



## Karen Ruth Karni

January 10, 1941 - July 26, 2022

Karni, Karen Born January 10, 1941 to Carl and Bertha (Westerin) Soderberg in Soudan, MN. Graduated as co- valedictorian of her class (1959) at Tower-Soudan High School. Graduated with 'distinction' in medical technology in 1963 from the University of Minnesota. Graduated with an Ed M. degree in 1969 from the University of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY. Earned a PHD in Education from the University of Minnesota. Worked as a clinical laboratory professional in Bar Harbor, Maine, Virginia, Minnesota, and Buffalo, NY. Returned to the University of Minnesota as an instructor in 1970, following those years as a faculty member at the University of Buffalo. At the U of M, she served on the faculty for 30 years, attaining the rank of full professor. She was the Director of Medical Technology Program for 16 years, retiring in 2000. Karen married Michael Karni of Cook, located at the western end of Lake Vermilion, on December 26, 1964 at her family's church om Soudan. Karen and Mike (who earned a PHD in American Studies in Immigration Studies) have two sons, Erik and Jake, each a source of great pride in their lives. Erik and Jennifer Cox were married in 1998 and they have three beautiful children. Jake has been the beloved 15 minute Uncle to them, as well as the one who has kept up the Karni home in New Brighton. Life at the cabin as brought considerable joy to the family. It has also been a welcoming experience for scholars in ethnic studies as well as laboratory science scholarship. Many have worked at the dining room table "Up North" or pontificated on the deck. In addition, Karen traveled to many countries over 40 in total, including Australia,

Panama, Kuwait, Hong Kong, most of Europe and many times in Scandinavian. She loved these adventures. Karen was elected president of the Minnesota Society for Clinical Laboratory Science in 1992; president of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (1998). She also served on or chaired numerous U of M committees. As an academia, research and publications were important. She was the author/editor of two books, over 50 peer reviewed scientific articles, and 60 workshops. She also procured \$1,5 million for two endowed professorships in laboratory science, the only two in the nation, together with over \$250,000 for student scholarships. Karen and Mike cherished their ethnicity, quality education, opportunities to grow and succeed and to return good things to their professions. Still, their greatest joys were in being at the lake, enjoying family, friends and colleagues. For KK, additional pleasures were in picking berries, making jams, jellies, pickles and salsa. She believed she lived a fulfilled life, and through this voyage, wishes to thank all of you who enriched it. Karen was preceded in death by her parents, brother and husband. She is survived by Erik (Jennifer) and Jake Karni and grandchildren Emma, Nickolas and Finn and numerous nieces and nephews, as several aunts and uncles.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Lutheran Church of Columbia Heights  
1555 40th Avenue NE  
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

## Memorial Service

AUG 3. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

First Lutheran Church of Columbia Heights  
1555 40th Avenue NE  
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

# Tribute Wall



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Karen Ruth Karni.* ”



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August 01, 2022 at 10:39 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Karen Ruth Karni.* ”



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August 01, 2022 at 02:02 PM