



Kathleen Costa Gathering Place

Please use this as a gathering place for whatever you care to offer about your relationship with and/or feelings about Kathleen. You can post anonymously or not--whatever you're most comfortable with. You don't need to sign in or even click the "comment" buttons at the top. Just scroll down and start typing your entry below. All comments are saved automatically and immediately.

I remember the first time I met Kathleen was a tour of San Ramon Campus because I had just been hired. She approached me with a warm smile and said my name perfectly (99% don't the first time). We chatted about you and DVC and I quickly learned what a great person she was. She will be missed by many and I'll always remember her fondly.

* * *

Missing you so much, Kathleen. I can't get the sound of your voice and your laughter out of my head, nor do I want to. I'll be raising a glass of a well-chosen red wine to you this evening, and will ruminate over the wonderful comments included below. Ruth

What an honor to have known Kathleen. She was a kind, but tough when needed as well. I am sure she is in Heaven working on fixing the issues with all the processes that are in place. You will be in my thoughts and prayers. Jose Mauricio Najarro

Dear Kathleen,

I am thinking of you, keeping you company from afar. I miss you, your constant smile, and the permanent twinkle in your eye. You are constantly in my thoughts. Sending you a warm hug and all my affection. Isabel (posted by Ruth; written by Isabel)

* * *

Dear Kathleen,

I know Steve is reading this to you as you rest. I am sending loving thoughts your way and sharing my gratitude that you were part of my life. You have always been an inspiration to me. I so often wished I could be more like you because of your courage to speak your mind, your smarts to be so right when you did, and your ability to look so good while doing it all. You have always been there for me at work and in friendship. I've always admired your adventurous spirit and love of travel and so enjoyed your stories. I admired your going to Paris on your own and loved how you figured out how to eat alone in a restaurant. I loved

how you and Steve enjoyed your trip to Japan together and how you went to Morocco last year and gazed at the desert with your dear friend. I hope these good memories make you smile as Steve reads them to you.

*With admiration, appreciation and love, love, love,
Ellen*

** * **

Dearest Kathleen:

I've always loved your spirit, your independence, integrity, leadership, fashion and flair. You've always been game for adventure and wonder. I am holding you close, keeping you in my heart. I will take you along on my travels and we can marvel at the beauty and mystery of the world, enjoy all the flavors—food, wine, color, song, dance, art and architecture—that enrich our bodies and souls. Dear friend, thank you for your love and support. Always, Dorrie

** * **

*It's a beautiful day with clear sky, birds chirping and green and gold layers floating all around. You're a fighter and I want you and Steve to know that we are with you and that we are sending strength and love. In the small and large moments, keep finding the time to smile and be amazed in all that you do. Ride the waves, dance in the rain and keep hope out in front. Your courage and tenacity is what makes you amazing. **Cathy WW***

** * **

Kathleen - How I wish I were sitting with your right now soaking in your radiant company and listening to your infectious laugh. I am thinking about you all the time, and I would give anything to provide some comfort to you. What a warrior you continue to be with this illness. It was such a treat to see you recently and to enjoy your wit and insights over wine (me) and healthier libations (you). I am sending you my heartiest hug right now and hoping that you feel it in some way. I will write again, and I hope you will hear from Steve's reading of these many comments how deeply loved, genuinely respected and appreciated you are. Ruth

Dear Kathleen - I remember the first time I began to know a little bit about you, other than that you were a counselor and a UF leader. It would have been in Spring 2006, as we were getting ready to put on our first Expanding Your Horizons event. There were many people who were critical in making that day a success, but you have always stood out for me as someone who cared deeply about what we were trying to accomplish and who was willing to do whatever was needed to help that day - never looking for recognition or thanks - just being capable and positive and matter-of-fact and honest and present. Since then I have gotten to know you more, to see your incredible heart, your strength and courage, your determination, and your amazing moral compass. You have been an inspiration as a colleague and as a friend. I am so grateful for your presence. With much love - Rachel

Dear Kathleen, I have always been a little intimidated by your fierce intelligence, incisiveness, and keen sense of fashion. You seemed never afraid to speak your mind and express your opinion, which you did with certainty, eloquence, and...you were usually right! I will treasure all the times that we spent as deans problem-solving, as well as the memory of your smile, your laugh, and your strength. My goodness woman, you are a strong little spitfire!! I admire you tremendously. Much love, Kim



Always elegant.

* * *

Again, no words to say, except thank you for keeping me informed, and for putting me through to her today. I can't tell you how much that meant to me. I won't call again; we said our goodbyes as much as we can. I so wish I could be there for a last hug, hand hold, whatever

* * *

Please tell Kathleen how much I love her and how grateful I am to have had her in my life. She will always be a special person in my heart. I will make my decision about coming to see her and let you know by the end of the day.

* * *

Just wanted to send love to you. And to say to Kathleen (and you can share it with her or not, either way totally fine) that I love her so so much. And that she is not alone, and will never be alone. ❤️❤️

* * *

Hi Kathleen, This is _____. I'm just calling to say I love you and I'm so grateful we had the chance to visit last month. You are such a dear and generous friend now and always.

I am glad to know that Steve is with you at this precious time.

Okay,

Send a postcard.

* * *

Back at you big brother.

Long distance crying is so unsatisfying.

I do hope that Kathleen is comfortable.

And I'm heartsmacked by your sense of helplessness. But while nothing anyone says to the contrary will change the fact that you will feel like that. But here's the contrary- just being there for and with your wife is a lot. More than any medicine or magic. It's important. A sip of fluid a touch. Important.

You are both warriors.

* * *

Dear Kathleen,

There is so much I would like to say to you in person. I hope these words will let you know something of what I feel. There are so many things to love about you. Here are some of the qualities: your honesty, courage, sense of humor, your strong sense of justice, your flair and your love of beauty. But you are so much more than these--or any--words. I am so very glad for all the times we spent together, even the times that were most difficult. I will miss you a lot, but I feel you right now as a precious being shining in my heart. I know I will always be able to find you there.

** * **

kathleen, my sister, you have always had a natural rhythm and grace about you and you would effortlessly grace people close to you with your genuinely unassuming presence. i noticed that you had a vision for your life that you lived up to faithfully, and fiercely. i love and admire many things about you..... and often think of you under the most unusual occasions, such as when i might buy bacon for a special breakfast, a guilty pleasure, that you would always specify needed to be "extra crisp" and especially when cooking a new recipe, surely when making cream of anything soup, or purchasing skinny jeans. sending gratitude to you for being you.

** * **

We are heartbroken and there are no words. We just want you to know that whatever we can do, we are here. Sending love and prayers your way.

So sorry to hear about Kathleen please let us know if we can do anything to help you through this tough time.

** * **

So much to say and there's no good words to use. Later for that, as you wrote, I reckon. Our love to Kathleen and you always.

It's me now, Steve. Your generous email message has moved us and guided us. We hold on to you both tightly, though we are not there, and we will be together in the future sometime, all of us who love you both so much. There won't be words then either, but there will be all of us, with whatever we have to give.

Aloha pumehana

** * **

I think in some small way, I've been saying goodbye to Kathleen ever since the cancer reoccurred. I can't help but reflect that here it is Passover again and two years ago when she

celebrated with my family and me, I wondered how long it would be until I really had to say goodbye. I have been in awe of her strength in dealing with her disease and her amazing desire to continue to live the best life possible. And I can only acknowledge and thank you for your incredible support and love as you both have gone through this.

