



Kathryn B. Rafac

February 17, 1968 - May 22, 2016

Kathryn B. Rafac passed away Sunday at her home having survived brain cancer, driven by a determination to see her son Jake grow up, for 15 years. She was born in New York City, spent many years in Santa Barbara before moving to Chico and settling in Benicia 8 years ago.

Kathryn earned her BA in English from Cal Berkeley and Masters in Computer Science from Cal Poly SLO. She had been working as a software engineer for Texas Instruments. She enjoyed playing piano, published several short stories and was in the process of writing a novel, drawing on her experiences working at the Santa Barbara Public Library. She was a lifelong fan of the band Queen and had recently received her Certificate of Deep Hurting from the Gizmonic Institute for enduring every episode of the MST3K series.

Kathryn is survived by her husband Joseph; son Jake; her parents John Bruno and Mary Searing; sisters Christine (Jim) Lewers, and Rachel & Rebecca Bruno; and her dog Shadow.

Memorial services will be held 3:30 pm Wednesday, May 25th at Passalacqua Funeral Chapel. The family prefers that donations in her name be made to UCSF Neuro-Oncology Department.

Tribute Wall



“ *Kathryn B. Rafac*

November 29, 2022 at 08:20 PM



“ *Manager, Human Resources*

Donna Cowger - June 21, 2016 at 12:55 PM

DC

“ Joseph and Jake,

I was so sad to get a call from LeAnn today letting me know that your beautiful Kathryn had passed away. My heart hurts along with yours. She was beautiful in spirit and that shone in her smile. I was fortunate that the Family Rafac touched my life in 1998 as I joined Powell Skate One! Kathryn was finishing up at Cal Poly, heading to Texas Instruments in Goleta and Joe was in Planning for SOC! You were all very kind to me as we carpoled each day from Santa Maria to Goleta laughing and enjoying the cares of work and play. Then as things were just getting started for you, fate stepped in and things changed. Your beautiful son was born and then your life was touched by Cancer, unforgiving as it is. I am glad you touched my life and I continue to think of you when I travel down your street. At least I can always embrace the joy I feel in having known you. Cherish those good memories as they will always bring a smile when you are sad.

I lost Dick, the Love of my life in 2014 to Cancer too.

Be well and know I love you,

Donna Cowger

Mr., Human Resouces

Powell, Skate One

Donna Cowger - June 21, 2016 at 12:53 PM

JM

“ Sorry to hear of KB's entrance into Spirit. I think of y'all often as I have the same the coffee grinder gift I gave you both for your wedding. Remembering some of the silly phone conversations at Powell. Your all in my heart at this sad time. Hugs Joe.

James Milward

james milward - May 30, 2016 at 12:04 PM

NH

“ I will always remember KB fondly as we shared 9 hours a day together at SBPL.. Her gorgeous smile would light up a room and her laugh was so very infectious. Her hair always coiffed to perfection and held together with a pencil. That is the KB I will always remember.

My heartfelt sympathies to Joseph and son Jake.

Nona Holguin

Nona Holguin - May 25, 2016 at 10:34 PM

NS

“ I loved seeing Kathryn at all of Jake's band reviews and swim meets, always with a smile, always with Joe right by her side. Hoping the memories you've created provide you some measure of comfort during this difficult time!

Neeley, Mark, Sophie, and Emma Silberman

Neeley Silberman - May 25, 2016 at 12:55 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kathryn B. Rafac.



May 25, 2016 at 01:23 AM

EG

“ *Elissa and Gary purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Kathryn B. Rafac.*



Elissa and Gary - May 24, 2016 at 11:50 PM

LS

“ *My fondest memories of Kathryn are at school, or at the pool. She always greeted me with a smile and a hug, eager to exchange the latest in our children's lives. I wish I had known about MST3K...*

Our deepest sympathy to Joe and Jake. May your hearts be full of loving memories.

Lisa, Doug and Jessica Scott

Lisa Scott - May 24, 2016 at 11:06 PM

CC

“ *The Clouse Family was blessed to have experienced Kathryn's dedication and love of her family while spending hours at Benicia Stingrays swim meets. A lovely, kind, & caring woman who always put family first. Her son Jake is blessed with many of her qualities. You're in our hearts and we send our love Joe & Jake. Cyndi, Guy & Skyelar Clouse*



Cyndi Clouse - May 24, 2016 at 10:21 PM