



Katherine L. (Smith) Jastrab

October 9, 1949 - September 4, 2021

TOWNSEND: Katherine L. “Kathy” (Smith) Jastrab never wanted to be the center of attention. She died Saturday, September 4, 2021 (age 71), and for once, is not going to get her way.

Kathy was born in Clinton on October 9, 1949. As the eldest daughter of Leslie and Mildred (Bourguignon) Smith, Kathy got an early start on helping to raise a family. She baked her sibling’s birthday cakes, bought them outfits for school, and took them on the train to Boston. One of her favorite games was when someone on one side of the house would shoot an arrow over the top so everyone on the other side of the house would have to dodge it.

After graduating from North Middlesex in 1967, Kathy earned a bachelor’s degree in teaching from Fitchburg State. She was grateful that she never needed to use it. She pursued a career as an antiques dealer instead, working for over twenty years at Hobart Village in West Townsend. Visitors to the shop enjoyed Kathy’s unassuming attitude and gift for conversation. She liked to hear their stories and dirty jokes.

Kathy loved to sing but never in tune. Her cover of Foreigner’s Hot Blooded, “Hot Fudgies”, was famously accompanied by her throwing freshly ironed clothes at her audience. As a result, her children and grandchildren always went to school warm and wrinkle-free. Kathy’s other performances were built

on her skills as a storyteller. She convinced her children that St. Bernard's in Fitchburg was a school for dogs and would roll the windows down in the car so the kids could bark at it. She never won an Oscar but got out of many speeding tickets, as well as the responsibility of picking up the Vet's office after her cat destroyed it. She called it her "poor little old lady" act.

While she resided most of her life in Townsend, Kathy never missed an opportunity to travel. Highlights included England, Germany, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, and a trip to Washington D.C. that resulted in a ban from the city for vehicle emissions. Her biggest mistake was letting her sister drive to Montana without checking the fuel gauge. Her second biggest mistake was staying at what she called "the Bates Motel".

Kathy hated Oliver Twist, pretense, and poor grammar. She was an avid reader and volunteered for many years at the Townsend Public Library, where she coordinated the annual book sale.

She leaves four children, Benjamin Jastrab of Bolton, Andrew Jastrab of Townsend, Daniel Jastrab of Townsend, and Laura Jastrab of Stow, as well as five grandchildren, Madison Jastrab, Tyler Jastrab, Nathanael Jastrab, Aaron Jastrab, and Natalie Jastrab. She also leaves her siblings, Michael Smith of Las Vegas, Richard Smith of North Chittenden, VT, Stephen Smith of Colorado, Judith Baker of Mendon, Utah, Shirley Elsie of Peyton, Colorado, Mary Balls of Rindge, NH, and Paula Smith of Florida. Her legendary pie recipe she took with her.

A private memorial service will be held at the Anderson Funeral Home, 250 Main Street, Townsend Center. Not one for emotion, Kathy would be embarrassed by tears. She asks that you find bigfoot and take his picture, and she hopes that you "get your money for nothing and your chicks for free".

Tribute Wall

LB

“ You will be missed Aunt Kathy. I'll never forget our trip to Mesa Verde and many others.

Lisa Blatter - September 25, 2021 at 08:46 PM

FC

“ A few months ago Kathy walked her dog past my house, and I immediately recognized her, although I hadn't seen her for decades. I told her what a compliment that was, meaning she was as pretty as ever. She told me of her mental condition, and I told her how lucid I found her as we discussed various things. While we were barely acquaintances, I sensed what a lovely sweet person she was. I love how her obituary captured her spirit and sense of humor. I wish her loved ones comfort in the good memories of a good person. Fredda Ceike

Fredda Ceike - September 25, 2021 at 02:39 PM

PF

“ Paula Friberg lit a candle in memory of Katherine L. (Smith) Jastrab



Paula Friberg - September 23, 2021 at 01:10 PM

TH

“ I have had the pleasure of working with Kathy for 15 years at Hobart's and have truly enjoyed all the laughs and conversations we enjoyed. I loved all the pies she would bring in for us to eat at work as well as her homemade fruit cake (with a little,okay a lot of rum) in it every year at Christmas time for me. I loved hearing about her trips up to Burlington to drop off or pick up Laura and how fast she could make it! We had lots of conversations about our families also;again with lots of laughs! She will be always in our hearts and minds here at Hobart's! Rest in peace Kath!-Tom Houle

Tom Houle - September 22, 2021 at 04:09 PM

PW

“ *" Friends are forever, you might lose them, but never forget them."*
Unknown

Although we had lost touch with Kathy when we moved to South Carolina a few years ago, we will never forget Kathy or her family.