Kiss her for me. I love and will miss her.

* * *

I'm thinking of you and with you in spirit as you are resting in your final moments of this life. I'm not ready to say goodbye, as I'm sure you and everyone who loves you must be feeling, but never the less it's important to me to let you know what a remarkable woman I think you are. I've loved you from the first time I met you at Steve and dad's softball game. You were always cool and easy to connect with, someone I gravitated to in our family when I didn't know where or who to land with. I respect your mind, your curiosity, your energy and passion for living a vibrant life. I respected and admired your choice to not have children and instead go for new and exciting challenges and adventures. You embody many things I want for myself in life and looked to you as a role model. But most of all, I cherished the friendship you built with my parents, and in particular my mom. They both love you (and Steve) so much, and they are both quite picky about who they love to spend time with! As you likely know, you were my mom's closest friend. I know you valued friendship greatly and I imagine you led the way to create that opening with my mom. I was so grateful my mom got to have you and the experience of traveling, dinner dates, and indulging each other's interests in the arts. I know what a special thing female friendships are and I can't thank you enough for creating that bond with my mom. I also remember as a young teenager, you told me that after your first divorce you realized how important it was to maintain close female friendships and I always held onto that advice (and completely agree)! I have so much more I could say, and I'm so heartbroken I won't get to talk with you in person again, but I wanted you to know how much I admired your life and loved our connection. You will always be in my heart. You will always be remembered in our family. We all love you so much.

* * *

Thank for you for letting me know. I was afraid this day was coming, but it is so hard to accept. Give her a kiss goodbye for me.

* * *

This morning when I was getting ready for work, it struck me that it was an effort to take a deep breath, as it has been for the last few days, and I thought to myself how horrible it would be to have a respiratory illness (having heard people who had COVID-19 describe how it felt that like they were breathing underwater). In reality, I can breathe just fine but I commented

to ____ about this and he asked what I thought it was caused by, and I thought: grief. Grief about the state of the world, and the economy, and lives lost...

Within the next minute, he happened on the message from Sue about Kathleen, and I suddenly felt what it really means to have a heavy heart. I don't know if I ever felt it that way before. It was a real, physical feeling in my chest.

I can only imagine what you both have been going through these last few months.

Sometimes people prefer just to get through issues themselves, partly for not wanting to burden others with their problems and partly just because they prefer to be more private, and I suspect that it has been a bit of both for you and Kathleen, but I wish that we could have been there to help with some of the issues that must have come up. I know that it is not likely that we could have been of any real help, but even just to be available so you could ventilate...

We had thought of taking a quick trip to visit you last month but any travel plans came to a screeching halt. Now it's even worse and the thought that we can't be there with you at this time is heartbreaking. I don't know if there is anything I can say to ease your pain but please know that you and Kathleen are in our thoughts and always in our hearts. Please tell her how much we love her and how much we cherish her kinship and friendship even though the miles and time have kept us all apart so much over the years. I wish her comfort in the days to come and I wish you the strength to help her through this as peace will come.

** * **

I know my mom spoke to her yesterday and thank you for sharing my email with Kathleen. I know you're there with her, but I also don't want her in the hospital having spoken or heard from people yesterday and then not hearing from us again. Do you think it would be ok if I write a small note to Kathleen each day? I just don't want her to feel alone or that we have said goodbye early and then she's alone without friends. And if what I'm proposing is too much, totally fine too! I just don't want her to feel alone.

** * **

Thank you for the update. I was fearing this Heartbreaking news. Kathleen has put up a tremendous fight, in true Kathleen fashion, and she could not have a better or truer partner through this ordeal. Sending love.

** * **

Thinking of you both, all the time. Give Kathleen a kiss for me...

** * **

Dear Kathleen,

I am writing to thank you for being a wonderful aunt to me. I know you are not technically my aunt, but I reserve that term for the strong and loving women of our family who always show great care for us.

I want to thank you for being kind, funny, honest, thoughtful, and for being a great partyer, always game to laugh at a joke and make a good one yourself. Our family is better because you are in it, you always bring joy and positive energy whenever we all spend time together. I also want to thank you for being a great friend to my Mom and Dad. Thanks for taking my mom on a few trips and not leaving her at the train station while she chit-chats with a random person for way too long. My parents always enjoy hanging out with you and Steve, which has freed up more than a few weekends for me. This is exactly what a wonderful aunt is supposed to do. Thank you.

** * **

Dear Kathleen and Steve,

I wanted to send my love to you and let you know that I am thinking of you. I have thought of you often in the last few months. It has been a crazy school year, as always. I remember being scared to start doing the accreditation work at the college. Kathleen, you were one of the first people who encouraged me that I could do this job. You always see more potential in me than I do in myself. Your friendship has always been so important to me! I wish we could grab a glass of wine or a cocktail to chat 😊 Please know how much I care for you.

** * **

Hi Kathleen! Still thinking of you! I hope today is better than yesterday, even if it's in the smallest of ways. I was thinking about how fun your visit to NYC was. I copied the pic below. Planning to use some time to print and frame pics soon! I would send balloons but I think Covid is messing up deliveries, so just imagine your room filled with them from me!



* * *

Hi Kathleen: I just wanted to tell you that I love you. You were always there for me at SRC and in our personal lives. I really enjoyed our dinners, A's games and love for baseball, our love for travel and shopping, not having kids (lol) and the going away party that you threw me. You are sweet but hard. You always cared but didn't care what people thought about what you did or said. I feel like I am a lot like you. You are a great role model and you inspired me to keep climbing in my career. You were always pushing me. Thank you for everything.

* * *

*Dear Kathleen and Steve,
We just got the news and we are so sorry and heartbroken.
We wish we could visit and be with you but please know that we are sending our love to you both.
If there is anything we can do for you, we are here.*

* * *

Yes, and any words the rest of us have left are nowhere near enough. Not even close. As much as I'm sure she knows how much we all love her, if it's appropriate and right, please tell her again. Let her know how grateful we are to have had yet another strong Lieberman girl added to the cousins when she came into your life -- and ours. And not just because of her killer asparagus salad, the famous winning smile or her incredible sense of style, but because of her strength of character, purpose and conviction. We recently watched a home video from July 4th 1999 and in it, she is just dazzling with her funny sense of humor and the light that shines through her smile and her spirit. She made our family so much better. Thinking of you with love

* * *

I recall Steve often saying, my wife Kathleen is a counselor in your district. Little did I know that just over a decade later you would be my boss, but more than that a rescuer.

In leaving CCC and coming to DVC- Pleasant Hill Campus I felt a bit lost. While I loved my job I was struggling with my transition from being a counselor to an entry level manager. While CCC was going through many challenges at the time, I always appreciated the "family" environment felt amongst all employees. As I pondered, whether or not moving into management was a mistake, you called me about a need at the San Ramon Campus. I'd visited the campus a few times and feel in love with the vibe there. When a position came available, I didn't hesitate to apply and felt so fortunate to get the interim position and be able to work with and for you. The environment at SRC was what I was missing and I will forever be grateful for you and the others at the San Ramon Campus giving me the opportunity you did.

You were an amazing boss and mentor. You believed in me and gave me many opportunities to learn and grow as a leader/manager. I wish I had more time to glean some things from you before you retired, but I was also happy that you would have time to focus solely on what matters most, family, traveling, shopping, spending time with friends and eating good food.

