



Tarel Quandt

December 11, 1965 – February 25, 2006

In Memoriam

by Melissa Davis

Tarel Quandt died peacefully at home in Vancouver, surrounded by family and friends. For three years, Tarel lived courageously with cancer, displaying optimism, determination, and selfless concern for others. Ultimately, she died as she lived: with integrity, dignity, and grace.

Tarel was born in Edmonton, Alberta. In her mid-teens, her family moved to Naramata, BC, where Tarel completed Secondary school. In the winter months, she could be found soaring down the slopes of local ski hills. An accomplished student, Tarel was the recipient of numerous academic awards and scholarships. She attended Simon Fraser University and Mount Saint Vincent University, receiving a BA in Women's Studies in 1989, followed by an LL.B. from Dalhousie in 1993.

Tarel was a passionate advocate for the rights and freedoms of marginalized and disadvantaged people, and these values influenced her legal career and personal life. Both her employment and voluntary work history centred on human rights activism, including her seven years as Director of Treatment and Advocacy with the BC Persons With AIDS Society. She is remembered by her colleagues for her contagious passion for social justice and her capacity to inspire confidence, action, and social change.

To know Tarel was to appreciate her many dimensions. She was, simultaneously, intellect and artist; independent spirit and nurturer; rationalist and spiritual believer. She was equally at ease mounting a legal challenge as she was singing acapella. And she derived as much inspiration from a well-constructed argument as from a meaningful church sermon. On her own and with Marc, Tarel experienced adventure through travel, mastered home renovations with her do-it-yourself attitude, cultivated an elaborate backyard garden, and shared countless playful and comforting hours with her faithful cocker spaniel, Chico.

Tarel is survived by her loving husband Marc Best; grandmother Virginia Conn; parents Peter and Louise; brother Greg, his wife Jacquie, and their children Aidan and Declan. She will also be greatly missed by Marc's parents Norman and Eve; sisters Cynthia and Janie, Janie's husband Carlos, and their son Teo, as well as by a cherished community of caring friends. ☺

Melissa Davis

*is the former director of fund development
for the BCPWA Society.*