Curtis, Ida M.
April 16, 1935 - January 21, 2020

Born April 16, 1935, in New Haven CT, Ida passed away January 21, 2020, in Seattle WA. Ida grew up in Newington CT, contracted polio in 1953 and was cared for in a hospital in her hometown for almost two years until she regained the use of her upper body muscles and was able to use a wheelchair. She promptly married the love of her life Jared Ralph Curtis in 1956. They had two children Jared Randall Curtis (Randy) in 1960 and Idamay Curtis in 1961. In 1971 Ida and her family moved to Vancouver, British Columbia, where Jared taught English Literature and Ida was a student advisor and administrator in the Department of Geography at Simon Fraser University. After retirement from SFU, Ida began to write novels and travelogues. Ida and Jared left Canada in 2002 for Seattle to be near son Randy, his partner Amy, and their granddaughter Alice. When daughter Idamay moved from Calgary the following year the family was together again. Ida continued to pursue her writing, published her memoir “My Polio Memoir: 1953-2016” in 2016 and won an award from Pacific Northwest Writers’ Association in 2014. Ida’s historical romance “Song of Isabel” was published in 2018, and the sequel “The Nun’s Betrothal” will be released in July 2020. Ida and Jared moved to Mirabella Seattle in 2009, where Ida was an active member of the book club, the knitting club, and, of course, the writing workshop. In her last two years she lived in the skilled nursing section of the Health Services department of Mirabella, where she won the hearts of staff members with her humor, kindness, tenacity, and beautiful smile. Ida will be remembered for the unflappable optimism and adaptability that fuelled her remarkable ability to overcome adversity. A Celebration of Ida’s life is planned and will be announced online here on this website: https://funerals.coop/obituaries/ida-may-curtis.html
Remembrances

Roger: It was my pleasure and great good fortune to work with Ida Curtis for so many years in the Geography Department. Ida was a wonderful servant and ambassador for Geography bringing composure, insight, fairness and good humour in all she did. Ida was always a source of calmness, trust and wisdom and an endless source of help and comfort to me, as well as being incredibly efficient. My day was always improved by simply talking to Ida, a sense shared by all who knew her. That in her retirement she should so actively successfully pursue new interests testifies to her ongoing desire to 'seize the day' in her own seemingly effortless way. RIP Ida, and my condolences to Jared and Ida's family.

Roger Hayter
Professor Emeritus
Department of Geography