



Barbara G. Cegelis

SEP 3, 1947 - AUG 6, 2016



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Barbara Cegelis, 68, passed away unexpectedly on August 6, 2016. She was born on September 3, 1947 in Fayetteville, NC. In 1959 Barbara and her family moved to Fort Myers, FL from Cullowhee, NC. Barbara graduated from Fort Myers High School in 1965, attended Edison Junior College and received her bachelor's degree in Education from Florida Atlantic University. She later earned a master's degree in Special Education at University of Maine Orono and also studied at New England Montessori Institute in Beverly, MA. As a young adult, Barbara developed a passion for education. There was nothing more exciting for her than to see a young mind opened to discovery and understanding. Her pride and joy was Island Montessori, of which she was owner and director for 16 years from 1991-2007. It was here that she found her true calling and fully embraced the Montessori philosophy and her belief in the inherent abilities of children. She herself was a student of life and was always eager to learn new things. Barbara first saw MDI in 1971 and immediately knew in her heart it was home. It was here that she cultivated her deepest friendships and love. In 1984 she met her future husband Rick while she worked on the outer island schools for Union 98. On September 19, 1987 they were married on board the Sea Queen off of Bear Island Light. For evermore Barbara referred to the vessel as the "Love Boat." Over the years their love endured many trials and sorrows and enjoyed many triumphs and successes. Although separated at the time of her death, they remained deeply in each other's hearts. Barbara loved life. Her many interests included dancing, travel, her kitties, writing, painting, camping, cooking, and gardening. She was a fierce and loyal friend and she treasured her many friendships. Barbara had the world's most beautiful smile, a generous spirit and a loving heart. She was also a deeply spiritual person and her natural curiosity led her in a search for inner peace. Her faith was a sustaining force in her life. She found a home amongst friends at Cypress Lake United Methodist Church in Fort



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Myers. Barbara is survived by her husband Rick Cegelis and her stepdaughters, Carrie Cegelis and her partner Taylor Hatcher; Meg Clixby and her husband C. Spencer Yeh. Uncle and Aunt Jay and Beverly Buston; cousins Anne, Alice and Jameson; brothers-in-law Frank Cegelis and wife Marcia; Bob Cegelis and wife Phyllis, Ed and sister-in-law Mary; many nieces and nephews; close friend Carol Metz. Barbara was predeceased by her parents John and Elaine (née Buston) Booker and her brother Michael. In lieu of flowers, gifts of memory may be sent to: Tremont Congregational Church PO Box 6 Bernard, ME 04612 Cypress Lake United Methodist Church 8570 Cypress Lake Drive Fort Myers, FL 33919



Tribute Wall

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KR

Kimberly Ross posted:

Barbara: Will always remember Mr. and Mrs. C. The fact that your dad shared Miles's birthday. AND: The very special birthday celebrations where you blindfold the kids with a veil as they swing at the pinata. I have a photo that I will find where you had Miles swing and his eyes were OPEN under the veil. It was so funny. You just adored all your kids. And made them feel like they were the only one. Miles is Miles because of Barbara. NO question. I miss and love you.

September 15 at 1:42 PM

EC

Ellen Call posted:

I was shocked and saddened to hear of Barbara's passing. She was exactly one day older than I, and as such, we could really relate and remain close in spirit. Although it had been several years since we had been in touch, I still felt her kinship and caring. She was sensitive and cared so much about nature and the world around her. And I must say, one of the most gracious hostesses ever, especially at Ravenscleft where she really glowed! Love you, Ellen

August 19 at 1:08 PM

JW

Jane Maeder Walsh posted:

Barbara was a lovely woman who shared many of the wonderful attributes of her late mother, Elaine Booker, a long-time Lee County educator, first in the home-ec classrooms and later in administration. My family was friends with the Booker family as my mother, Kay Maeder, was also a home-ec teacher. Her brother Michael was in my class at MHS '68 and is also remembered by many of our classmates. I had the opportunity to renew our friendship several years ago and stayed in touch with her online. I will miss her presence. Jane Maeder Walsh Houston TX

August 18 at 8:33 AM

RD

Rose Iuro-Damon posted:

Oh dear! So shocked and saddened to see this. Each and every time my path crossed with Barbara's we shared our souls. Our crossings weren't frequent but always heartfelt. Fly free, dear Barbara!!!

August 17 at 3:34 PM



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SH

Sue Hill posted:

Remember Barbara as the special ed teacher on Islesford until she moved back to Florida. our thoughts are with you Rick.Sue& Richard Hill

August 16 at 3:40 PM

EF

Elizabeth Freed posted:

Barbara was one of my best high school friends. So many wonderful memories... double dating, her first car (a black Datsun), working on endless papers together for our AP English class, and drinking gallons of coffee at the Snack House. Though our lives took different directions we had a wonderful phone visit last year to catch up. She was a very special lady and will be missed by all. Sending sincere condolences to her family. Rest in peace, dear friend.

August 16 at 2:51 PM

AM

Ann Martin posted:

Such a beautiful person-She will be missed.Ann MartinCLUMC

August 16 at 8:43 AM

CG

Clare Green posted:

Barb loved to share her life's adventures: She introduced us to Ashley Bryan and the delightful island of Islesford! We spent a little time at Ravenscleft "Cottage." She brought us pine needles to make those baskets - very thoughtful. She also brought us old-fashioned prisms to create with. One still hangs in my window sparkling with the rainbow light. I'll think of Barb now twinkling in heaven's realm of light. Peace to her and to all her friends and families she touched. Love and hugs from Clare

August 15 at 8:08 AM

MM

Michael Macdonald posted:

A bright smile and a friendly hello is how I will remember her. My heart goes out to. Rick and family in your time of loss. I will miss youy friend.

August 15 at 4:26 AM



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MB

Margery Buck posted:

"I'll remember Barbara in so many positive ways-with a big smile and a great sense of humor, always great with a story." She truly gave of herself, so will be sadly missed.

August 14 at 2:42 PM

DS

Donna J Smith posted:

You always had a huge smile and hard meaningful hugs when we met to play Mahg at the Purple Dragon. I will always treasure going out with you to Dixie's, Doc Fords and just laughing it up. Goodbye my dear friend, I will miss you 🙏

August 13 at 2:27 PM

PA

Pat posted:

Lit a candle in memory of Barbara G. Cegelis

August 13 at 8:39 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Barbara by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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