During this time, I simply want to say thank you and remind you of what a phenomenal woman you are.

You are: Kathleen: Kind-hearted , Amazing, Thoughtful, Hip (always dressing so sharp!), Loving, Elegant, Engaged, Never-forgotten!

** * **

Dearest Kathleen,

I want to thank you for every sweet memory we share. You were my rock with Ivy's_ illness and passing. Seeing you at her memorial meant the world to me. But, your true talent has always been keeping us all connected. Our dinners out and celebrations were all thanks to you! You have always made the time for all the people you hold dear. You are a gem! I truly adore you for your giving nature and kindness. When I finally make it to Paris you will be there with me in my heart!

Melody

** * **

Dear Kathleen,

Your friendship has been a true gift in my life. Thank you for being the kind of friend I strive to be. I treasure the time and the talks we have been able to share together. I appreciate how you always make me feel important to you by spending time with me and listening to what's going on in my life. I hope I make you feel the same. I have always admired your zest for life... your love of travel, good food, wine and spending time with friends. I aspire to be more like you my friend.

You will always be in my thoughts and I'm so grateful to have you in my life.

** * **

I am so incredibly heartbroken for you and Kathleen. If possible, please convey to her how much I love her, and how I am carrying her in my heart as she goes through this transition. Jesus Christ! If there is ANYTHING I can do, please email or call me at . . .

** * **

My mind was flooded with thoughts of you tonight as I baked until midnight. Baking is my therapy as you know. I made biscottis. It is now a few minutes after midnight and I want to say HI and let you know how hard I am praying for you and love you.

You are one amazing woman and have been such an influence in my life. I have always admired your love of travel, food and wine! You are a fashion model too! Your style of clothing is classy and beautiful.

You have been my colleague, Dean and most importantly a wonderful, supportive, loving friend. Thank you for making my life better because you shared a slice of it.

I love you and praying for you.

* * *

Again I hope today you find something more comforting than yesterday. I woke up and looked at my purple velvet chair and thought of you and our conversations about interior design. I have always thought you were the epitome of style and class. I'm so thankful I have you to discuss design and fashion with (since my mom only likes beige and black haha). Today I would've sent you flowers, so imagine your room filled with flowers everywhere.

Love you so so much,

* * *

I heard you're in the hospital. I'd give anything for one last lunch and a chance to gossip and catch up. Your friendship is a blessing, an enjoyable blessing. You know I pray for you, think of you affectionately and greatly value your great honesty and truthfulness. Whatever is next, you will meet it with the same inner grace & style that I love about you. I love you.

* * *

I'm just sending all my love and thoughts to you and Kathleen. Know I'm with you in soul.

* * *

I was one of the last SRC hires that you brought to our campus, and I wanted to thank you for all the work you've done. The start of my time at SRC coincided with your departure, but please know that I appreciate the deeply intelligent and thoughtful choices you have made over the years to create the community that I have come to call home. I remember your parting words when I came to visit on your last day—you put your arm around my shoulders, and said, with a reassuring squeeze, "Don't let the boys push you around." I was startled by your candor, and immediately understood the kind of leader you are, and wished we had more time to learn together. (And I can promise you that I've taken your words to heart!)

The SRC that I know and love was built by your hands, mind, and heart, and I marvel every day that I have the privilege of being part of it all. Thank you for the wonderful gift you have given to everyone at SRC.

With love and admiration,

* * *

Dear Cousin Kathleen,

I was very glad to see you at our reunion last year. I almost did not go but glad that I did. That time caused me to revisit "scenes" from our youth at the time. And recently, with the world going on around us, I have had more time to reflect back on those, and our, times together and for that, I will always be grateful. We went off on our own ways for many years but know that you have always had a place in my heart. Love you Cousin.

** * **


All my life, I have looked up to you - your smile, insight, and sense of humor. I write now to tell you how much I love you, how much you mean to me, and how I wish you comfort, warmth and peace now and always.

And to Steve, much much love. I am with you both spiritually, and you are with me. Kip

** * **

We are soo sorry to hear you may not be leaving the hospital. We know it's been difficult for the both of you the last few years as you battled your illness. It seems doubly unfair that this is occurring at a time when visiting is so difficult. We would've loved to have visited one more time. I've always had fond memories of visiting you and your family at your ranch when we were kids. We always felt welcome by everyone, esp by your mom.

And, Kathy, I remember some fun times early on at Manny's office in Hayward.

We will miss you and...send all of our love with you .

May God keep you in the palm of his hands and many peaceful blessings be with you!!

** * **

I love Kathleen. I have such happy memories of her at the college when she would come into my office and we would chat about all sorts of things, or go roaming around the college or a million other things. I always thought of her as "brave" although I know she didn't think of herself that way.

She did good!. Basically she started as an "office assistant" with Debby Silvey ending up in Administration at San Ramon and all those steps in between. She amazed me with her gentleness and insight and fortitude. I know she was highly thought of at the District.

I know we went to your home a couple of times and I admired her style. (I think I even gave her a teacup/saucer gift to add to her collection.) Kathleen did have style. I wouldn't term it elegant and she wasn't pretentious but she was always so stylish.

I also admired how she would travel all over the world without a qualm and often on her own. Braver soul than me.

I can't express to you how much I love Kathleen and am so happy she was in my life. Of all the people I've known, she is one of the sweetest, kindest, gentlest of souls. Why this had to happen to someone so beautiful is beyond comprehension. I hope she will look for me in whatever existence there is after this one.

Please tell her how much she has meant to me and how much I love her.

* * *

I love you very much Kathleen. I so thankful for all of your love and support all of my life but especially as my mom was sick. I remember you were so good to my dad and I when you visited. You listened and sat with us as we tried to process our new reality.

Thank you for being there for me, for listening to me as I cried and complained about anything in my life. You were one of my mom's best friends and I see why: you are so kind, understanding, loving, smart, and strong. You are so good to those you choose to call friends. All of the advice you gave and time you gave to listen - I can never thank you properly.

Thank you so much for coming to visit DC and inviting me to stay a few nights with you. It was a much needed break as I looked for work and a respite from my (loving but at times, annoying) family. I loved catching up and visiting the National Museum of African American History and Culture. I remember you were so calm and patient as I worried whether or not we'd get tickets on a random week day. You are always so calm. I am so thankful and proud to call you a friend and one of my confidantes.

I will always remember you reminding me that I am resilient, just like my mom. Thank you for that. I try my best to remind myself of that when I need it. You are always supportive and know the right thing to say. I love you very much Kathleen and always will.

* * *

Again I hope you are as comfortable as life allows right now and that something today is better than yesterday. Woke up thinking of you. I was online browsing and ran across a small gold charm necklace that said "happy camper" on it and immediately thought of your and Steve's camper. And then was also scrolling on Instagram and saw a border collie doing some tricks. Maybe it's a sign that camper is hangin out with us :) Camper was super lucky to have you as her mom. And so in honor of her, I would have sent a bunch of border collie puppies to your room, so imagine it filled... including your bed! Wish I could be there with you.

* * *

We were so very touched and moved that Kathleen came out to spend some time with _____ when she was ill, but still able to enjoy the company of friends. That meant a great deal to all of us – Remy too!

