

Kathleen Ann Brown

Poughkeepsie—Kathleen Ann Brown, 77, died on Wednesday, January 9, 2019, at the Lutheran Care Center in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Kathy was born to Mabel and John Freeman on July 19, 1941, in Los Angeles, CA, where she resided with her four siblings until her marriage in 1965 to James L. Brown. As she was growing up, her family moved often, providing Kathy with experiences and skills that served her well throughout her life. Jim's career in the National Park Service kept them moving across the U.S. until he retired in 2003. Their moves brought them to Arizona, Wyoming, Mississippi, North Carolina, West Virginia, Massachusetts, and New York State. While they always hoped to return to California, Kathy chose to stay in Poughkeepsie for her love of family, friends and her connection to the local community.

Prior to her time in the Hudson Valley, Kathy worked at Harvard Law School, where she began taking classes in the evening in addition to volunteering in the Concord, MA community. In 1987, the family moved to Hyde Park, NY. Kathy went to work at Vassar College, initially in the Campus Activities Office. Always pushing herself, she obtained a position working for the Dean of the Faculty, where she worked 1987–2010. The transition to retiree was smoothed by the arrival of her grandson, who became her partner in many adventures.

A champion for liberal arts and community involvement, Kathy loved helping people, which she did with alacrity. She was equally driven to further her knowledge, seeking opportunities to learn and grow. She researched the topic for every lecture she helped arrange at Vassar. If the lecture topic was a book, she read it, and otherwise did her homework. She found it fulfilling to apply that insight to her planning as well as to conversations long after each event. She continued taking classes, earning an AB in History at Vassar in 1998. When Jim transferred to Staten Island in 1995, Kathy stayed in Poughkeepsie during the week and enjoyed seeing the ocean and exploring New York City on the weekends.

Kathy is survived by her two children, one grandchild, her four siblings, extended family, and countless friends. She was predeceased by her parents and husband.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated at Christ Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie, NY at 1:30 pm on Friday, February 8. Reverend Susan Fortunato will officiate. A reception will be held at Vassar College Alumnae House 3-5pm, all friends are welcome.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Grace Smith House, Christ Episcopal Church, or the Vassar Fund.

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