



Kathy Oja

September 23, 1948 - July 1, 2019

Kathy Lorraine Oja passed away suddenly Monday July 1st, 2019 in a local hospital. She was born in Minnesota and has called Benicia her home for the past 20 years. Kathy was a graduate of Sonoma State University where she majored in philosophy. She enjoyed an evolving career over the years. Early in her career she developed a small business where she designed children's clothing, and later worked for a greeting card company which fostered her love for graphic design, allowing her to market her designs through print and textile media. Kathy further honed her business and administrative skills working for a law office, which eventually led her to her most prominent position, Special Olympics VP of Human Resources for Northern California and Nevada. Kathy spent 18 years with Special Olympics which she identified as the most rewarding and fulfilling time of her professional career. Upon retirement she began to fully embrace her true calling as an Artist. She quickly became an accomplished mixed media artist and an embedded member of the vibrant Benicia art community where she has several pieces on display as a member of Gallery 621.

Kathy was also an avid reader and traveler. She loved to go on adventures with action packed detective novels or escape to another world through the eyes of a female protagonist from another time and place. When vacationing she relished the opportunity to immerse herself in the colors and textures of her favorite destinations, especially Venice, her favorite city in the world.

Above all, she loved spending time with her family. Kathy was known for always thinking of others and will be remembered for always giving the most thoughtful and personal gifts to family and friends.

Kathy is survived by her husband Robert Nelson; son Casey (Teri Lin) Newton; daughters Amanda Randall and Nicole (Brian) Evans; sister Debra Yates; stepdaughters Kristy (M.J.) Crickmore and Keri (Russell) Hamby and her grandchildren Kiana, Cassidy, Caden, Tilden, Grant and Natalie.

A small memorial service for family and close friends will be held Saturday, July 27th at 3:00 p.m. at Passalacqua Funeral Chapel. A larger Celebration of Life gathering will follow at Arts Benicia Gallery, 991 Tyler Street #114. The family prefers donations to Arts Benicia or The Special Olympics. Please visit the online tribute at www.passalacquafuneralchapel.com

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL **27**. 3:00 PM (PT)

Passalacqua Funeral Chapel

901 W Second Street

Benicia, CA 94510

(707) 745-3130

info@passalacquafuneralchapel.com

<https://www.passalacquafuneralchapel.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Kathy Oja*

November 29, 2022 at 08:20 PM



“ *I am sorry for your loss of your wonderful Kathy. I remember meeting her back in 1964 when my family came to see Lorraine and Carl. Lorraine was my father's cousin. Cousin "Bud" Hotchkiss had great times in Minnesota with Lorraine and her family at a local lake and farm. Carl came to see us in California after Lorraine passed. May you find peace in your own time, in your own way.*
Robin Hotchkiss
San Diego

Robin Hotchkiss - December 26, 2019 at 05:26 PM



“ *I would like to express my sincere condolences regarding the loss of Kathy. Her artistic spirit was so delightful. She will be missed.*
-Wyntress Balcher

Wyntress Balcher - July 15, 2019 at 12:03 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Kathy Oja.*



July 11, 2019 at 07:06 PM