** * **

Kathleen, we didn't know each other long, but when I started at the SRC you treated me with kindness and caring, I'm honored to know you... I'll pray for you and your family, thank you always for being such a nice person....

** * **

I just wanted you to know that I'm thinking about you both and sending you lots of love.

I love you dearly.

** * **

I think about you all the time and you are constantly in my heart and prayers. I just want you to know that how much your friendship means to me. When we worked together you were always kind and encouraging to me. I will never forget you talking to yourself and me constantly saying, "What?" After awhile, I stopped asking as I knew that you were feeling frustrated or thinking really deeply about something. You and _____ were always my favorites.

You have always been my inspiration for traveling. I admire your adventurous and courageous nature. I live vicariously through your adventures. I also admire how much you enjoy your own company when traveling, as well as being with Steve or dear friends.

But mostly, I just want you to know how much I really, really love you. I have appreciated you being there for me - supporting and mentoring me. Going on walks, brunches, dinner or whatever, because anytime spending time with you is a treat. Thank you also for the comfort and perspective you've given me over the years.

Please take good care of yourself, I know Steve will take good care of you! He loves you so much and you are loved by many, many people - me included!

PS. I love the picture that you gave me for my office. Whenever I look at it, I think of you.

** * **


I just heard that you're in the hospital and life is getting really tough for you. Can't begin to imagine, dear friend, fighting the challenges of cancer while the world around you is in such chaos. Talk about the roller coaster of life.....sometimes it just sucks!!


I've been thinking about our friendship.....over 50 years.....and what a blessing its been!! We've shared a lot.... the crazy times of high school, marriages, losses, and so many other ups

and downs of life. I love that we kept our friendship going and made our time together on the first Friday of every December a priority.....the sharing, laughing, and reminiscing over a few glasses of wine were priceless moments I will always treasure. Thank you for your unconditional love and understanding. Thank you for being fearless and totally convicted in your beliefs and passions. You inspired me to be a better me.....you made a difference in this crazy world.

Rest, my friend, and know you are loved by so many.

* * *

Hello, my friend, Hello.....  *some messages of comfort sent with my love to my beautiful and brave friend, Kathleen*


What's goin' on 

It's Easter Sunday and the Pope alone in St. Peters Basilica has blessed us all and sent a message of HOPE and LOVE..


There is beauty in the world, you are beautiful, and you are with us today!

The sun is out, the sky is blue and YOU are together with your soul mate STEVE by your side on this journey..

(I know you will forgive him if he now has that scruffy beard.).

Yesterday..... 

If I were to write a book about our friendship, I'd start with the beginning.....my initial impression "nice legs", then, she's nice to my kids, then, I like this woman, then, oh man, she is so good for Steve (and good to Steve), then, our common pleasures- our men, our varied deep relationships, our beliefs, The City(ACT, Art museums,lectures, concerts, restaurants) the causes, our careers, our talks, our travels, our nests, our fab-4 traditions, our struggles.

The Long and winding road to your door.....  *THE END*

(Or, as you would say, "that's all I got")

* * *

Hello dear friend,

I'm peering into my oven, checking on a cheesecake I made for Robbie's birthday. He's going to be 39 on Tuesday. Where has the time gone?

Last week on the occasion of our 45th anniversary, I pulled out the dusty album and marveled at our wedding party crowded on the altar steps. All those bridesmaids in yellow frocks (Tracy Press word--not mine) and floppy spring hats Guys dressed in pale blue tuxedos. What a hairy troop they were--goodness. While perusing the photos, I remembered our Delta days, our body fitness class with Mrs. Downer--running the track and feeling so fit! Those were the days. Our bodies were bikini ready for those one-day trips to Santa Cruz. What was that we slathered on our bodies? Something mixed with baby oil. We must have sizzled and fried our epidermis every beach day. Guess we didn't know much about skin-care in our younger days.

Yesterday, I was thinking about our first apartment on Gadding Rd. I think it's because so many people are having trouble paying their rent. I remembered there was a Mexican family with several children in a two-room apartment. I wonder where they are today. I was thinking about Aunt Jan's apartment and how the retired folks didn't like us living in their cul-de-sac. They probably thought we were loud party-crazy college girls. Little did they know we were quiet, weed-smoking, air-drum, air-guitar playing party girls. So mellow, yellow.

OOPs! Just realized I was supposed to tent the cheesecake half-way through the baking. Geez, it looks like a brownie cake not a cheesecake for crying out loud. Rob will have to be satisfied with a Portuguese-style brown cheese cake. I thought I was a pretty good cook, but upon reflection, I realized that's a lie. I like to cook, but I'm a bit of a free-wheeler. My meals are tasty, but they really shouldn't go public. I've got to give Larry credit. That man will eat just about anything.

In about an hour my sisters and brothers, nieces and nephews will be Zooming. I've spent so much time on Zoom the past month for work, that I'm a bit Zoom fatigued. I'm not sure what the Portuguese version of the Brandy Bunch will look like, but I'll try to snap a photo of us to share with you.

I'm hoping you are alert enough to sit through this letter. If so, I'm going to keep writing like it's 1968 and we are in Mr. Gimbastini's French 3 class writing notes to each other. I think we were the only friends writing notes in French--so chic!

I'm planning to write another letter tonight. Be well until then. Sending you a warm hug for now.

** * **

My friendship with Kathleen has meant so much to me for over 40 years. The story of how we met has been told so many times I'm sure most of my friends can repeat it verbatim, down to what Kathleen was wearing. How unlikely that our meeting would turn into a lifelong friendship through so many changes, but I think we saw something in each other that we didn't want to let slip us by.

And so over the years I've enjoyed so many adventures with Kathleen, shared a lot of joy and suffered thru some tragedies. I've been made stronger by her-I am more likely to operate

outside of my comfort zone and believe in myself a little bit more. And thanks to Kathleen I no longer have to use bottled salad dressing (this is an inside joke).

And thanks to Kathleen I also have a friendship with you.

I am so glad we were able to make the trip to Morocco. Despite her cough and not feeling 100%, she pressed on and I think she really enjoyed herself. Steve so appreciated the chance to reconnect with her and my other friends enjoyed getting to know such a classy, elegant and tough lady. They could see why I would never let her go.

But let her go we must. We will keep her with us by saying her name and talking about shared experiences, by remembering what we did and what we said. By keeping some of the fire that was inside her, driving her to lead and travel and contribute and explore, alive in us. And by keeping the image of a leotard clad beauty sitting on the kitchen counter in the house I grew up in in Hershey Way.

Love and strength to you both.

** * **

I walked into my garden today and thought of you. You were always so kind and complementary of the flowers I brought from my garden for my desk. With the long hours we spend at school, it made me happy to see them and think about the outdoors.

This year I have more sweet peas than I expected because of our late rains, as you know. The garden is alive with purple and pink sweet peas, white lily of the Nile, late pansies and violas. The pink hyacinths and daffodils were late this year, but very fragrant. As soon as the sun came out this week, the bright orange poppies began exploding more each day. I also planted some white and magenta stock this year for my mom. I can smell it and the sweet peas as soon as I step out on the porch.

Now that we are teaching from home, they are right out the window. But, I want to thank you for encouraging me to bring the color and scents into the office to make it a nicer place to be for all the hours we spent there.

