband on 1-1-2013 and Sigrid and Tina were there for me in this difficult time and they helped me clear out my apartment and the garage sale before moving back to Germany. Sigrid has been such a dear friend and I miss her so much. Helga Erhorn

**Barbara De Vito** - June 30 at 10:28 AM

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“ Lit a candle in memory of Sigrid Helga Brunel



**argentina kapp** - June 28 at 06:30 AM

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“ 18 files added to the album Sigrid Helga Brunel



**Jill Allen** - June 27 at 10:06 PM

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“ Dear Tina,

Thank you so much for providing this space for Sigrid's friends to pay tribute to an amazing woman who led a fascinating life and had so many who cared deeply for her. I am one of those persons.

I think it was in 1977. My husband, Larry, and I lived onboard our sailing ketch Caballito in the Makani Kai Harbor in Kaneohe Bay when Sigrid sailed in on her yacht, Cygnus. We became fast friends and Larry helped her with some ship repairs.

We were a small group of "yachties" coming and going to and from exotic tropical places. We shared lots of meals together onboard one or another's boats and had frequent bbq's in the harbor's park.

I carried a small Singer sewing machine onboard and Sigrid wanted one too, so we went island shopping and found a nice little black machine with gold scrollwork. Then we went touring Japanese Hawaiian mercantile shops for beautiful fabrics to sew from our own design creations. From down below in a 10 x 8 foot square space, the two of us hummed away on those machines. She learned the skill so fast and would have an entire outfit whipped up in a few hours.

The harbormaster, Bud, let Sigrid a room in one of the condos where she took up her painting practice again.

Together we crossed the Pacific Ocean 1 1/2 times encountering some of the roughest weather conditions either of us had ever been in. We went native wearing only our Tahitian pareo, sunglasses and usually a hat. We caught Ahi (big ones!) on a trolling line, drank warm beer, and ate beans and rice. Sigrid was an excellent navigator and always carried her own sextant. We didn't have GPS or other navigation devices and did all our calculations from charts, books, pencil, and paper. Every moment of every day onboard became a rhythmic cycle dictated by mother ocean. The nights were black and the stars were brilliant.

Those few years spent together, though brief, were so full of adventure and learning. Sigrid was incredibly easy to be with and knowing her was a life-changing encounter for me. I am so grateful.

My husband passed away in 2011. I was able to locate and reconnect with Sigrid in Las Vegas. She was the same as always, brilliant.





“ Thank you Jill

**argentina kapp** - June 29 at 09:55 PM

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“ The most I remember about Sigrid is her smile and humor. When I moved to Las Vegas in 1997, someone gave her my number and told her that I was also from Germany and sure enough I got a call and we met for coffee and had a lovely conversation as we did many more times and even though I moved to San Diego 5 years later, we always kept contact. Sigrid was the kind of friend I love, we shared good and bad times together and made sure we supported each other. Sigrid, I know, we will meet again, sending love and support to Tina and family who took such wonderful care of her, Barbara De Vito

**Barbara De Vito** - June 27 at 02:03 PM

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“ Dearest Tina, to you and all your family, our deepest condolences for the loss of your dear Sigrid.

I know how much she meant to you and I so much appreciate how well you all took such good care of her.

I met Sigrid in Durban, South Africa in 1975.

Later, when I moved to Namibia, Sigrid came over too and then stayed in our house for about eight months.

When we left to return to Europe, Sigrid left for South America. She then crossed the two Americas, before settling in Hawaii for a time.

We saw each other again in Florida, later in Las Vegas.

I had promised my dear friend to come over and see her one last time.

With a letter from her doctor, I contacted the USA Embassy here in France, and requested a special permission to enter the country, since I was twice vaccinated, but it was refused, due to the Covid-19!!!

Siggi, as I've always called her, you'll remain in my heart forever till we meet again, sometimes, somewhere!

Till then I'll miss you, ever so much.



Claire POURIN - June 26 at 03:57 PM

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“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



argentina kapp - June 26 at 10:26 AM

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“ Argentina Kapp lit a candle in memory of Sigrid Helga Brunel



argentina kapp - June 26 at 06:12 AM

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“ My first memories of Sigrid are from when she and Tina were staying with us in Maryland when I was a kid. I was always an extremely picky eater but after watching her make pesto sauce from scratch, I was convinced to try it...and loved it! I also have fond memories of her making me and my brother German-style pancakes (crepes) with brown sugar and lemon. I was lucky enough to see her multiple times this past year while she was staying at my parent's house again. I will always cherish the evenings we had together sitting around the table playing cards. I think the highlight of her year was beating us all at the dice game :) Even though the circumstances of her coming to Maryland last year weren't ideal, I'll forever be grateful that I got the opportunity to know her as an adult. She had such an adventurer's spirit and always had the best witty one-liners if you were listening close enough. I can't help but smile when I think of her and I'll always remember her with fondness, admiration, and most of all, love.

Evalyse Limon - June 25 at 07:15 PM



“ Love this! She is such an inspiration in all aspects of life! She LIVED...like really LIVED!

Evonne - June 27 at 08:51 PM



“ Thank you

argentina kapp - June 29 at 10:00 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Evalyse Limon - June 25 at 07:02 PM



“ Argentina Kapp lit a candle in memory of Sigrid Helga Brunel



**argentina kapp** - June 25 at 05:53 PM