



Mary Catherine Lybeck

January 2, 1950 - March 27, 2023

At the age of 73, Mary Catherine Lybeck, wife of Mark Lybeck passed away on March 27, 2023 surrounded by her loving family. Cathy, as she was known to everyone, was born to the late Eugene F. and Mary Eleanor (née Connell) Burke on January 2, 1950. By all accounts they treated their youngest, rightly, as a princess who could do no wrong. Older brothers Eugene, Gregory and sister Mary Judith welcomed Cathy into their home in Newark, NJ where they lived for a decade before moving to Upper Montclair, NJ.

Cathy soon found a home in the company of the particularly bright students enrolled at Montclair State University's "College High School", a demonstration school where professors taught the classes. The friends she made there would remain lifelong compatriots, regularly reuniting with their families on the Outer Banks, NC for sand, sun, surf and highly competitive boardgames.

In 1967, Cathy enrolled at Vassar College, NY where she studied Anthropology and connected with her Celtic roots. She joined sister Judy for adventures up and down the Emerald Isle's west country before graduating and returning home in 1971. A few years later, Cathy pursued a Master's in Library Science at Columbia University, NY. Degree in hand, she moved to Ridgefield, CT to work as a children's librarian, transfixing the girls and boys with her compelling and dramatic storytelling. Gaining another layer of lifelong

friendships there, the New England town was all but perfect.

Then, in summer 1978, she accepted an invitation to travel down to the Waterloo Village Jazz Festival, with some left-over wedding cake in hand, donated by her baker landlord who lived downstairs. There she met a young lawyer, Mark, who proceeded to speed up and down the Garden State Parkway on weekends to visit. They were engaged and married the following year, and Cathy moved to Sleepy Hollow, Plainfield to join Mark and his dog, Rhoda, in his fixer upper on Prospect Ave. Eric joined them in 1980 and Sara in 1983 once some urgent window repairs weather-proofed a particularly drafty room upstairs. The family soon moved up the neighborhood to Belvidere Ave where Jane was born in 1986.

During this time, the children enrolled at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School where Cathy worked in the Lower School Library and is remembered fondly by the many students who required erasers and binders from the aptly named "Mother's Store", which she co-managed. In 1996, the family moved to Warren, NJ to a house that would gradually become their empty nest as Jane, Sara and Eric left for college, then careers out of state. Jane would marry Michael Fulton, Sara married Max Adler, and Eric married Eleanor (Lavan) Lybeck. Six grandchildren soon arrived, Samuel Fulton, Andrew Adler, Marianne Lybeck, Cecilia Lybeck, Matthew Fulton and Jack Adler keeping 'Granny McTibbles' busy with visits, Facetime calls, enormous hugs and impeccable bedtime story reading skills.

For 8 years, Cathy and Mark retired to picture-perfect Davidson, NC where they regularly attended local concerts either at the college or in the evening sun on the town green. Everywhere they went another cohort of lifelong friends soon followed buoyed in the joyful wake of Cathy's ever thoughtful, kind and generous welcome and effervescent laugh.

Following the isolation of Covid, the Lybecks decided to move back North to Collegeville, PA to be nearer to family. Regrettably, only soon thereafter a diagnosis of cancer saw Cathy turn bravely towards the final chapter in her book, leaving us all wishing we could hear her start it over again from the beginning.

Funeral services will be held privately at the convenience of the family. A celebration of life will be held later this summer for friends and family to share in her memory. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in her name to the Bonnie Brae Development Office by visiting bonnie-brae.org/donations or to the World Central Kitchen by visiting worldcentralkitchen.org/donate. Arrangements are being handled by the Campbell - Ennis - Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc., Phoenixville, PA. Condolences may be offered online at www.PhoenixvilleFuneralHome.com.

Tribute Wall

AP

“ *Cathy was my dear friend at Vassar. Jude and Cathy and I had the most amazing trip to Ireland together, we were laughing the whole time. Remember, Jude, how we thought it was hysterical that they would say they were going to knock us up (knock on the door). She was a gentle, special person. I last spoke with her briefly this Winter.*

My heart goes out to Mark, Eric , Sara, Jane, Jude and the rest of the family.

