

## **Monika Wood**

Monika Wood, 66, of Roseland, died at home on Thursday, January 17, 2014. She had been in a hospice program since October, and she was surrounded by loved ones when she died in the early morning hours.

Monika was born in Munich, Germany on November 7, 1947. She earned a degree at the Riemerschmid Business School in Munich and married an American GI, Daniel Deppen, and came to the United States on Thanksgiving Day, 1965. They had three sons: Daniel, John, and David, raising them in Willingboro, New Jersey. Monika also assisted her husband in his automotive remanufacturing business. As her children got older, Monika earned an associate's degree from Burlington County Community College, a B.A. degree in history from Rutgers University (Camden Campus) and then a master's degree in Social Gerontology at the University of Pennsylvania. She went on to work at the Institute on Aging at Penn and then the Polisher Research Institute. She authored a number of publications. During this period she and her husband divorced, and Monika married Robert Wood in 1996. In the process she became step-mother to two more sons, Nicholas and Timothy.

Monika became an adjunct professor at Rutgers-Camden, teaching courses on aging, life course, and work and careers for more than ten years. When they retired in 2009, Monika and Bob moved to Roseland, Virginia, pursuing a dream of a more simple life closer to nature, growing their own food, raising chickens, and becoming part of a new community. Their dream was realized in far more ways than they anticipated. Monika became active in Unity and Community, an interracial, interdenominational service organization, and in Grace Episcopal Church, in addition to following her lifelong practice of befriending and supporting individuals in need. She provided websites and technological backup to a variety of community groups. Her involvement in diverse community activities throughout Nelson county made her known and beloved to many.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Wood, her mother, Berta Scheib, her two sisters, Sigrid Koeppel and Sylvia Gluekher, her five sons and their spouses, Dan and Gina, John and Calista, Dave and Sue, Nicholas and Alison, and Tim and Megan, along with her five grandchildren, Cally, Dan, Sylvia, Paityn, and Cody.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 pm on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, at Grace Episcopal Church in Massies Mill. A festive reception to celebrate her life will follow. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Grace Episcopal Church, 1934 Crabtree Falls Hwy., P. O. Box 148, Massies Mill, VA 22967 or to Unity in Community, PO Box 55, Roseland, VA 22967.