I can't believe that I first met Kathy over 50 years ago at Fitchburg State College. It was one of the best things that happened to me in college .We have too many wonderful memories to list here. Some were included in her obituary (my car being banned from DC, the Bates motel and Oktoberfest). I wrote some of the other memories in a letter to Ben, but forgot to include one from FSC. I remember a couple of semesters that Kathy was short on funds even though she worked at McNabb's Pharmacy throughout college and wasn't sure if she would be able to return the next semester. Fortunately, Kathy was lucky and hit a perfecta or trifecta and was able to return.

We are so glad that you will be making Kathy the center of attention on Saturday. She certainly deserves it. We are just so sorry we will not be able to attend her memorial service.

*Rest in peace
Pat & Lenny Wood*

Pat Wood - September 22, 2021 at 09:57 AM

BS

“*Bye Kathy, You & 6 of your siblings moved in next to Churchville's in Aug of 1966. Mike was headed off to UMass & College. It was amazing to have your family join the various Townsend schoolmates. The whole of your siblings ranged from 19 down to 3, I do believe. The neighborhood was never the same. By the way, that was 55 years ago.*

Some of my best memories where hanging out at the Smith house. I once asked your Dad, when we helped fix the house from the fire, how he could deal with multiple friends hanging out at your home, every night. He smiled, chomped down on his cigar & said, " I always new where you little bastards were.

It was obvious that you were more than a big sister to all the rest. With Mom working nights, you did more than your share. I know that they all think there is a hole in the clan that can not be patched up. I have always had an eye on your family. Your children all appear to be doing great. That is a wonderful testament to you.

Rest in Peace, Bill, Lorna the Schulze Boys

Bill Schulze - September 15, 2021 at 08:52 PM

MJ

“*Gone way too soon. I just want to say thank you for giving me the best that a dad could ever ask for – four beautiful and wonderful kids. You will be missed, Kath. Rest in peace. Mike*

Mike Jastrab - September 15, 2021 at 08:25 AM

HN

“ I'm so sorry to hear of the loss of your mom Kathy. She was such a sweet and humble lady. I knew her from my times hanging out with friends and neighbors the Koskos, over many years. In my adulthood I would often run into her at Hobart Village. She always had a laugh and a kind word, and no doubt she will be remembered fondly by many.

Heather (Mahony) Nixon - September 14, 2021 at 10:22 PM

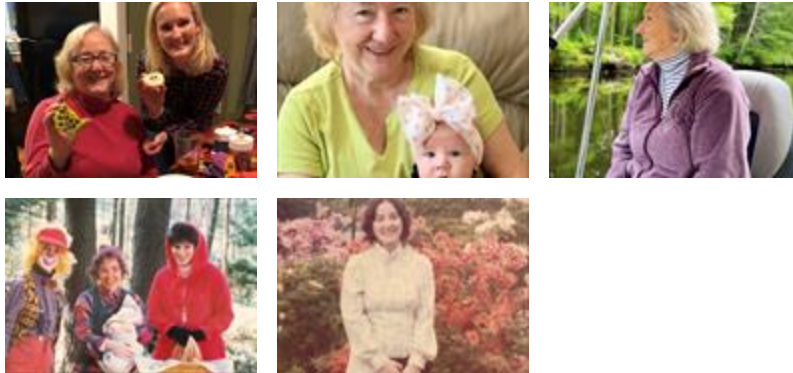
JM

“ I remember her from high school. I did not her well but I send my sincere condolences to her family. Jim MacMaster

Jim MacMaster - September 14, 2021 at 02:26 PM

AH

“ 8 files added to the album Kathy Jastrab



Anderson Funeral Home - September 14, 2021 at 07:42 AM

PK

“ I met Kathy a few times at Hobart Village knowing she was Mary Balls' big sister. Yes she was a “hoot”.
I am so sorry for your lose but after reading her obituary, you must all have memories and she impacted the whole family. RIP

Pattie Kapenas - September 13, 2021 at 05:01 PM

BA

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Kathy was engaging, stimulating, always challenging and very interesting. She was special.

Bob Allard
Redlands, CA

Bob Allard - September 13, 2021 at 06:45 AM