



Gretchen E. Behl

December 18, 1947 - December 2, 2025

Hampton - Gretchen E. Behl, 77, of Hampton, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 2, 2025.

Gretchen grew up on Long Island, NY and earned her Bachelors Degree from Wagner College in Staten Island, NY.

She earned a Masters Degree in German from the University of Pennsylvania and a Masters Degree in Library Science in Albany NY.

Gretchen worked for a time as a school librarian in New York State and had NYS teacher certification. In later years, she worked as a substitute teacher and library assistant.

In 1986, Gretchen moved to her beloved Catskill Mountains of New York where she operated the Bed and Breakfast "Haus Elissa" in West Shokan, NY. She enjoyed meeting the many travelers who stayed with her and feeding them her delightful baked goods. Gretchen spent many joyful hours exploring the trails of "The Peekamoose", watching birds and identifying them by their calls, and taking in the beauty of NY's Catskills and Hudson Valley.

In 2010, she decided to spend her retirement years in Hampton, NH - another area close to her heart- where she explored the many beautiful sights along

the coast, discovered genealogical connections to the local area, and visited "Petey's" for local seafood.

Gretchen was a well-read, well-traveled, well-educated, articulate, and enthusiastic person who lived a simple yet interesting, diverse life. She had a friendly and engaging spirit that would draw people in, and she seemed to make friends wherever she went. She was also a wonderful neighbor to many.

Some of her favorite travel memories included a trip to Austria where she spent her Junior year of college as well as several summer trips to Nova Scotia.

Gretchen enjoyed reading, books, trains, and artwork from Hudson River School artist Thomas Cole and artist Melissa Harris. Gretchen was a devoted fan of Bruce Springsteen. She enjoyed coordinating her wardrobe with whimsical details. Gretchen was especially fond of Washington Irving, whose books inspired the names of her beloved departed cats: Rip Van Winkle, Imp, and Katrina.

Gretchen leaves behind many dear friends- far and wide - who will miss her greatly and are eternally grateful for the positive, enriching impact she had on their lives.

All services will be private.

Tribute Wall

SL

“Gretchen and I were friends and neighbors for about 20 years! We shared conversations every day and pool times as well. We shared similar interests and always complained about the weather whether it be too hot or too cold!! We also shared our love for Hallmark Christmas movies. I will miss her most for our every day conversations! The days are not the same without our connections. My thoughts and prayers are with all who knew her.

Rest in peace my friend.

Sue Launi

Sue Launi - December 29, 2025 at 11:29 AM

BD

“I met Gretchen while working for the Hampton Rec Department. During Covid, she would come to our “picnic in the park” gatherings —eager for a chance to get out of the house and spend time with other Hampton seniors. She also loved joining us on the Rec bus for trips all around the state.

Surprisingly, Gretchen and I bonded over Hallmark movies. She had a particular crush on actor Ryan Paevey, and I still chuckle whenever I think of how her face would light up whenever his name came up. It's one of my fondest memories of her.

Rest in peace, dear friend.

Beth Dupell - December 12, 2025 at 12:00 AM

EL

“ I first met Gretchen at a meeting of Hampton Seniors, pre-Covid. We went on day trips together through the Rec Department. She loved the train trips! Gretchen first introduced me to Moxie (the soft drink) and I'll always remember her as the "moxie" girl.

Elaine - December 08, 2025 at 01:44 PM

EM

“ I didn't know Gretchen, however after read about her life, her travels, her B and B, she sounds like an amazing lady that lived a life many of us could only dream of. May she rest in peace. Love and prayers go out to all who knew her, and loved her, God Bless



Elizabeth A Marquis - December 07, 2025 at 02:07 AM