Amy pullman

Amy B Pullman - August 13, 2023 at 03:10 PM

FB

“ *I've known Cathy since around 1974 when we both worked at the Ridgefield Library in the children's department. We would have dinners planned with Carol and Beth and would take turns at each others apartments. It was lots of fun sharing food and drinks. She came out to Elk River, Idaho when I took a job there (population 400) and we drove to the Washington and Oregon coast for a vacation inside a vacation. We stayed at Cannon Beach, OR and ate lots of fresh seafood in the summer of 1977. She said she had a hard time leaving Idaho because she mellowed out in 10 days in the hills and trees. We had some good times. I will miss her friendship lots. Fran Kucinski Burke.*

Fran Kucinski Burke - April 03, 2023 at 05:05 PM

BB

“ Jude, Greg, Gene and Mark, I just wanted to let you know how sorry we are for your loss. I always loved visiting all of you, except Mark. We loved looking at your pictures. Looks like Cathy had a wonderful life and was a very fun lady. It's interesting that one of Cathy's favorite charities is also one of ours. So we will be making a donation to World Central Kitchen. You are all in our prayers. With our sympathy and love,
Barb and Tom Barrett

Barb and Tom Barrett - March 31, 2023 at 09:39 PM

ML

“ Cathy was lovely. She had this great voice that seemed like, deep down, she thought what you were saying was really clever or just so funny. which would be such a hit with grandchildren. Everyone is missing her. I wish I'd known her longer.
Margaret L.

Margaret Lang - March 31, 2023 at 03:18 PM

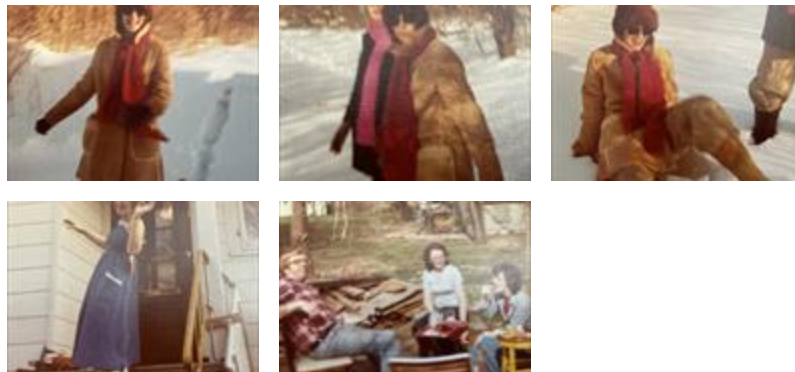
PP

“ Dear Mark, Eric, Sara, Jane, Jude and Family, our sincere condolences. We will always treasure our times together with Cathy, her sense of humor and infectious laugh. She was a loving, caring person and a dear friend who will remain in our hearts forever.
Love,
Pam and Mary

Pam Petill - March 31, 2023 at 09:14 AM

AG

“ 6 files added to the album family photos



Andrew Graham - March 30, 2023 at 01:39 PM

JA

Thank you for sharing these! I love them ❤️

Jane - March 31, 2023 at 12:00 PM

KD

“ *Remembering all those Rube-Dube picnics! So sorry to hear. Your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Kathy Dubiel - March 30, 2023 at 08:12 AM

MA

“ *I had the pleasure of getting to know Cathy these last few months. She was the epitome of grace under fire with a killer sense of humor. So blessed to have shared a small piece of her life.*

margaret - March 29, 2023 at 07:45 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Mary Catherine Lybeck.*



March 29, 2023 at 05:21 PM



“ *Mark & Family,*

My sincerest condolences on the death of Cathy. She was a unique individual, who cared about all of you, her work and her church.

May she rest in peace.

May you find the same peace in the Lord and the strength in one another.

Peace,

Fr. Joe Barbone

Joseph F Barbone - March 29, 2023 at 04:10 PM



Dear Mark, Eric, Sara, Jane, and Beloved Family,

I am shocked and saddened to hear of Cathy's passing. It was my privilege to call her my dear friend, through these many years. There are no words. Asking God to give you faith and strength in the days ahead.

*Blessings,
Pat Kall*

Pat Kall - March 29, 2023 at 09:39 PM

AD

“ I knew Cathy from her time in the Ridgefield Library where I joined her in the children’s room. She was a delight and continued to be so. The world is a poorer place without her.
Alison Doucet.

Alison doucet - March 29, 2023 at 02:14 PM

JU

“ 13 files added to the album family photos



jude - March 29, 2023 at 10:18 AM

JD

“ She was my favorite sister-in-law even if she was my only sister-in-law. She was such card person. I always received a birthday card, an a card for every holiday. She was a sweetheart. I will miss her.
God bless her and the family. Jean

Jean Dubiel - March 29, 2023 at 10:13 AM

TE

“ Jude and family, our deepest condolences...May her memory forever be a blessing. *Michael and Tera Bush*

Tera - March 29, 2023 at 09:53 AM