



Carol A Downer

October 14, 1950 - November 13, 2018

Hampton – Carol Downer, 68, died Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at her home following a courageous battle with cancer.

Raised in Somersworth, she was born in Rochester on October 14, 1950, daughter of the late Alfred J. and Gladys (Michaud) Veilleux. Carol was the 1969 valedictorian of Somersworth High School, received her BA with honors from Stonehill College in Easton, MA and Masters in Education from Lesley University in Cambridge, MA.

Mrs. Downer taught English at Winnacunnet High School for 33 years, retiring in 2014, where she served as the faculty advisor for the school's newspaper, The Winnachronicle. She leaves behind a legacy of hundreds, if not thousands, of lives she impacted as an educator, and was a positive influence on everyone who had the good fortune to know her. She cultivated countless lifelong friendships with her colleagues and students.

In addition to her passion for teaching, Carol's many talents included cooking, gardening, and planning family vacations. She was an enthusiastic (if, perhaps, not impartial) fan when it came to cheering on her sons and grandchildren on the sports fields. She also enjoyed reading and was a member of multiple book clubs with close friends.

Family members include her husband of 45 years, George P. 'Skip' Downer of Hampton; son Scott and his wife Michelle, and their children Aidan and Madeline of Sudbury, MA; her brother, Larry Veilleux of Somersworth; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Carol was predeceased by her son, Matthew, who died in 2006.

Relatives and friends may call on Friday, November 16th from 5 to 8 PM at the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton. Private burial will be in the High Street Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, it was Carol's wish that donations be made to the Matthew C. Downer Memorial Scholarship Fund C/O Winnacunnet Dollars for Scholars (<https://winnacunnet.dollarsforscholars.org>) PO Box 1593, North Hampton, NH 03862.

Previous Events

Calling Hours

NOV **16**. 5:00 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/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Carol A Downer*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *As a teacher, there are none better than Carol Downer. Her dedication and commitment to each and every student who crossed her path were without compare! Carol was the spark igniting our daughter Marie's interest in journalism at Winnacunnet and on into college. Carol's lasting legacy lives on in the lives of many, many people who were lucky to have known her. Our deepest sympathy and wishes for comfort to all in her family; we share in your loss.*

Renny, Kristie, Marie, Elizabeth and Grace Cushing

Kristie Conrad - November 17, 2018 at 09:14 AM



“ *She was my beautiful and intelligent English teacher and Winnachronicle advisor during the late 80's who taught me to have a "willing suspension of disbelief". God bless her and her family.*

Katie Corcoran - November 16, 2018 at 05:10 PM

MW

“ Skip and Scott, Stefan and I are so sorry for your loss. When I was a girl, my family would travel once per year to stay with Uncle George and Auntie Lea to have some of the best summer vacations ever. Jimmy, Carol, and Skip were older teenagers, young adults then. I was in awe of Carol. She was so beautiful, so smart and was in college! I loved how she took care of her family and through my young adulthood she was a role model for me. She really generated a lot of light and warmth to those around her. Her loss will be deeply felt by her community. I will say some prayers for you both as you deal with the grief and loss of losing Carol. Our deepest sympathies.

Mary Wenninger - November 16, 2018 at 09:59 AM

CW

“ My early memories of Carol are as a valued customer of my flower shop and WHS friend of my brother and sister. The summer that she retired from teaching she signed on for a plot in Hampton's community garden. From that point forward she became an intricate part of the garden's expansion project in 2016 and continued to lend her expertise and hard work where ever it was needed. When gardening was difficult for her, Skip was right there by her side, because it wasn't Carol's style to leave anything half done. The Hampton Victory Garden has lost a wonderful member and I will miss the friendship and camaraderie that Carol and I shared at the garden. Skip, please know that you and your family are in my thoughts today. I will be there in spirit.

Cindy Willis.



Cindy Willis - November 16, 2018 at 07:37 AM

MD

“ It is difficult to put into words how uniquely important Mrs. Downer has been in my life. I was so lucky to have her as a mentor and an example of what kind of person I hoped to become at a critical time during high school. She recognized my timid interest in writing and encouraged, supported, and believed in me beyond any other teacher I'd ever had. Mrs. Downer challenged me to be better in every facet of life. I still think about her all the time, when I'm writing or working or just out in the world, and her memory reminds me to do and be the best I possibly can. Truly a unique, strong, funny, generous, kind, inimitable person and the best teacher I have ever had. I am heartbroken to hear of her passing and am sending love to all of her loved ones and family members. She will be so sorely missed.