** * **

Kathleen, I've spent some time thinking of you the last few days. Not just you, but you and Steve. Lots of memories welled up from all the family get togethers over the years, but what jumped out first was your wedding in the park in Oakland and what a wonderful celebration we all enjoyed with the two of you that day. Peter's toast to your marriage still resonates. He said Steve had "met someone who captured his heart," and that was and is so true. I was indeed happy that you were joining our family and impressed at how seamlessly you fit right in. Your calm self-confidence and gentle sense of humor made it clear why you and Steve were a perfect match. The bonus for Sue and me was that you became a wonderful friend to us and

a dear "Aunt Kathleen" to our children and then to their children. We love you and will miss you endlessly, but remember you always and hold you in our hearts forever.

* * *

P.S. Here you are in Santo Stefano. I'm still amazed you went for that trip and added so much to the whacky group.



* * *

AK -- I love you so much, and want to thank you for all the joy you have brought to my life. I will never forget your amazing and infectious smile and your heart warming laugh that always showed you were in on the joke. I have so many fond memories of holidays spent together, especially Christmases throughout my childhood. Most importantly, thank you for making my Uncle such a complete, happy, and fulfilled person; your guys' love story has always been the real life proof of true love for me; so for that, above all, you will live on in all of us as we all try to love more completely just how you and Steve have showed us for so long.

* * *

We are thinking about you at this time with love and caring.

The outpouring of love and compassion were just an indication how much you meant to everyone in your professional and personal life.

* * *

On another note, i was thinking about how I was raised around such strong and intelligent women (you being one of them of course), and I never express it, but I look up to you and your career and who you are as a person. So thank you for that as well. Sometimes I forget to tell people how they affect me for the better.

* * *

I miss her. I miss her leadership at SRC, her kindness and constant willingness to listen, her incredible style, her huge and beautiful smile and her laugh. I can hear it now! She is so loved at so many places and especially at SRC. She really helped me gain confidence as a new, full-time hire. I remember her telling a story of being a late-bloomer; well, I feel the same way in my career and much of life! That story really resonated with me and I'm grateful she shared it. I will always be appreciative of and remember her fondly.

* * *

You are one special and courageous woman. I have always idolized women like you; Women who others have nothing but good things to say about. Your strength is admirable and your bravery is inspiring. It was a joy to have the opportunity to work for you at SRC for two years, and it is still my favorite place I have ever worked. You are a light in this world and you are an incredible gift to all those around you.

* * *

One thing I know very well is that Kathleen is one hell of a fighter, one of her many characteristics that I've always admired. Please let her know that she is in my thoughts and that I and many people are pulling for her. Hopefully, we will get another chance to raise a glass together.

* * *

I just wanted to send this note to let Kathy know that I love her very much and am thinking of her. Mark and I are sending lots of love and hugs to you both. You are in our hearts 💕💕

* * *

There has been such an outpouring of love and support for you and Kathleen in the messages posted. No surprise, Kathleen touched so many lives and has so many people who love her. I feel so blessed to have had her in my life and will miss her more than I can express.

* * *

I'm saddened by the news of Kathleen's dire health. Knowing both you and Kathleen for over 15 years, this turn of event affects me in a deep way. i am at a loss of what to say at this time except to express how joyful and appreciative of the times I spent working with Kathleen from the early curriculum committee days and her eventual deanship at SRC.

I remain positive and hope and pray that the best possible outcome will emerge from this moment of sorrow.

Kathleen, i wish you strength and serenity. You will always be in my heart.

** * **

I'm lucky and blessed enough to work with you thanks to you and your wonderful husband Steve. I want you to know that my best and most memorable times at DVC where when you were there. Your time and never ending patience and love is something I will never forget. You taught me how to become a better counselor and I have always loved you and looked up to you so much. I will always cherish our time together and your beautiful smile and your sense of flair, you were always the best dressed in my opinion. I want you to know I love you lots, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

** * **

Hi Kathleen!

Got up early this morning and saw the ad on Instagram for the Happy Camper necklace again and it made me smile. For some reason i keep thinking about your house and our discussions of what color to paint the outside. The dark color of course was the right and perfect choice. 😊 And then my thoughts wandered to how your and Steve's house was always like a second home to me (my height tick marks on the wall will always be officially there, even though they are painted over lol). And then I started thinking about what home is, and I guess it's more about the people there than the actual physical structure.

So I guess what I'm trying to say is.... you and Steve will always be like home. And even though you're not at your house right now, since Steve is there, you're home. And hopefully these notes will feel somewhat like home.

Today I would have filled your room with fresh air. Sounds silly but fresh air it is.

Love ALWAYS,

** * **

You have always been a rock--to your friends, in your profession, and to Steve...We always looked to you for your uplifting spirit and steadfast dedication. Your unbending moral compass was a beacon for us all to follow. I always would have wanted a counselor such as

you--firm, yet understanding. You have been a living legacy as an advocate for people with disabilities, and the people you touched will live through you. You are forever in our hearts.

** * **

The few times we met Kathleen we found her to be a warm, loving person. You always seemed so happy with her by your side. We are glad you were able to find each other and have all those years together. Please send her our love. We are thinking of you both.

** * **

Hello my cousin, I am sending continued prayers and thoughts to you and Steve. All of your family awaits with open arms to celebrate your life in the forever lasting home you were promised. I love you and will miss you, your smile and kind emails. Your Val I have no idea how to use google doc's forgive me

This will always be one of my favorite pictures of Steve and Kathleen



* * *

There's very little I can say other than I'm very sorry. I know this is a trying time, so please know I'm thinking of Kathleen and you.

* * *

Steve, you and I go back many years, but it was through our friendship that I had the pleasure of meeting Kathleen. Even though that was years and years ago, I knew that both of you were special. Kathleen, you had a certain glow about you that made you stand out. Learning of your illness saddened me. If there is anything I could do, I would do it in a heartbeat! As I read the comments from those who know you and love you dearly, it was heartfelt. As I reflect on the situation of your illness, I am thankful to God for giving you the years that He has graced your presence on this earth and for the many family members you have helped over the years as well as friends. So, for me, everyone whom you have touched can take this opportunity to share what you mean to them and for that we are all grateful. For we know that God is a God of compassion and love that He has breathed into each and everyone of us the breath of life and given us minds and bodies in which we live out our days on earth. I know that He is saying to you, Kathleen, a job well done! We pray for comfort and peace for you. Thank you for allowing Steve to be such a very good friend of which that friendship was extended to you as well. For He keeps you in His care! Pastor Otis Byrd

* * *

Steve, I just read your email and this sad, sad news of Kathleen's passing. My only comfort is knowing you were together in these last days and moments. Then, you so generously share your love via email. Thank you! I have a heavy heart for you. I know Kathleen is delivered from her pain and I believe she is received by all who love her in heaven. Camper was likely first to greet her. My arms are around you virtually. I love you dear cousin. As I told Mom last year almost to the day, I would not trade her journey from life because it would have meant not being part of her life. Love is a wonderful thing and you and Kathleen were blessed to have that love. Love you, Jeny

* * *

Steve, your email was just shared with me, and I'm heartbroken for you and for all of us that adored Kathleen. Kathleen was absolutely one of the best. I vividly remember the first time I met her during her interview for the Dean's position at the San Ramon Campus. Afterwards, the entire committee looked at each other and knew she was the real deal. The decision was easy. I immensely enjoyed working with her at the San Ramon Campus. She embodied all of the qualities you so eloquently described in your email/letter. I feel fortunate that our paths crossed during my time at DVC and that I was able to get to know her and call her a friend. My thoughts are with you.

