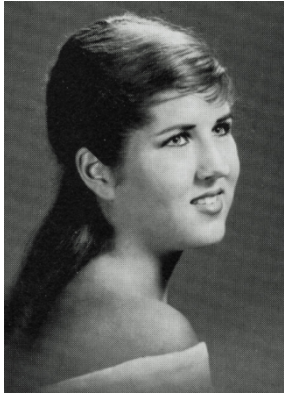


Karen Mary Lamping Robinson 4/17/1946 – 6/16/2018



Karen died on June 16, 2018, in Lincoln, CA., after a long battle with a rare form of leukemia. Her daughter Dana Sarbeck wrote the following obituary.

Karen Mary Lamping was born in Salem, Ohio, April 17, 1946. She was the first daughter of Emanuel "Sam" Gonzalez Lamping and Patricia Mae Blaisdell, who met and married overseas during WWII (he an Army Captain and she a Red Cross Captain overseeing supply logistics). Karen and her younger sister Candice (Stutler) grew up in Ohio, then later Pascagoula, Mississippi, before landing on the Gulf Coast of Florida at Redington Beach -- staying at first in the Billows Motel, still catering to northern visitors, then renting a house on 160th Avenue, which still looks very much as it did when they lived there. They went almost every day to the nearby beach with sand dunes and sea oats by the mile, not seas of hotels as there are today.

Karen's father bought one of the longest running iron forges in the South, Downing's Forge, which he would own and work at nearly every day for more than 40 years. The family eventually moved to a ranch home in Tropical Shores, at the time a new subdivision of St. Petersburg; many of the houses there still boast the iron columns and gates made by Downing's Forge.

One of the things Karen most enjoyed, from the time she was 6 years old, was spending family time on a continuing array of her father's fishing boats. Her mother packed lunches, and Karen and Candy took turns steering the boat and fishing. In her teen years the boats were a perfect place to perfect her tan.

Attending South Side Middle School, Karen started making friendships that still last, even beyond her death. She would give parties for her friends, always well organized and fully decorated. During her high school years, at St. Petersburg High School, she would have dances on her parents' open garage floor. A perfect place for both the 50s/60s dancing and Spanish dancing that had come from the refugees of Castro's Cuba. At that time shirtwaist dresses were

in style, and Karen was able to showcase both her figure and her dancing wearing these. She loved dancing then and always.

Karen met her first husband Jim Sarbeck at St. Pete High School and they dated through his attending the University of Florida, while she attended St. Petersburg Junior College.

Married in May, 1967, with her closest girlfriends as her bridesmaids, Jim and Karen headed to Lake City, Florida and then to Houston for two years, where Karen worked at MD Anderson in cancer research. She did similar work once settled in San Jose, California at the Palo Alto VA Hospital and Stanford Hospital.

In 1974, Karen became a mom to Dana Kathryn. When Dana was 4, Karen decided to go back to college, as a night student so that Dana would be kept by her Dad. She got her degree in Behavioral Science at San Jose State University. She was always fascinated by human behavior and sociology and had a wonderful instinct about how people affect one another's lives through communication, language and emotion. Through the years in the Bay Area, Karen worked at the Diabetes Society, the YWCA, the San Jose Film Festival, the World Forum, and later the North Bay Business Journal.

In 1990 she met Randy Robinson, and they began a friendship, courtship and relationship that would last nearly 30 years until her passing. Karen and Randy were married in 1995 on Orcas Island, Washington, having fallen in love with a rustic one-room chapel on 14 acres. Karen and Randy loved travel near and far – especially local California weekend getaways in small towns and in wine country. With a shared passion for renovating and decorating homes together for over 20 years, this partnership took them from San Jose to Sonoma and Mendocino Counties, to Nevada City and finally Lincoln, California.

In just the last two years Karen became a grandmother to Morgan Everly Marshall. In Morgan's early vocabulary development one of her most confident words became "GG" (her name for Karen). She would call out for GG every time she saw her or even heard a voicemail. Karen's biggest gifts were her empathy, laughter, warmth, grace and thoughtfulness. Once Karen met you she always remembered you and your story and you became folded into her life and her heart.

Karen is survived by her husband, Randy Robinson, stepson, Zachary, daughter Dana Sarbeck, granddaughter Morgan Marshall, sister Candice Stutler and nieces Shelley and Jennifer.