Maeve Dolan - November 15, 2018 at 10:50 PM

TL

“ An incredibly sweet and elegant lady.

TL - November 15, 2018 at 08:42 PM

TN

“ Skip,

Carol, a life so well lived and loved by so many. Our condolences go to you and Scott but our memories will always be the early years with the four of you and our children by your mother's pool. First Matt and now Carol but their love for you will last forever. Carol's infectious smile will keep her memory strong in our prayers, just as we pray for George, Lea, and Matt. We wish you solace and love during this difficult period.

Eileen and Chris

The Nevins' - November 15, 2018 at 05:21 PM

FB

“ Skip and Scott, we are so sad and heartbroken to hear this terrible news. Our memories of Carol in our old neighborhood of Homestead Circle are of a young mother full of life and love for her family. We are so very sorry. All our love,
Frank & Carol Bird

Frank Bird - November 15, 2018 at 03:06 PM

BW

“ Skip I am so sorry to hear this news. Carol was such a nice lady. We use to share Somersworth stories as you know. Her dad and mine new each other well. She was a great educator and wonderful person. My prayers are with you and your family. Brian Warburton

Brian Warburton - November 15, 2018 at 07:51 AM

JK

“ From the first time I met Carol, I felt her genuine light and warm spirit. She possessed a giving personality and sense of humor. Her ability to juggle many tasks at once was impressive. Carol loved her many roles in life. As a wife, mother, daughter, grandmother, community leader, teacher and friend...she embraced them all. Our love to Skip, Scott and her entire family.

*Janice and Larry Kobi
Bradenton, FL*

Janice and Larry Kobi - November 15, 2018 at 06:49 AM

CE

“ This is so very sad she was my English teacher at winnacunnet and also someone anyone could talk to if needed may she gain her golden wings and fly free thanks for being there for me when I needed you Rest In Peace



Corri Eaton - November 15, 2018 at 03:34 AM

LR

“ She taught me so much about journalism. Even when she was taking the dreaded red pen to all my stories.

I once got into some trouble with the principle over a story I wrote as editor in chief of the winnachromicle, she told me “If people aren’t upset you’re not doing you job right.” She taught me to be fearless in journalism and truth telling. It helped me in college too, when I became the head of the newspaper there. I published a really controversial huge story on the investments my college has, I followed her advice and it helped me immensely. The last time I saw her was in a supermarket where she congratulated me on my success in college..... I would push myself everytime I thought back to her red pen.

lucas rosa - November 15, 2018 at 12:40 AM



“ Marla Maryea lit a candle in memory of Carol A Downer



Marla Maryea - November 14, 2018 at 11:38 PM

KS

“ Skip ...I am so sad and heartbroken to hear of Carol's passing...I was so hopeful she had conquered the cancer....I truly am so sorryI am so grateful to have known her...keeping you and your family in my prayers.

Kim Davis Smith - November 14, 2018 at 09:28 PM

ND

“ Carol Downer is one if the most powerful and influential teachers I have ever had—from elementary through graduate school. Her passion lit up the entire classroom and was painted across her face in her infectious smile. Our Honors English class was so close-knit because of her, we were a small loving family. A day of learning with Mrs. Downer was literally an adventure, whether on a field trip or parked at our classroom desks. She is a woman I aspire to be like. She loved life and lived it fearlessly, pursuing new horizons without apology. I am forever grateful for my time with her and it will always cherish it. Thank you for sharing this amazing woman with so many of us.

Nicole Dion - November 14, 2018 at 08:23 PM

CC

“ Skip and Scott,
You both lost an amazing women. One that was highly respected and loved by all that knew her. She left her mark on this world educating and mentoring so many students and colleagues. We are all feeling your loss but have so many fond memories to see us through. I hope Carol is now at peace with Matt at her side.
Thoughts, love and prayers,
Cindy Cummings (Winnacunnet HS)

Cindy Cummings - November 14, 2018 at 07:14 PM

LB

“ Carol was my English teacher senior year of high school, and what an absolutely fantastic teacher and person she was, her passion for her work, and her dedication towards the success of her students was unrivaled and was ultimately the reason behind my pursuit of an English minor during my tenure at UNH. My thoughts and prayers go out to all family and friends.

