



Barbara T. Jasper

August 16, 1926 - December 8, 2019

Dover - Barbara ("Barbie") Turrell Jasper, a resident of the St Ann Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, in Dover, died Sunday morning, December 8, 2019 at Wentworth Douglass Hospital, following a massive stroke the prior Wednesday.

She is survived by a daughter, Anna, of Somersworth, and a son, Jeremy, and daughter-in-law, Karin, of Exeter. She was predeceased by her daughter, Penelope, in 1966 and her son, Jonathan, in 2009. Barbie was born in Malden, Massachusetts, on August 8, 1926, in circumstances as dramatic as the rest of her life turned out to be. Her parents had married against the bride's family's wishes. Her mother was the daughter of a New York financier and her father the son of poor factory workers in England. He had received a scholarship to study for the ministry at McGill University, and they met in Canada, while she was on vacation. Barbie's mother died in childbirth when Barbie was 18 months old, so her father sent her and her older brother—both toddlers—to Birmingham, England, to be raised by his sister and brother-in-law. Barbie's uncle commuted to his factory job by bicycle each day. She later said the hum of the workers coming home along the main road near their house on their bicycles each evening was loud enough to drown out speech. During World War II, Barbie's father returned to England to be with his children, and they survived the nightly bombing of Birmingham, spending most nights in a bomb shelter. One night, Barbie and her brother extinguished an

incendiary bomb in their backyard. Following secondary school, her brother joined the Birmingham Repertory Theatre Company, but was shortly drafted to join the forces fighting World War II. She followed him into the theatre, attending the Company's theatre school for two years, and then worked as assistant stage manager and an ingénue player in several small repertory theatre companies in Northern England. At the end of the War, she joined her father—now a naturalized American citizen—when he returned to the United States. She hoped to get into American theatre. She eventually landed a job with a small summer stock company in Quincy, Massachusetts, where she met Alan Jasper, of Milford, New Hampshire. They were married for 44 years, living in Wheeling, West Virginia, New York City, and Lansing, Michigan. In the early days, Alan worked as a radio announcer and would often take Barbie with him when he recorded jazz concerts at various nightclubs live. They went out dancing many nights and did a mean foxtrot. Eventually they settled in Southern New Hampshire and Maine, and had 4 children. Beginning in her 40's Barbie began following a vigorous fitness regime—including aerobics at least 3 times a week, free weight training, and exercise at home. She was an early advocate of exercise as a way to control her weight and enhance her life. After parting ways with Alan at 63, she lived on her own in Kennebunkport, Maine supporting herself with small jobs and gaining a reputation as an incredibly fit senior, often making friends among the younger women in her fitness classes, who were inspired by her agility, discipline and conviction that exercise provided the path to good self-esteem. At 86, she was still doing 10 full-length push-ups and 50 sit-ups a day, and her fitness enabled her to move easily and freely throughout her life.

Visiting hours will be held from 6 to 8 PM on Monday evening, December 16, 2019 in the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, December 21st at 12 noon at First Congregational Church, 141 North St., Kennebunkport, ME. Refreshments will be served directly after the ceremony. Burial will be

private. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations to the
Alzheimers Association (<https://www.alz.org/>) 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17,
Chicago, IL 60601

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **16**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory
811 Lafayette Road ·
Hampton, NH 03842
(603) 926-6500
info@remickgendron.com
<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

Memorial Service

DEC **21**. 12:00 PM (ET)

First Congregational Church
141 North Street
Kennebunkport, ME 04046

Tribute Wall



“ *Barbara T. Jasper*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *I had the good fortune to know Barbie and the Jasper family for over 40 years. Her husband Alan and I were business partners for many years in Kennebunk.*

My then wife and I enjoyed wonderful times with Barbie and her family on a regular basis. We watched their children grow up, shared special occasions together- dinner parties, picnics, celebrations, NH lake visits, and the chilled Manhattans that Barbie and Alan liberally shared with us.

Barbie was the steadfast anchor of the family I soon came to realize. She embraced family members with courage and love and without forgetting to offer her generous smile. She dealt with family issues face-on, rose to every challenge, and yes, kept to a fitness program all her life that would test the stamina of any Marine drill sergeant!

My heart goes out to the family. To Anna, Jeremy and Karin whose loss will take time to heal. Anna and Jeremy hold fast your mother's memory, what she taught you and the kindness and strength she bestowed on you as well as all her many friends. Remember too, how proud she was of you, her children.

PAX!

*Alexander Bridge
Boylston, NS Canada*

alexander bridge - December 22, 2019 at 05:12 PM

BC

“ Barbie kept in touch with me until last year. We were both members of aerobics classes with Kathy for years. We also got together socially as couples. Barbie and Alan were terrific hosts and we had so many enjoyable evenings together. I shall miss her newsy notes at Christmas. I shall keep her and her family in my prayers.
Roberta (Bobbi) Cardone

Bobbi Cardone - December 20, 2019 at 06:16 PM

GE

“ To Anna, Jeremy, and Karen:

I was so sorry to hear of your loss. Your mother was a welcoming, kind and loving woman. She had a wonderful sense of humor and always a cheerful word. She will be missed. My condolences to you and your family during this difficult time.

Georgia Flamburis

Georgia - December 16, 2019 at 01:13 PM

MK

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Your mom was such a nice cheerful lady to us every time we would see her visiting you. She will be missed. Our thoughts are with you, Anna and Karin at this most difficult time ❤️

Mark and Linda Kimball - December 16, 2019 at 12:30 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Barbara T. Jasper.*



December 16, 2019 at 09:21 AM



“ *Barbie served as an inspiration, for many years, to the entire Fit Over 50 and Strength & Stretch classes. Always cheerful, Barbie took three classes a week religiously, rarely missing a day. I remember the motion sensor lights turning off in the cavernous gym as we stood talking after class; Barbie then told us the dark reminded her of the Bombings she experienced during WWII when she and her brother ran down into the shelters in the pitch black. Those same bombings are the reason she never went to the fireworks on the 4th of July as they brought back the scary, horrible memories of the war.*

Barbie amazed me with questions about additional abdominal exercises she could perform at home, beyond what she already did on her own-and this was when she was 87! I fondly remember her stories, her strength, and her determination, and hope they inspire me as I age to be as upbeat and healthy as Barbie was throughout the years I knew her.

Katy Brandin (Spinnaker Point Fitness instructor)

Kathryn Brandin - December 13, 2019 at 11:17 PM



“ 105 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - December 13, 2019 at 01:23 PM

LC

“ *I've had the pleasure of getting to know Barbie from working at St Anne this past year. She always managed to make my day better with her kind words and hugs. I miss her already. May she Rest In Peace.*

Linda Carroll - December 12, 2019 at 10:18 PM