* * *

Thanks to Jennifer Tejada, emcee extraordinaire, this is the speech she gave at Kathleen's retirement dinner:

My process for emceeing this event begins a month in advance when I email all of the retirees for information. The most important piece of information I am after is a list of names of friends the retiree has worked with so I can approach them for stories, memories, etc. Most people give me the names of 4 or 5 people they were close to and worked with frequently. But occasionally I get extremes. One end of the spectrum is Peter who completely ignored my emails and therefore sent me no names (like that was going to stop me). We will be getting to him later in the evening.

And then there's Kathleen, who sent me a list of names of close friends that is essentially the DVC Phone Directory. When looking at such a long list of names the conclusion people might come to is "Wow! Kathleen has been working here a REALLY long time" Which is true. On Tuesday she was recognized for 25 years of service – which according to District Office Math means she's been here for 26 years.

I think a more accurate interpretation for this long list of names is how much of an impact Kathleen has made at this college. When everyone from the upper management, to the lead grounds worker at SRC, to the students who left her office when she was a counselor, all remark on how she made them feel valued and listened to, that is someone who has made a difference while at DVC. When the list she provided encompasses those who have long retired to brand new hires, who all say that Kathleen made them feel welcome, appreciated and inspired, then I would expect nothing less than a list of friends that would fill a phone book.

Kathleen embraced opportunities throughout her career at DVC which resulted in the college benefitting from her insight, intelligence, compassion and warmth in a variety of capacities.

Laurie Lema said I first had the opportunity to get to know Kathleen when she was vice president of the UF. It was a tumultuous time at the college and one of the best things that came out of that crazy time was that I was fortunate to build both a professional and personal relationship with Kathleen. I have the utmost respect and appreciation for her contributions to the college. The number of committees and task forces she has served on throughout her career must total in the 100's –which is absolutely mind-blowing. It's a good thing Kathleen said she liked meetings. Kathleen would step up, take on and dig in to the work of the college –whether it was for accreditation, the budget committee, hiring committees, she was there with her trademark uncompromising professionalism and occasional righteous indignation tempered with her spirited sense of humor, thoughtfulness and generous nature.

One of the reasons I feel that Kathleen is such an extraordinary manager is because she started at DVC as an extraordinary counselor. Julie Walters reflects on Kathleen's success at SRC and said, I was impressed by Kathleen's ability to come to SRC and embrace the faculty and staff. She respected us as individuals, valuing our opinions, and would always take time to talk even

when she had a million other responsibilities to attend to. She befriended us, helping many of us through life and loss. It is hard to imagine what SRC will be without her.

Some of Kathleen's favorite memories are of when she was a counselor and students would say, "Thank you . That was really helpful" while leaving her office. This was Kathleen's goal for everything she did – to serve students, to be helpful. Maureen McCollum, who works in the San Ramon Admissions Office says that she will miss having such a warm and caring manager oversee our department and campus. Kathleen makes the employees, instructors and students feel that they are important to the success of the campus and that they are important to her personally.

Bridgitte Schaffer recalls her "Kathleen moment" which occurred in Bridgitte's first semester at SRC as a brand new full time History professor. Kathleen was walking by Bridgitte's office and stopped to say "I wanted to make sure you feel welcome here. Do you? Because we want you to feel welcome." Bridgitte said it was such a small thing but it meant a lot to me. I was still pretty terrified of Kathleen at the time and the fact that the boss would stop and ask if I felt welcome made me feel awesome!

The reason Bridgitte may have been terrified of Kathleen could be because she had heard rumors of Kathleen's legendary battles – and no I am not talking about her stint as Vice President of the United Faculty. Although as Rob Peters described her in that role, she was sharp, tuned-in, assertive and worked very hard on behalf of both student and faculty interests. As Rob puts it, "In short, you were REALLY glad she was on your side."

Her fierce defense of faculty against management was probably why when Kevin Horan told management that he wanted to hire Kathleen as Dean of SRC, their response was, "Uh, are you sure?" His reply, "Hell yes!"

Nor were these battles I alluded to earlier the DSPS department meetings that Kathleen said felt like we were always working on "continuous improvement". We all know what that's code for yet somehow Kathleen says she has forgotten the disagreements.

But rather Bridgitte must have gotten wind of the famous, epic clash of the two powerhouse Divisions English and Counseling and the bloody, divisive battle that was the annual softball game.

This also made the list as one of Kathleen's favorite DVC memories that she sent to me in an email which read and I quote, "Favorite memory: The Counseling Division beating the English Division in softball"

What happened two days later after she sent that email is so vintage Kathleen. She comes to my office with that page of the email printed out. She said "I don't want anyone from English to feel bad. Can you not say that we beat them? Then she hands me the revised page where she crossed out the word "beat" and had written "played" instead. Just say we played them.

WOMAN! You are retiring! OWN this victory! You didn't PLAY the English division – you CRUSHED them! You annihilated them! And don't forget the part when you flipped your bat and did that little victory dance around the bases which culminated in you turning your hat backwards and getting into Tom Barber's face and kicking dirt on Laurie Fischer's uniform, right before you did a walk off into the dugout. It was awesome!

That's the real reason Laury Fischer isn't here tonight. He had other plans. Yeah right! He knew this story was going to come up and he couldn't bear to relive the shame and humiliation one more time. That and whenever Kathleen passed him on campus, she would flash the Loser sign when no one was looking.

Now everyone who knows Kathleen well knows that while she may be laughing now, inside she is actually mortified by what I am saying and I will bet money that she is going home tonight and immediately writing individual notes of apology to the entire English Division disavowing my comments here tonight.

Being considerate is in Kathleen's nature, as Nancy Zink confirms. She says, "I have always admired Kathleen's sense of humor which is not delivered at someone else's expense but instead provides a way for people to come back together and continue to work for a common goal.

That is probably why so many people wanted to work with her. Nancy believes that Kathleen has a secret superpower or has mastered a Jedi mind trick which gets people to agree to things and to do her bidding. Actually it is simply because of Kathleen's wonderful qualities that Nancy was so easily enticed to join a committee or help develop a workshop when she knew that Kathleen would be involved. Julie Catalano has the same sentiment. Julie describes Kathleen as so very generous, compassionate, funny and a complete joy to work with. Kathleen is one of the few managers who actually makes my job easier she says. Whenever there is a committee or a project I am assigned to support I always say a little prayer asking for Kathleen to be the chair of that project of committee. I will miss her madly.

Melody Phillips has found Kathleen to be an incredible person to work with and says she has a manner that is clear and inclusive. Kathleen encourages growth and is passionate about staff being recognized and promoted when ready.

Kathleen is not without limitations and quirks mind you. Joe Gorga, SRC's Oceanography professor and Kathleen's right hand man revealed that Kathleen hates to speak in public. That explains why Joe has given the presentation honoring the Educator of the Year award recipient for the last several years. While she does not like public speaking, she does like talking to herself. Paula Stanfield said one of her fondest memories of Kathleen is when she worked in the Counseling Office and they had offices right across the hall from one another. Paula would regularly hear Kathleen talking out loud, and sometimes answering her own questions. This was not an occasional thing. It happened daily. Paula learned to stop asking if Kathleen was talking to her because the answer was always "no".

