



## Carole A. Bergen

February 14, 1945 - March 26, 2020

Carole (Whitmeyer) Bergen of Irvington, NY died peacefully surrounded by her family on March 26, 2020. She was born in Rome, NY in 1945 to Mary and Robert Whitmeyer and graduated from Rome Free Academy. Her lifelong ambition was to be a math teacher and to achieve that goal she attended SUNY Albany for a BA degree in Mathematics followed by Colgate University for a Master of Arts in teaching Mathematics. She then taught math at all grade levels for over 40 years; the last 30 years at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, NY. She loved teaching and never doubted her chosen profession as she saw math teaching evolve from blackboard and pencil and paper to computerized distance learning instruction.

She loved and was a longtime member of the choir of Transfiguration Church in Tarrytown, NY. Her passion for traveling took her to various places around the world such Alaska, Costa Rica, Peru and Australia. She loved hiking, reading, singing, pickleball, Broadway theater and yoga at the Senior Center.

She is survived by her two children, Laurie Findeisen (spouse Erik) and Robert Bergen (spouse Erika), her two sisters Mary Ann Boothe and brother in law Robert of Tarrytown NY and Barbara Hitchcock and brother in law Thomas of Ft. Myers, Florida as well as 7 grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Calvary Hospital [Calvary Hospital https://www.calvaryhospital.org/wa](https://www.calvaryhospital.org/wa)

ys-to-give/ or Friends of Karen <https://www.friendsofkaren.org/>, two of her favorite charities.

Due to current circumstances cremation will be held privately. A memorial service will be planned for a future date. Please feel free to leave a condolence or memory of Carole for her family to see below, thank you.

# Tribute Wall

JH

“ I just found out today that Carole passed and was saddened by the news. She was one of the nicest, sweetest ladies I knew. She was good friends with my mom going all the way back to my White Plains, New York childhood. When I visited the Westchester County area for my college reunion weekend four years ago she generously allowed me to use her Irvington home while she was away on vacation. Before that any time I came down to visit friends she was always nice enough to give me a place to stay. Her hospitality knew no bounds. I'll always remember seeing pictures of her beautiful grandchildren all over her house. She truly loved and adored them, and her children Laurie & Bobby of course. My heart goes out to them during an obviously difficult time. Rest In Peace Carole.

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**Jay Handron** - June 14, 2020 at 03:22 PM

DF

“ We will all - the Irvington seniors- remember Carole as the beautiful happy inspirational woman who brought positive energy everywhere she went. I do and will always miss her. Diana Friedman

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**Diana Friedman** - April 30, 2020 at 10:03 PM

JS

“ I met Carole about 6 years ago at a tennis clinic where a group of us formed our own tennis group. Carole was never a stranger.- she was someone you had known forever.Her enthusiasm and openness was infectious and our group quickly evolved into more than tennis-- sharing thoughts and experiences before,after and sometimes during the game."Keep the ball away from Carole" was my motto. Impossible to do. She was all over the court--especially at the net.She was vibrant , energetic playing to win but primarily because it was fun! I use tennis as a metaphor for how she lived her life..Up-beat, positive and totally engaged with family,friends, trips Broadway and helping others.She signed on for grandparent trips with Roads Scholar and was thrilled that her grandchildren wanted to go with her. Why Not?There aren't too many grandparents who go zip-lining with their grandkids. I recall cancelling a Holiday Inn reservation I had in Charleston S.C. because Carole insisted that I had to stay at this wonderful inn on Main Street-- which turned out to be "wonderful."

Always ready for the next adventure --she passed away much to soon and will be missed by so many!!

Judy Shaffer

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**Judy Shaffer** - April 03, 2020 at 03:45 PM

AS

“ I met Carole and her sister Mary Ann when I moved to NY in 2011 in a senior yoga class. We became friends and spent time hiking, playing tennis, pickle ball and we went to many Broadway shows and dinner in the city. Carole loved to travel and I was fortunate to take a Roads Scholar trip with her to Mount Rushmore, Yellowstone and the Tetons several years ago. She was such a wonderful companion, kind, considerate, congenial, enthusiastic, and energetic. She was an inspiration to all of us who knew her and I will always remember her beautiful positive spirit. I will deeply miss her and think of her often. With deepest sympathy to her family, Alice Stratigos

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**alice stratigos** - April 03, 2020 at 01:35 PM

NR

“ Carole was a great human being. She was a great teacher in all respect: A black lady of about 35 years old came to me (I was the chairman) saying that she was frightened of math and came back 3 times without registering for the remedial math course. She was very articulate and seemed to be very intelligent. I recommended Carole's class. After the midterm, she came almost running to my office and said that she got 96/100! Carole told me that she would have given her an A+ if it were possible. That is how much she cared about her students. She was upbeat when I spoke to her last week and felt she was doing better than they expected.

