



Karen Elise Barkie

February 11, 1949 - June 10, 2018

Karen Elise Barkie, age 69, passed away peacefully on June 10th, 2018 in her home in Cary, NC.

Karen is survived by her husband of almost 49 years, Bob, and two sons: Scott Barkie of Morrisville, NC and Eric Barkie of Cary, NC. She is also survived by her brother, Daniel P Kelleher, (Sue Klein) of Colton NY and sister, Janis Kelleher-Dawsey, (James Dawsey) of Saratoga Springs, NY and their children: Kristopher Dawsey (Chen and son Benjamin) of NY, NY and Kathryn Dawsey of Waltham, MA. Family members also include David Barkie {Charlene} of Clifton Park, NY, Charles Barkie {Marcella} of Hooksett, NH and numerous nieces and nephews.

Karen was born February 11, 1949 in Cincinnati, OH, the daughter of the late Daniel P and Bernice E Kelleher. She grew up in Massachusetts and New York. She married in 1969 and spent several years in Arlington, VA while Bob served in the military and then spent most of her married life living in New Paltz, NY. She attended SUNY Albany, University of Virginia, and graduated from SUNY New Paltz. She was a founder and member of the New Paltz Homeowners Association and belonged to the New Paltz Art association, awarded several ribbons over the years. After her now adult children both moved to NC, she and her husband joined them and bought a home in Cary in 2003.

She and Bob enjoyed the many amenities Cary offers. They often walked around their neighborhood, on the local walking trails, within their neighborhood parks, and regularly worked out at the gym. She particularly loved walking in Apex Community Park which was often filled with geese and ducks which she loved to watch and photograph. They were both members of the Cary Senior Center and took many interesting and enjoyable courses. They regularly were part of the Cary Art Loop where they met with and spoke with local artists who were exhibiting at the time. She was especially happy that she and Bob lived close enough to their sons, Scott and Eric, to spend a lot of enjoyable time with them.

Karen was a talented and accomplished artist. Starting from when she was a child making dolls out of cloth, cardboard and coke bottles. She enjoyed creating objects using all kinds of media. With fabric she made clothes for the family, slip covers for the couches, batiks to hang on the walls and curtains and quilts. She painted with acrylics in a Grandma Moses style which brought her several awards in local art exhibitions and sales. Karen also painted with acrylic on paper and paper batiks. She has more recently been working on wooden automata, which are wooden structures within which a handle drives gears which animate the figures to move when the handle is turned. She made her automata completely by hand from her own designs. She drilled and sawed all her gears to perfection, carved all of the features, and put them all together to transform them into unique works which she made into movies which are currently on youtube. She also loved working with video, both shooting actual scenes of wildlife, and making video of her automata. Combining both realistic video she took in the local area with her own animated designs incorporated into a single video was an exciting field she was exploring.

Although she had great enthusiasm for art and fully embraced her artistic

abilities her true passion was being a mother to her sons Scott and Eric. She instilled in them her qualities of honesty, gentleness and kindness which was a true reflection of how she lived her life. She was very proud of her children and cherished every moment she was able to spend with them.

We especially want to thank the Transitions LifeCare Hospice staff and volunteers who provided such loving care for Karen.

A private service, spreading of ashes, and celebration of life will be held at the convenience of the family.

Online condolences may be made at Wakefuneral.com

Memorials may be made to the SPCA of Wake Country 200 Petfinder Lane, Raleigh, NC 27603 or Transitions Life Care 250 Hospice Circle Raleigh, NC 27607

Tribute Wall

JU

“ To Karen Barkie's family,

On a trip to Joshua Tree national park, I stopped in Pioneertown, CA (population 420 people). It was here that I found a copy of "Sweet and Sugarfree" in a little free library. I read the introduction and felt a connection to Karen and her mission. I read the entire book on the flight home, and baked the date cake yesterday. It is such a wonderful recipe that I wanted to email Karen and thank her, and share how far her book has traveled.

I hope you find comfort and joy in this story. Thank you, Karen.