Kathleen has a talent for surviving meetings – which she claims to actually like – and more importantly make them useful and entertaining. When Nancy Zink and Kathleen were

charged with making the Peer Evaluation Workshop less overwhelming and more palatable and dare we say, useful, they were gamely trying every teacher trick in the book – activities, real world applications, hands-on work, cash prizes – but at the end of a long day people are tired and the prospect of another 2 hour meeting can be daunting. I believe the actual description is it would be the 7th circle of hell. Kathleen came up with a bit of computer magic however that saved the day. Keep in mind that this was a long time ago and before most people could effectively use these computer tricks. Kathleen had words flying or swirling in from the margins of the screen and worked in a variety of computer graphics throughout the presentation. The audience was amazed – hey, this was like 20 years ago. We were easily dazzled. Each time one of Kathleen's graphics came on the screen they could hear the audience's oohs and ahhs. Today when Kathleen makes a presentation, that is when she hasn't conned Joe Gorga into doing it for her, the only ones who ooh and ah over the swirly words are the CIS guys. Cause let's face it, they're nerds. But even so, Kathleen still impresses and amazes us.

We deeply admire and appreciate her integrity, her work ethic and her support of SRC. UC Rachel Westlake says that Kathleen has been a tireless voice for San Ramon – well actually she has gotten pretty tired of Pleasant Hill being so slow to catch on. Every meeting and sometimes with every agenda item Rachel has come to recognize a look – a clearing of the throat, occasionally an eye roll – keeping everyone accountable by accommodating for, consulting with or thinking about the impact on San Ramon.

My Husband, Mario has told me that Kathleen is his favorite “Boss”.....”Work Boss – Right?” He said, “I love that she will call me into her office and we can go Nose to Nose on a Subject and she will listen, talk, discuss, prod, and question and in the end will create a solution that works for everyone and one to which I am fully committed.

This collaboration is then put to good use, often the very next day as she and I are standing side by side at a meeting Going Nose to Nose with Some Committee to do “What would be Best for everyone”

Mario went on to say,

“My Boss has shown me, through example, more about being a conscientious leader on a day-to-day basis than any other manager that I have ever known. Now don't get me wrong I have been and I am currently being mentored by some outstanding people but THIS Boss has been so accessible, supportive, and encouraging. I will miss my Boss.”.

Kathleen will miss lots of things about DVC. Working on college and district committees with smart, caring and committed people, working with Peter Garcia, and nearly everything about being Senior Dean at SRC, especially the people.

We feel the same way Kathleen! We couldn't have asked for a better champion. In Julie Catalano's words we will miss you madly!

Kathleen, we would all like to say about all you have given to the college, "Thank you! That was really helpful!"

* * *

Kathleen, the DVC Puente Project will miss your wisdom, dedication, inspiration and motivation as a mentor to the students. When I think of the student lives you've touched and how you assisted them in reaching their goals, we are forever grateful and thankful that you volunteered your time to give to underrepresented students and their dreams. Moreover, the Puente coordinators have learned how to better "love" our students through the examples you provided. We know you will continue to mentor us all in your final resting place.

I can clearly recall meeting you upon my interview at DVC SRVC, your kindness and happiness stood out in that meeting. Thank you for all the hard work you had done over the years and helping to create such a wonderful environment for students, faculty, and staff. You will be greatly missed.

You were a great inspiration - professionally, in fashion and travel. I enjoyed working with you at SRC and in fact, you hired me so it is a great honor that you chose me to be on your team. I literally just thought about you... now this. It is only sad as to be expected but YES, you lived your life to the fullest and that brings me great joy. SRC will forever be my family because of you. May you earn your heavenly wings and continue to soar. God Bless your family. -AB

* * *

I am so grateful to have known you. I still have saved on my phone the voice-mail you left asking me to call you with ... it turned out ... the news that SRC wanted to hire me. (I was teaching a night class when you called. Class ended too late for me to call you back. I was in agony the next 10 hours, hoping that the call meant that I had the job.) When I started working with you, your intellect and razor-sharp wit both terrified me and spurred me to do better. ...And then you organized a girls' night dinner with Jen Tejada, Nancy Luciano, Jen Curtis and Melody Phillips, and the margaritas were flowing ... and I was stunned to realize that not only I had found a professional home where my colleagues pushed me to be better, but that I had also found a professional home with colleagues whom I liked. (Something rarer than it sounds, I think.) Thank you for welcoming me into SRC. Thank you for your guidance. Thank you for your leadership. Thank you for your grace. Thank you for the hallway chats. Thank you for the conversations that she started with "This is going to sound crazy..." or ended with "...but what do I know?" (Quite a lot.) Thank you.

* * *

I've been thinking of her a lot these past few weeks particularly and saying prayers. Given the chaos of the current times maybe its for the best that I get to remember her when she was still up and about. In addition to saying lots of prayer, I've been talking to her a lot since I learned of her passing yesterday. So many of the memories of the times I've spent with her have been flooding my memory and it reminds me how long a friendship we had, and how many things we experienced together. Remembering the first time I came to your house for dinner when I first met her; housesitting and petsitting Camper when you were on vacation, her visits to NYC when I lived there....and countless dinners and plays together. It's so sad to say goodbye to a friend. And you are right she lived life to the fullest. She is definitely my role model now for enjoying life more moving forward! I'm glad she's not suffering anymore with the cancer. And in some ways I feel her spirit now more, like the Kathleen before she got really sick, lighthearted and freer. It's how I will try to remember her and speak and even interact with her now, as I feel her presence so much more strongly.

Steve,

You've written an eloquent tribute that shines such a bright light on Kathleen's many wonderful qualities. I didn't know her as well as the others who've written here, and I've learned so much. Although we overlapped for a while as colleagues at DVC, it was only after retirement that I joined a group of friends who'd known each other for years and regularly got together for lunch. That's when I came to appreciate Kathleen's warmth, humor and infectious laughter. I didn't meet you until that last dinner party at Ellen's, and I remember noticing how loving and attentive you were to her that night. I am so glad she shared her life with such an appreciative and caring partner.

Here are a few photos from the SRC retirement party that we threw for Kathleen.







We love and miss you Kathleen! Jen and Mario

* * *

I was deeply saddened when I received the note about your lovely wife, Kathleen. The memories of our of time flash by, intensely, all the way back to when I first met her in Livermore (at a party for _____). Ah yes, you were smitten then.

I think the photograph of the two of you, cutting the cake at your wedding, brings to mind my thoughts on that day. You had met and married the right person. She had done the same. Fast forward to the Super Bowl party at your house and listening to the banter between the two "lovebirds" was a satisfying "reality check" that the two of you would happily go the distance.

This to me has always been comforting. I knew that just a mile away lived a happy couple. The loving remembrances that your family and friends have written have filled in some of the details of her gifts of friendship, love, and compassion to the people in her life. I can see that she nurtured and brought out the very best in you. I am pleased that your love together grew beyond, I'm sure, what you could have imagined on your wedding day. You have been blessed in so many ways.

* * *

I had the opportunity to meet Kathleen many years ago. Her kindness was what struck me first. I then grew to admire her wisdom as she continually and unconditionally guided us.

I had never met someone like her, or like you; to this day I believe you are the most selfless and genuine people I've ever met in my life. May you find peace for your loss and both your and her light continue to shine on us forever.