*I miss her as many of you are feeling.*

*Nagaraj Rao*

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**Nagaraj Rao** - April 02, 2020 at 06:46 PM

HS

“ I'm a fairly new friend of Carole's, I met her at Greenburgh Tennis. She was one of the better tennis players! I was happy when she was my partner because we always won! She was able to get theater tickets and thanks to this, Alice (another tennis player), Carole and I were able to see many Broadway shows thanks to her generosity. We stayed friends and met often for lunch. I invited her to a Picasso sculpture exhibit and even though she was not a fan, she came anyway and told me her "stay time would be no longer than 2 hours"! I miss her friendship, I miss doing fun things with her. She was always happy, cheerful and bouncy. I will think of her often.

*Helen Schmidt*

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**Helen Schmidt** - April 02, 2020 at 05:15 PM

BF

“ Carole and I made many precious memories together over the last 40 years. Some were teaching and mathematics related. Many were not. I could always count on her to joyfully accompany me on weekend shopping excursions, river tubing trips, or to binge on two consecutive TDF plays on Wednesdays. And later, double features of the plays at Oregon’s Shakespeare Festival. After I moved from NY in 2001, my family and I looked forward to her annual visits and our vacations and explorations together in and around the Pacific NW and beyond. One summer that even included staying in a yurt on the Oregon Coast. Every year it included wine tasting and berry picking. Carole embraced Life and its many challenges with inspiring grace, honesty, and practicality. Her strong faith, her personal kindness and decency guided her in all that she did, expecting nothing in return. She was always up for some fun and travel, near and far. I am among the many blessed to have been able to call her “my friend,” and to always have her to share both the fun and the not fun things that Life threw our way. I will miss you every day of the world, dearest friend. You are truly the sister I never had. Love, Barb

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**Barbara C Freeouf** - April 02, 2020 at 02:49 PM

LW

“ Carole was a docent for the Friends Of The Old Croton Aqueduct,, as am I. I remember her bravura performances with children at the Keeper’s House Museum in Dobbs Ferry. She would smile and plop on the floor to interact, and always kept them talking and even asking questions! She was a natural teacher, and a ready helper in so many ways with our group. It was my privilege to watch her in action, and to work with her.

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**Lesley Yu Walter** - April 01, 2020 at 09:26 PM

JD

“ *Carole was a Caring, Able teacher, but moreover she will be Remembered by all who knew her as an Outstanding and Long-standing friend and Educator.*

*A small part of the world is a better place because Carole was a part of it.*

*Requiesce In Pace.*

*John DiElsi*

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**John DiElsi** - March 31, 2020 at 03:59 PM

BM

“*Carole has been my best friend since 1963 at Albany State. We stayed in touch after graduation. Each of us got married and started our families. Carole was in Florida for several years and I was in West Virginia and Michigan. Once we both moved back to New York, we started vacationing together with our children. We made several trips from the Finger Lakes area to White Plains where we all stayed with Carole and her family. We would all pile into my Volkswagen bus and head into NYC. I drove and Carole sat in the passenger seat telling me what lane to be in and where to turn. In the evenings we all played cards or board games. (PIG and Super Quiz. )*

*I have wonderful memories of Carole, Laurie and Bobby on our trips together. Tenting at Chenango Valley State Park where every year it rained. The nice dry cabins at Gilbert Lake SP. As the kids got older we went to Assateague Island where we enjoyed the horses and swimming all day and crabbing and campfires in the evening. Then when the children grew up and got married we started traveling with college friends to Colorado, the Canadian Rockies, Ireland and Switzerland. We also enjoyed trips with Overseas Adventure Travel and Road Scholar. In addition to traveling together, we wrote, talked and texted often. We kept up to date on what our children and grandchildren were up to.*

