



Karen Louise (née Krumwiede) Lewis

August 29, 1947 - April 30, 2025

Lewis, Karen L

(née Krumwiede)

August 29, 1947-April 30, 2025

Karen, of North Tonawanda, NY, passed on April 30, 2025, with her family by her side after a courageous battle with liver cancer. Born in Estes Park, Colorado, and raised in Elkhart, Indiana. Beloved wife of Hon. William R. Lewis. Devoted mother of Katherine Lewis, Meghan (Jeffrey) Barlow, and Patrick (Ashley) Lewis. Cherished “Gonny” to Hadley, Quinn, Charles, Henry and Sally. Loving daughter of the late Walter Krumwiede and Margery (Ziesel). Dear sister of Richard (Becky) Krumwiede, Charles (Sally) Krumwiede, and Nancy (Douglas) Parrott. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Karen graduated from Denison University where she met Bill. They were married in 1969 after her graduation. She was employed as a social studies teacher at Kenmore West and thereafter at Reszel Middle School in North Tonawanda. She enjoyed spending time with her family and many friends. Family will be present on Monday, May 12 from 4-8 P.M. at Wattengel Funeral Home, 533 Meadow Drive, North Tonawanda. A memorial service will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo, 1 Symphony Circle, Buffalo, New York on Saturday, June 7 at 10:00 A.M.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift in memory of Karen to First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo or University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center for liver cancer research, University Hospitals, Institutional Relations &

Development P.O. Box 94554, Cleveland, OH 44101.

Cemetery Details

Forest Lawn

1411 Delaware Ave.
Buffalo, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 12. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wattengel Funeral Home (Meadow Drive)
533 Meadow Drive
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
(716) 693-0440
wattengelfh@gmail.com
<https://www.wattengel.com>

Funeral Service

JUN 7. 10:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo
1 Symphony Circle
Buffalo, NY 14201

Tribute Wall

“Karen and I met in our freshman year of college at Denison U. She was not in my suite that year, but I told her to come down to the basement to hang out. A roommate of mine was a Kappa too, and we were the 3 musketeers. The 3 of us lived together for the next three years. This all began in 1965. She and I were in the same sorority, Kappa. We lived in the girls’ dorms. No mixed dorms in those days. We clicked from the beginning. Had so many laughs, and long “meaningful” discussions. We had a strong connection from the get go. Our minds worked in conjunction. It’s been nearly 60 years since we met, which doesn’t seem possible. After college we stayed in touch. Our suitemates from senior year started a round robin mail chain with photos included in those larger beige envelopes. Sort of a slo-mo e-mail of today. Karen and I stayed in touch in our own. She came to visit me in Michigan January 1973, where I was visiting my parents. The next summer I turned around and visited her in N Tonawanda, summer of 1974. I had a new husband a few months later, and Karen was most interested to see just what man I had married this time! The four of us met in Toronto in the summer of 1978. My 2nd daughter, Sarah, was born on OCT 18, 1976. And Karen’s 2nd daughter was born in Oct 18, 1978. Our sons were born just a few months apart in 1981, and 1982. We told each other nearly everything, knowing that whatever we said to each other was in trust and that we would not repeat it. I wish we had lived closer, but Karen and Bill started in N Tonawanda, where his parents lived. I was more of a wanderer, and landed in the Denver area. I thought it might be temporary, but it ended up to become permanent. I feel privileged that Karen was my dear friend. She had many people who respected and liked her. We roomed together for the next 3 years, along with others. I’m just so thrilled that we kept the friendship up. It has meant the world to me. I loved Karen very much. We exchanged stories if the good times and not-so-good. Kate, Meghan and Patrick... I know everything! Your stories are still being created and I hope I can keep up with them through Meghan and/or Bill. Because Karen’s parents lived such long lives, she expected to as well. So this has been a nasty surprise. She had more energy than I did, and even these last years

of fighting the cancer with different trials or just chemo, she certainly seemed pretty upbeat. But once the cancer got hold of her she finally had met her match. She continued her normal routine before that time. Chiropractor, Pilates, walking, biking, cooking... children, grandchildren, Bill and her mother Marge, who has outlived her. She loved all of her family so very much, both her family of origin and the great children she and Bill raised together. She felt great comfort in knowing that all of you had settled into your middle-aged lives with partners, husband or wives, and children of their own. 5 grandchildren is quite a special gift to have.

I miss her already, and I know it will take time to let it settle in that she has moved on. But I refuse to let our memories and closeness leave me. 60 years!!

I will say her in my prayers. We are of an age when we don't know what the next day will bring. Take care of her dear husband, Bill. He hit the jackpot when he met and then married Karen, and he knew it. He told her the first evening...I'm going to marry you. Rather presumptuous of him, but he made it happen. And then came the 3 wonderful Krumwiede-Lewis kids! Quite a saga, and a life that really made a difference. She loved and was loved by so many.

Sue Kendrick (Moorhead for 50+years) - May 28, 2025 at 06:01 AM

EJ

“*Dear Bill, I wish to express my condolences to you and your family on the loss of this lovely lady. I hope that the memories of the love you shared will bring you some peace and comfort in this time of sorrow. Eddie Jesella*

Eddie Jesella - May 24, 2025 at 12:15 PM

YR

“ Your Denison Roommates purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Karen Louise (née Krumwiede) Lewis.



Your Denison Roommates - May 16, 2025 at 04:49 PM

HP

“ Harley Cox & Brandin Power planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Louise (née Krumwiede) Lewis.

Harley Cox & Brandin Power - May 12, 2025 at 10:21 AM

HP

“ Harley Cox & Brandin Power purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Karen Louise (née Krumwiede) Lewis.



Harley Cox & Brandin Power - May 12, 2025 at 10:21 AM

DM

“ Karen was a kind and gracious woman who had the rare ability to make you a better person simply by being in her presence. A true lady. Our deepest sympathy.

Richie & Deb Montesanti

Deb & Richie Montesanti - May 07, 2025 at 08:31 AM

RR

“ *She was a wonderful, caring, educator who I remember 17 years after being in her class. Rest in peace to a woman who made a positive impact on so many lives.*

Rose R. - May 02, 2025 at 08:31 PM

RK

“ *A sweet, sweet lady. When you saw her take a walk in the neighborhood, it brightened your day. We will miss that sight. All our love to the Lewis family. Richard and Ellie Kloch and family.*

Richard and Ellie Kloch - May 02, 2025 at 04:20 PM