* * *

I am blessed to have witnessed the greatness of Kathleen that you speak of, even if it was during a short moment in this life we live.

I can remember vividly calling her office directly for the Hourly A&R position at SRC. I had missed the application deadline, I was in need of a job so I figured it would not hurt to call. Surprisingly, she answered her phone and allowed me to submit my application directly to her via email and fax. The interview went very well and she hired me on the spot, which caught me completely off guard.

When I told her I was leaving SRC, it was a bitter sweet moment. She said, "They're lucky to get you."

I think you nailed the top 3 things about Kathleen perfectly. Reading them made me smile and brought back my own memories of her.

* * *

And while it was your gentleness that made a first impression, there was another thing that stood out once I started to get to know you - and I say this without exaggeration or hyperbole - it was how you always spoke of your wife. From the first minute I knew you, you spoke of your wife with such respect, love, and admiration, - she was always your better half, the straight-man to your self deprecating humor, the person who kept you honest and humble. You spoke of her - always, always, always - as if you couldn't believe your lucky stars that she agreed to be your wife. Yours was a true love affair for the ages.

* * *

I considered Kathleen my best friend for close to forty years, even after I moved from Oakland. We met through the East Bay National Organization for Women. After the Equal Rights Amendment failed, membership peaked at over 3,000. A year later, Kathleen was Vice President of Membership, then President.

I haven't been ready to write about Kathleen, too painful, but there's a part of her that hasn't been mentioned and needs to be included in her legacy. Both her feminism and her political activism were an ingrained part of her. The politics could be glimpsed in her work with the college union, but her feminism was both political and personal. No sexism ever escaped

unnoticed, and she was not afraid to point it out. It's been mentioned that Kathleen didn't like public speaking, but she spoke at a women's rally at San Francisco's City Center Plaza in front of thousands of people, to enthusiastic applause. That spunk of hers is one of the things I admired most, along with her compassion, straightforwardness, and ability to love unconditionally.

I'll miss her for the rest of my life.

** * **

Kathleen was truly remarkable, and I feel so privileged to have been able to work with her, and to have gained her trust in the way that I did. When I first met her, as is sometimes the case when I meet a new patient with a new cancer diagnosis, there was a wall around her, and I remember wondering how we were going to do together. I remember that some of my staff felt intimidated by her (as did I, a little bit, in the beginning). And then I remember how pleased I was when I felt her starting to open up, saw that wall start to crumble. And once it did, that was it - we were in, and she permanently claimed a spot in my heart. I have the utmost respect for her - her grace, her intelligence, and her fortitude never ceased to inspire and humble me. And like you said, her smile was something else - like a ray of sunshine...

We are all better people for having known Kathleen. Thank you again for the privilege.

** * **

Who could forget that smile of Kathleen? A smile so bright it would light up the room! Yet, underneath it all, the strength, determination and will to fight for the rights of counseling faculty and ALL faculty throughout the District. I will remember Kathleen as the adventurer who traveled the world seeking out new experiences, the one who took that DVC French class to improve her language skills as she prepared for her solo tour of France.

*May all of Kathleen's family, friends and colleagues be comforted in the many warm memories we have all shared with someone as memorable as Kathleen. **Cheryl*

** * **

I'm so sorry all of us for the loss of Kathleen in this world; in some way this news has given me some perspective on how wide Kathleen's influence has been on the world.

Others' posting on google docs has reminded me how much of an ally Kathleen was for me from the very beginning. My husband and I were fortunate one summer to meet Kathleen in Rome for coffee while she was on one of her trips.

Although Kathleen has left this world, somehow her passing has made me feel more connected to it.

How lucky we were for Kathleen.

* * *

Kathleen did so much with her life She was smart and kind and grounded--comfortable in her own skin in a way I've always admired.

* * *

I was so sad to learn of Kathleen's passing. When I met her in the office, even the one time, I really, really liked her. She was just a really neat person, and I am sorry that I wasn't able to have more time to get to know her more. I know her fight, especially over these last several months had been hard for her, and now she is free. I hope that over time this brings peace to your family. It was my privilege to be able to be a small part in her care.

* * *

She was such a bright light both at the Pleasant Hill Counseling Department and a great leader at the San Ramon Campus. Her bright smile, great enthusiasm and spicy personality will be greatly missed. May the memories of wonderful times lift you during this difficult time.

* * *

Kathleen truly "graced" us! I'm so honored to know her. She had such grace and compassion. But her spirit was feisty and wow, so humorous. One quip and she could change a mood for the better.

Her love of travel was so amazing. I loved hearing where you and she, or just she had been.

Wishing you comfort and the knowledge that Kathleen made a difference in my life.

* * *

Still seems impossible to believe Kathleen is gone. We were friends for over 50 years and I will truly miss her sage advice, quick wit, and infectious laugh--she was one of a kind for sure!

* * *

What an incredible human, and what a profound love you shared. I am so sorry you had to say goodbye for now. I am also so happy that you found each other soon enough to spend significant years together. I'm happy that you've experienced the kind of love that so many only dream about.

* * *

Dear Kathleen, This is a nice way to pay tribute to your wonderful life during this pandemic. The photos shared by your friends remind me of your beautiful smile. Steve's remembrance of

you is so loving and truly generous to share those details of a life together. I always admired you in your professional life. Hearing stories of your work and travel adventures always made me smile. Your grace and good will will be my lasting memory of you. Sue

I just put my baby to bed, and for some reason you came across my thoughts. It's been a couple years since I've seen you. I googled your name to see what you were up to and found this. To anyone reading this- I was hired at DVC San Ramon campus as an office clerk. I worked there while I went to school for counseling. Kathleen was so chic and sharp, she always intimidated me a little! As a boss she always kept us on our toes! And anytime I asked Kathleen for help (for counseling career advice typically), she would never hesitate. I loved our conversations and valued her advice and wisdom. Her generous and caring heart was so obvious in those times. Whenever Kathleen approved of something I did, it always made me feel so good! She really was an admirable boss and person. A couple years after leaving DVC, I was hired full time in another district. I was tickled to see she emailed me one day, to congratulate me on my new position. She was such a great lady, and I'm so glad I got to know her.

I got this picture from Jennifer Tejada today and wanted to share it. Jennifer and her husband Mario are world-famous (OK, maybe the scope is a little smaller than that but not by much) for their parties, particularly their tamale parties, where Mario shows off his considerable culinary talents and Jennifer not only organizes everything (including memorable party favors) but is also the consummate gracious and generous host(ess). They took this picture in 2011. Here on display is Kathleen's incredible smile as well as how she made me feel.



I am sad to learn of Kathleen's passing. She was my favorite counselor at the Pleasant Hill Campus, and a great mentor to me. I was going through some tough family issues and I was thinking of dropping out of college, so I can work and get my own place. Kathleen took the time to listen to my story and provided an empathetic ear. We went over the pros and cons of my plan and she said it was up to me to make the final decision, but if I decided to drop out she wanted me stay in touch with her and let her know how I was doing. I did not drop out instead, I buckled down and ended up graduating and transferring to UC Berkeley. She was there at my graduation and cheered me on. I will never forget her kindness and guidance. I will miss her dearly and send my condolences to her family.

April 15, 2022

Dear Kathleen. I'm thinking about you today with lots of love in my heart. Such a legacy!

Love and sadness,

Lesley