Liam Bird - November 14, 2018 at 06:47 PM

KE

“ In many years past Carol and I ran the concession stand during baseball season -this was years before it had electricity. Carol was always positive, upbeat, and so organize. It was a joy to work with her night after night. Carol has come in and out of my life over the years - I will miss her.

kathi Edgar - November 14, 2018 at 06:35 PM

CL

“ Paul and I are so sorry for your loss. Carol was such a great mentor and colleague. Her “let’s get things done” attitude combined with a cheerful confidence and quick wit stays me always.

Charlotte Scott and Paul Lacourse - November 14, 2018 at 05:10 PM

BH

“ Skip, Scott and Family,

Forever grateful for the time spent with Carol. One amazing woman. Happy memories of days at WHS, then at Ocean Crest will stay with us forever. Carol is now reunited with Matt my favorite RJH Science teacher. May the road rise up to meet here. Sending love and hugs. Bridget and Tom

Bridget M. Hughes - November 14, 2018 at 04:43 PM

JW

“ Carol was the leader of our book club at Ocean Crest. She kept us on track as we discussed our monthly selections. She gardened, decorated the lobby, served as clerk on our board, and was so cheerful. We will miss her. Our sympathy to her wonderful husband Skip and family. Joan and Kurt Whalen

Joan Whalen - November 14, 2018 at 03:38 PM

GC

“ Dear Skip and Family,

We are saddened to hear of Carol's passing and send our sincere sympathy. May happy memories help ease your sorrow and may our Lord give you comfort and strength. May Carol Rest in Peace.
Gordon and Marie Champion

Gordon & Marie Champion - November 14, 2018 at 01:49 PM

KW

My thoughts and prayers are with you. My Carol rest in peace. I know she will meet up with Matt and share many memories. I know both are looking down and smiling. Carol left a huge legacy, as did Matt.

Kathleen Collyer, Rye Junior High
Jonathan Collyer, WHS

Kathleen Ward-Collyer - November 14, 2018 at 02:53 PM


Brandi
Baillarge

My heart hurts to hear of her passing. Mrs. Downer is an amazing woman. She was my highschool english teacher. My heart is with you and your family.

Sending lots of love.
Brandi Baillargeon Class of '13

Brandi Baillargeon - November 14, 2018 at 03:08 PM

KL

Mrs. Downer, thanks for being the kind, patient and amazing teacher that you were at WHS. I will always remember those days way back in 1974. Glad I got to see you this past summer at the beach. I would have hugged you tighter, had I know it would be the last time. Rest easy, God bless you.

karen lang - November 14, 2018 at 03:52 PM

CA

*Skip-
I am so sorry to hear of Carol's passing. I can only imagine the glorious reunion that she is sharing with Matt right now but I know that does not heal our broken hearts on Earth. Sending you many prayers and love.
-Carey (Stewart) Schutte*

Carey - November 14, 2018 at 04:09 PM

LB

*So so sorry for your loss. I had Mrs. Downer as my high school english teacher as well. I admired her very much, she had a way of making you feel at home in her class and would bake cookies for us. May she rest in eternal peace
Laurén Brown class of 2010*

Laurén Brown - November 14, 2018 at 04:27 PM

JC

*Scott and Michelle so sad to read of the passing of your Mom Scott, such a nasty disease to take her life still so young. She sounds like a wonderful person remembered by so many she touched teaching. Memories abound!
Judy and Bob Casper*

Judy Casper - November 14, 2018 at 08:15 PM

KS

*Carol was an amazing English Teacher who was devoted to her students. She brought out the best in her students. It was a pleasure to work with her. We are so sad to learn of her passing. We will remember Carol and Matt in our prayers.
Joe & Karen Souney*

Karen Souney - November 14, 2018 at 08:40 PM

GM

I was so very saddened to hear of Carol's passing. Although I did not know her very well, our paths crossed often at the SAU office. Carol always had an infectious smile and positive attitude. It was always a delight to see her. My prayers are with everyone who loved her.

Gina McLaughlin

Gina McLaughlin - November 17, 2018 at 08:26 AM