



## Christina Alexandra Djernaes

December 19, 1968 - December 12, 2012

43. Dec. 19, 1968, Dec. 12, 2012.

Christina Alexandra Djernaes passed away on December 12, surrounded by her loving family, in Montecito, California. She was 43 years old. She had been battling appendiceal cancer for the year prior to her passing. She is survived by her two children, Sophia and Torben as well as their father Marc Vraciu; her parents, Niels and Beatriz; and three siblings, Chris, Caroline, and David.

She was born in Santa Barbara on December 19, 1968, the third child of Niels & Beatriz Djernaes, who had immigrated to Santa Barbara from Argentina 4 years earlier. Her father previously emigrated from Denmark to Argentina 14 years prior to that, thus providing a varied and multi-cultural backdrop for her to explore.

Despite her relatively premature death, Ms. Djernaes managed to explore her tri-cultural roots with many transcontinental trips to visit her parents' homelands, studying abroad and pursuing a Political Economy degree in college. Ms. Djernaes attended Solvang Elementary School, Santa Ynez Valley Union High School, University of California, Berkeley and University of California, Hastings College of Law in San Francisco. She spent 15 years in northern California attending school and working- cementing her belief of what

makes California a great place to be: its beautiful geography, land preservation efforts, progressive policies and the multitude of diverse opportunities offered to those who would embrace them.

She practiced as an employment law attorney for the majority of her legal career, working as a solo practitioner to accommodate the balance of being a single parent. She successfully brought class actions on behalf of technology company employees. She also brought individual claims for wrongful termination and remained active in statewide attorney organizations protecting employee's civil rights. Later in her career she shifted to non-profit work and founded her own charitable foundation, The Djernaes Telos Foundation, whose mission is to enhance our community by providing grants to single parents and others in need to eliminate the cycle of poverty and limited growth opportunities. She worked toward the goals of her foundation up to the days of her death. She also served on the board of the GSBISA Ice in Paradise Campaign- the effort to bring a new ice rink to Girsh Park in Goleta.

Of all her accomplishments, the one of which she is most proud was raising her two kids. She will miss them dearly and rests now feeling she provided a foundation for them to embrace opportunities, savor life and continue the path to becoming contributing public citizens. A private memorial service and celebration held on December 19th. Please direct any remembrances to the Ice in Paradise Campaign or the UCSB Nano Sciences for Cancer Research. Contact Joy Margolis, Esq. at Buynak, Fauver, Archibald & Spray for details.

# Tribute Wall

MD

“Christina was a great friend, and she supported me through some of the most pivotal moments of my career at Oracle and beyond. She gave me one of the most important calls of my life during the Oracle situation, and together we helped change the landscape of business and employee rights in a way that will always matter. She and I will forever be connected through that legacy, and it’s one I deeply cherish. I’m heartbroken to learn of her passing. My best to her family—she was a proud, strong woman and especially momther. I hope her abalone farm continues on in her honor.



Michel Driscoll - January 06 at 08:43 PM



“Emma Leigh lit a candle in memory of Christina Alexandra Djernaes



Emma Leigh - June 25, 2013 at 10:05 PM



I happened to be in Solvang over the weekend and wondered what had happened to my old friend Christina. She lived next door to me our freshman year at Berkeley. I remember her as funny, sweet, energetic, and a great listener. I haven't seen her since the late 80s and am saddened to read that she passed away last year. I have nothing but fond memories of her. My deepest condolences to her family.

Emma Leigh - June 25, 2013 at 10:10 PM

MD

*She was amazing huh!*

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**Michel Driscoll** - January 06 at 08:46 PM

JM

“ *As a window covering contractor, I worked for Christina over a span of years, first in her Goleta home then later in Montecito. She was a very attractive woman, with quick-silver energy and a gift for gab, and diverse interests ranging from the arts to social justice. I could always rely on Christina for a substantial and earnest discussion. We talked about writing, theater, parenting, children's books and much else. In Goleta years ago, I had installed some shades for her on Halloween, and didn't finish until the neighborhood children started coming to the door. We were deep in discussion, so I ended up staying an hour longer, sitting in the entry way with her, talking and handing out candy.*

*When I received word of her illness a year or so ago, I was just devastated, as were my fellow workers.*

*Peace and Light to her soul, and her family.*

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**Joseph Miller** - January 02, 2013 at 03:16 AM

SM

“ *"Rather than mourn the loss of the flame, let us remember how brightly it burned !" What a beautiful soul ~ A great loss to our world~She shined so brightly . Sadly, I never had the opportunity to know your daughter, mother, sister, friend.... Peace and Love to her loved ones.*

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**Siobhan Major** - December 24, 2012 at 10:25 AM

IO

“ Dear Niels, Beatriz, and family,

*I am so very sorry to hear of Christina's passing. I knew Christina many years ago as a member of her college sorority. Christina was two years ahead of me, so I did not know her very well, but I remember her fondly and clearly. In fact, when I have reminisced with old friends about our college memories, Christina's name has often been mentioned. She was someone we were very much in awe of and looked up to because she was equal parts beautiful, kind-hearted and hard-working – a bright shining star. Please accept my deepest condolences.*

*Iquo Okon*

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**Iquo Okon** - December 20, 2012 at 05:35 PM



LT

“ Dear Niels, Beatriz, and family,

*We so very sorry to read of Christina's passing. Please know that we are thinking of you and offer our heart-felt condolences.  
Lene and Lloyd Turner*

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**Lloyd Turner** - December 20, 2012 at 03:31 PM

JM

“ Dear Niels, Beatriz, David, Carol & Chris,

*Our dear friends and neighbors in Solvang. We are shocked and saddened to learn of Christina's passing. We were unaware she was ill. Christina was one of our very first babysitters, our daughters, Piper & Tara adored her as she gave her all, that seemed to be Christina's motto for life. We loved her friendly outgoing personality, always positive and giving. What a beautiful family, each and every member, her brother David grew up with our daughters, a gentle and caring young man. Niels & Beatriz set the standards for Christina and her siblings as they too were great givers to the community of Solvang. Each and every year until they moved to Santa Barbara, they danced the Danish dances for locals and tourists. Our hearts are with you dear Djernaes family.*

*Fondly,  
Joe, Marti, Piper & Tara*

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**Joe & Marti Martin** - December 20, 2012 at 11:35 AM

EJ

*Dear Niels, Beatriz and Family, even that we didnt know Christina personally, we know the pain and agony you all are going through by loosing a loved one, our hart-felt condolences and Prayers are with you all.*

*Ulla and Erik Jorgensen.*

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**Erik Jorgensen** - December 21, 2012 at 11:44 AM

MP

*She was my soul mate and I loved her dearly- I will trully miss that wonderful woman- I was there when she passed the Bar- I will never forget the joy we shared- I was so proud of her- All my love to a person I loved the most- Michael Prlich*

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**Michael Prlich** - January 19, 2013 at 12:54 AM