



Karen Ruth Seymour

February 12, 2021

Karen Ruth (Yackel) Seymour of Liverpool, New York, died peacefully and surrounded by family at her home in Fairport on February 12, 2021. She was 77.

Karen taught second grade at Roxboro Road Elementary School in North Syracuse for more than 30 years. She began her career in 1967, teaching at Pitcher Hill and Bessie Riordan elementary schools before settling at Roxboro Road, where she stayed until she retired in 2004.

Karen's dedication and innovative spirit left a lasting impact on the school community. In the 1980s, she helped integrate computers into the school, taking on the role of computer technician when the technology was an exciting new frontier. She continually studied new teaching methods to ensure her second graders received the highest quality education. She worked late—her colleagues recall that the night custodian sometimes sent her home at 11 p.m. when he locked up. At home, she often handmade elaborate crafts to use in her lessons. After retiring, she returned to Roxboro Road as a volunteer, reading Beatrix Potter books to the students. She often brought puppets, to the children's delight.

Karen loved to travel and spent her retirement seeing the world. She has visited six continents and more than 20 countries, including Cambodia, Chile,

Egypt, England, Japan, New Zealand, Sweden, and Zambia. Most of her trips were small group tours with Odysseys Unlimited; she forged friendships with many fellow travelers over the years. She always returned home with photos, stories, and cherished gifts for her family.

Karen was born in Syracuse in 1944, the first of her parents' four children. She graduated from North Syracuse Central High School in 1961 and earned her bachelor's degree from SUNY Brockport in 1965. Together with her husband, William Seymour, Karen had a son, David, in 1967. Karen and William later divorced.

Karen is survived by her siblings: Kenneth and his wife, Mary Yackel, Ron and his wife, Lynne Yackel, and Marilyn and her husband, Edmund Eaves; her nieces and nephews: Christina (Michael) Schroeder, Ryan (Julie) Yackel, Jessica (David) Weibel, Alison (Randall) Stauffer and Abigail (Theresa Malatesta) Eaves; her great nieces and nephews; and her former husband, William Seymour. Karen is predeceased by her parents, Raymond and Ruth (Nuffer) Yackel, and her son, David Seymour.

Calling hours are on Wed., Feb. 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Fergerson Funeral Home, 215 S. Main St., North Syracuse. Private services will follow at 1 p.m. Friends and family are invited to stream live video of the service at FergersonFuneralHome.com The burial will follow at Oakwood Cemetery in Syracuse.

Donations may be made to the Rochester Presbyterian Home, on check memo: Creekstone, 256 Thurston Rd, Rochester, NY 14619 or the Cure Alzheimer's Fund via Karen's tribute page at curealz.org/giving.

Previous Events

Calling Hour

FEB **24**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Ferguson Funeral Home, Inc.
215 South Main Street
North Syracuse, NY 13212
(315) 458-1970
<http://fergersonfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Fergerson Funeral Home created a Calling Hours and Service in memory of Karen Ruth Seymour*



Fergerson Funeral Home - February 24, 2021 at 10:28 AM



“ *Karen Ruth Seymour*

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ *Karen and i shared a child together. Our son David passed two years ago, and I hope he is their to guide her. Although we separated in 1969 we remained very good friends through the years. I shall miss her very much. Bill Seymour.*

bill seymour - February 24, 2021 at 04:32 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Karen Ruth Seymour.*



February 23, 2021 at 10:14 AM

DG

“ I believe I met Karen when she and my mom were part of the same Bunco group back in the 70s. Very nice lady and my mom always spoke highly of her. My condolences to Ron, Mimi, Lynne and the entire Yackel family.

Debbie Groom - February 20, 2021 at 09:43 PM

MS

“ I am sorry for your loss.
Karen was a very devoted and dedicated teacher. I was a substitute teacher for her. I always had a good day in her classroom. She had very good plans for me.
After she retired, we remained friends. Debbie DiRoma, Margaret Yankay, and I enjoyed our lunches with Karen after she moved to the Canandaigua and Fairport area. She always had a smile for us.
I will miss her.
Marie Scarcella

Marie Scarcella - February 19, 2021 at 10:12 AM

JF

“ Karen was one of my best friends. We met i think in the 6th grade and graduated from high school together. She left to go to college in Brockport and I went to work at Carrier Corporation (where her father worked in the Purchasing Department). Karen was a bridesmaid at my wedding. We became pregnant around the same time and since I was 3 weeks late and she was 6 weeks early, our children were born closer together than expected. She became a 2nd grade teacher in North Syracuse. I left Syracuse for about 6 years but when I returned it was like I never left. Our friendship remained strong for 65 years. She introduced me to her Bunko group and I am still a member . Karen and I enjoyed going to the theater together - both the Famous Artists series in Syracuse and the Merry-Go-Round theater in Auburn. We loved going out to dinner afterwards. I envied her going on all her trips around the world but I always enjoyed seeing all her pictures afterwards. I will miss her a lot. She was a special friend.

janet franklin - February 18, 2021 at 03:35 PM

DD

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Deborah DiRoma - February 18, 2021 at 02:35 PM

DD

Marie Scarcella, Margaret Yankay and Debbie DiRoma sharing time with Karen. I met Karen through Beta Sigma Phi. She was everything a sister should be – a shining star! Her kindness and dedication to her students showed what an amazing lady Karen was. I miss miss you, Karen. You were truly a wonderful friend.

Deborah DiRoma - February 21, 2021 at 04:05 PM

J.

“ *I recall fifth grade at Park Hill school in East Syracuse NY. The teacher was Mrs. Yackel. A 10 year old student was Karen Yackel and even back then it was obvious that she was destined to be a teacher. I believe her brother Ken was also in our class. Please accept my condolences on the passing of a former classmate who left a lasting impression.*

Joseph Barnes

J.Barnes - February 18, 2021 at 02:34 PM

SK

“ *I'm so very sorry for your loss. Mrs. Seymour was my 2nd grade teacher back in 1967. I remember her leaving for maternity leave and being very upset by it. I remember her being one of my favorite teachers. I read her obituary in the paper and had to let her family know how much she meant to me. God Bless you all.*

Shari "Holbrook" Kallusch

Shari Kallusch - February 18, 2021 at 02:02 PM

LR

“ To KAREN'S Family,

So very sorry for your loss. I enjoyed going to wine club with Karen and hearing about all her interesting travels. She was a lovely lady.

Linda Robinson

Linda Robinson - February 18, 2021 at 12:19 PM