*I was lucky to have had several trips down to visit Carole last year as she was recovering. We read together in the afternoons. She was a fan of mysteries and I liked historical novels. We walked along the Hudson, often a little more each day. In the evening there were movies borrowed from the library and Jeopardy. Before I left at the end of October, she was driving again and back to Gentle Yoga and looking forward to singing again in the church choir.*

*I thank God I had Carole for a friend for so many years. My family and I will miss her dearly. She was an exceptional person: friend, mother, grandmother, teacher. I now picture her singing with the choir in heaven. BUNNY MOLES*

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**Bunny Moles** - March 30, 2020 at 06:04 PM

BC

“ Carole and I hadn't seen one another in many years, but she was such a presence in my life when I was a child. My parents lived near Carole in White Plains. I spent many happy days at her house in her care. I can even still picture how the house was arranged in my head and how she used to fix us a snack. I know she will be very missed.

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**Brandy Christensen** - March 30, 2020 at 04:50 PM

DC

“ Carole and her family were close friends and a treasured part of our life for many years in White Plains, NY. We are very saddened to hear of her passing and send our love and condolences to her family.

*Dan and Barbara Christensen  
Sean and Brandy*

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**Daniel and Barbara Christensen** - March 30, 2020 at 04:43 PM

MA

“ Loving mother and grandmother, tireless worker, super organizer, world traveller, tennis player, yoga practitioner, choir singer, New York City explorer, and a wonderful friend. That was Carole. I recall a day when Carole and I met to take our first grandchildren for a walk in Irvington. They were both under a year and in strollers. The strollers were next to each other as we walked and Hudson and Marisa looked at each other and reached out and held hands as we walked. It was just so sweet and we definitely had a grandmother moment. Carole was loved and missed.

*Marcy*

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**Marcy Alkalay** - March 30, 2020 at 08:19 AM

NH

“ Marie really captured Carole in her post here and I agree with all of it.

*Carole knew what really mattered in life and she focused on those things. She raised two lovely children, both of whom married nice spouses and have children of their own. Carole also established a special bond with each one of her 7 grandchildren. She let each of Laurie and Erik's children choose a trip, which allowed Carole and this grandchild special one-on-one time together. Also she treated Rob (always Bobby to her), Erika, and their children on a fun week together in Antigua.*

*I will miss her and always treasure her friendship.*

*Nancy Harrison*

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**Nancy Harrison** - March 28, 2020 at 03:03 PM

MM

“ Carole was one of the most beautiful human beings I have ever known--loving, caring, decent, honest, one of the world's best teachers and organizers. I am so grateful for our many years of friendship and love.

*Marie*

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**Marie McKellar** - March 28, 2020 at 12:01 PM

BR

*Carole was one of the most beautiful person I have ever met. She was a loving person. always smiling and one of the best professors at Mercy College. I am grateful that I got a chance to work with her. She sent me the best cards which I still cherish. She will be missed. May her soul rest in peace.*

*Bina Ramchandani March 30, 2020*

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**Bina Ramchandani** - March 30, 2020 at 11:51 AM

TC

*For as long as I can remember Carole was one of my closest friends. We shared so many memories and fun in New York and here on the cape. She was truly a very exceptional person. A woman who was kind, loving, generous and so wonderful. At the same time strong, determined, bright, successful, etc.,etc. can't say enough. I will miss her so so much!! Tracy*

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**tracy coffey** - March 30, 2020 at 02:52 PM

EV

*Carole was a wonderfilled woman whose sense of adventures in learning was amazing. She is already missed as our gatherer in chief for sharing our stories.*

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**Ellen Vopicka** - April 01, 2020 at 12:21 PM

EP

*Carole was a Mercy College colleague and was regarded as the best math professor in the Department...patient, caring, professional and on top of her subject.*

*When I became a grandmother, it was Carole who introduced me to Thomas Trains which delighted my grand-kids for years and when a precious pet died, she gave me a framed poem called the "Rainbow Bridge."*

*She was a special woman and appreciated by all who knew her. It is a terrible loss and I am thankful that I was privileged to know her.  
Elaine Paris*

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**Elaine Paris** - April 02, 2020 at 04:50 PM

JM

*Carole was a friend and neighbor. She was a lovely person—friendly, kind and upbeat. She was always enthusiastic with everything she did. She will be missed. My condolences to her family.*

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**Johanna McHugh** - April 10, 2020 at 04:56 PM