Jules - March 24, 2024 at 11:08 AM

RR

“ *I purchased Sweet and Sugarfree, and Fancy, Sweet and Sugarfree in the 80's. Now it is 2023 and I am preparing to make yet another cheesecake from her wonderful book for Thanksgiving. My children grew up on these books. I did not know Mrs. Barkie had passed away and I decided to check and see if she had any more books out. I am very sorry for your loss and yet happy that I can share the legacy of someone I have never met with my grandchildren and others. Rest in peace, Karen. Rebecca Ruth*

Rebecca Ruth - November 18, 2023 at 11:56 PM

PB

“ I've known Mr's Barkie since I was in 3rd grade. I spent most of my childhood hanging out at Scott's house. Mr's Barkie was like a mother to me. She was the nicest person I have ever met. I am deeply saddened, the world has lost a very special person.

One of the best memories I have as a child was the time Scott and I setup a tent in their backyard. We had two cups attached with a string from the backyard to the kitchen. I remember calling Mr's Barkie on the tin cup and ordering food and then she came out and gave us lots of treats! She was so caring, generous and humble. I will always remember her in my heart.

-Patrick Beck

Patrick Beck - June 20, 2018 at 11:02 PM

TP

“ I will always recall Aunt Karen as a warm and welcoming person. We were not able to get together often but when we did, Karen always was easy to talk to and wanted to hear about my life. I will always be impressed by her talents as an artist and author, but these are only small tokens of her legacy and the impact she had on all our lives. My thoughts are prayers are with you Bob, Scott and Eric during this difficult time. Love - Tom

thomas poppey - June 15, 2018 at 07:11 AM

EF

“ Bob, Scott and Eric,
I am so sorry to hear about Karen. When I joined the family 21 years ago- Karen welcomed me with open arms. Her love of art and her family was always present. We are thinking of you all and sending our love and prayers.
Love Elissa Flynn-Poppey

elissa flynn-poppey - June 15, 2018 at 06:37 AM

ES

“Karen was one of the most amazing people that I have known. There never seemed to be ANY project that was out of her grasp, whether it be cooking, writing, gardening, painting, woodworking, the list seems to be endless. In the past few years I would joke with my wife that if a home improvement project went awry, we should just send Karen an email and she would know what to do. For 42 years she always made me feel like I was one of "her boys". Our childish shenanigans were always met with a smile, a chuckle, and an "oh, you rascals". I am forever grateful for the years of frozen grapefruit pops, sandwiches, american chop suey, and endless words of encouragement. Perhaps my greatest memory of Karen, a more recent one, is the delight she took in meeting my oldest son when he was an infant. Her calming nature soothed his crankiness and her smile became infectious. Bob, Scott, and Eric, I grieve with you and will forever miss Mom.
Eric S.

Eric Saunders - June 13, 2018 at 04:48 PM

JK

“ As I think about my sister, Karen, through my own shock and devastation at her passing, my emotions and thoughts are all over the place. But one thread that ties it all together for me is what a wonderful human being she was. Yes, Karen had a multitude of arenas where she distinguished herself. And she was quite unique in the diversity and magnitude of her talents. She was a published author, an artist, a craft person, a painter, a carpenter, part engineer, an activist, an advocate, and more. But what keeps coming back to the forefront for me is how committed Karen was to consistently working on expanding her spiritual growth. And she was a champion in that arena. Karen was an extraordinary wonderful human being because she was completely nonjudgmental, amazingly insightful, hugely empathetic, naturally so sweet, genuinely kind, exceedingly caring, and an extraordinarily loving person. Believe me, Karen was the real deal. Bob, Scott, and Eric know that better than anyone. To have this wonderful human being as my sister was a privilege and a blessing. I will never get over missing her physical presence on this earth, but Karen’s spirit will be forever alive in my heart. Janis

Janis Kelleher-Dawsey - June 13, 2018 at 04:42 PM

DB

“ The one thing I remember in great detail about Aunt Karen was her Radiant Loving Spirit and Smile. She displayed a great example of living for me. To my eyes; she was poised, calm and caring. I always felt a genuine love and appreciation from her and the whole family. She inspired me to eat healthy. I recall a time when she really enjoyed blue berries and salmon, as I ate my cheese burger and fries. I am honored that she enjoyed my music as well. She was here in this body for a wonderful purpose, and her purpose has no end. Bob, Scott and Eric I love you all. May your hearts pulsate with peace and tranquility. God Bless You All
David C. Barkie

David C Barkie - June 11, 2018 at 07:04 PM

JD

“ Bob, Scott and Eric:

I was in complete shock when I heard the news about Karen yesterday. I haven't really processed the whole thing yet, as all I have been thinking about for you guys was getting ready for the Kelleher Family Reunion. Karen was an incredible person, so talented and an author and inventor. A great wife, daughter, sister and mother. If Karen put her mind to something there wasn't anything that she couldn't accomplish. I never heard her say a bad thing about any one. My memories go back to the wedding which happened the same day as the first man on the moon, her raising of two fantastic sons, and great times at the Cape and our many happy visits to New Paltz. Her leaving has left a huge hole in everyone's heart and life. I know you three have each other to lean on, but if you need anything your family up north is there for all of you. Once again, I am so sorry, and I know words can't ease your pain, but Karen was one of the most genuinely nice and loving people I have ever met in my life, and it was a great present to me to have had her a part of my life. Love, Jimmy

Jams Dawsey - June 11, 2018 at 06:48 PM

CB

“ Dear Bob, Scott and Eric,

Marcella and I are so sorrowful and saddened to learn of Karen's passing. While we have not been near at hand geographically and have not shared many visits with you folks over the years, we have indeed enjoyed learning of and following Karen's many artistic and talented endeavors. We have so thoroughly enjoyed her works that you both were so kind as to share with us, particularly the wonders of her photographic accomplishments. And, wow, the automata that we have just recently seen! Karen was a warm and loving person, compassionate and kind by nature with a gift for seeing the world around us in unique and fascinating ways that she was able to communicate to others through her artistic accomplishments. We are privileged to have been able to see our world in a unique perspective through her eyes and mind. Her greatest accomplishment, of course, is as your helpmate, confidant and partner, Bob, and in raising you to be fine, capable and productive young men, Scott and Eric.

May you find solace and comfort in knowing that your spouse and mother lived life fully, productively and nobly and will forever be cherished in the memories of all who knew her as a person who was a privilege and joy to have known and loved.

Ours prayers for your healing and our love to support you in your grief!

Charlie & Marcella Barkie

Charles and Marcella Barkie - June 11, 2018 at 01:57 PM

DB

“ To Bob, Scott, & Eric,

Charlene and I were so saddened to hear of Karen's passing on Sunday. She was such a beautiful spirit in this world, and she will be missed by all who had the blessed fortune of knowing her. We look back on the earlier years of your life and marriage when you lived in New Paltz with fond memories. Karen's always extended genuine love and concern for our family as the opportunity to share life's circumstances allowed. These aspects of her personality were continuously evident, and the Hallmark of who Karen was as a person. Our recent visit with you in No. Carolina earlier this year was truly appreciated, and now all the more a cherished memory. Please know that you all are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

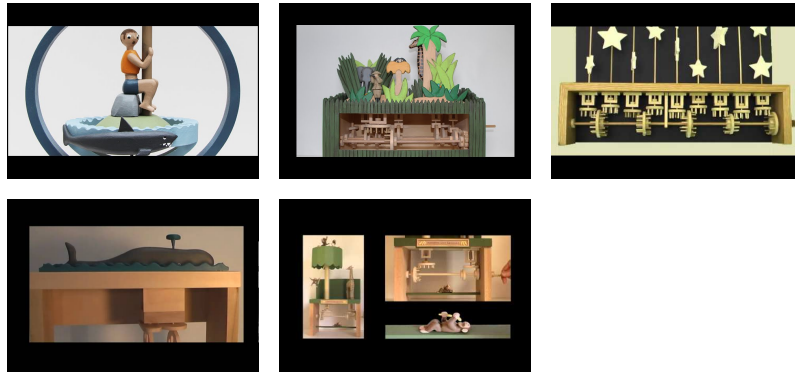
Love,

Dave, Charlene, Michelle, David, and Michael

David Barkie - June 11, 2018 at 01:11 AM

BB

“ 13 files added to the album Karen Barkie



Bob Barkie - June 10, 2018 at 05:20 PM