

Dawn Clarke



Dawn Elise (Carleton) Clarke

SOUTHBRIDGE - Dawn Elise (Carleton) Clarke died unexpectedly on Jan 19, 2014, following complications from surgery.

Nothing pleased Dawn more than keeping up to date with her family, visiting with those close by and using all the latest technology at her fingertips to "visit" with those further away. She was the central hub in a large extended family who kept the stories and connections flowing.

Dawn enjoyed the abundance of the outdoors, hiking and camping with her family and soaking up the sun in Turks & Caicos. She was an avid gardener, and she used the fruits she grew herself as well as from local farms for canning fresh jams and jellies to share with friends, family, and the fall fair season at the Elm Street Congregational Church.

Dawn especially loved nurturing the minds of children, and served for many years as the Children's Librarian at the Joshua Library, where she introduced countless young children to the wonderful world of books. Dawn delighted in creating crafts with all children, particularly her grandchildren, in whom she was proud to have imparted her passions for crafting, sewing and quilting.

A **breast cancer** survivor, Dawn was an active volunteer with the Cancer Center at Harrington Memorial Hospital. She was also an involved member of the Elm Street Congregational Church, serving as Chair of the Diaconate and Treasurer of the Women's Fellowship. She was a teacher in the Army Education Center in Bad Kissingen, Germany; volunteer in the Jacob Edwards Library, and librarian at the AO Research Library. Dawn was a Graduate of the University of Massachusetts and held a Master of Library Science from the University of Rhode Island.

Dawn was the daughter of the late Leslie and Francis Carleton of Leominster, MA. She was predeceased by two brothers, Stuart of Leominster and Ladner of Novi, MI; survived by two sisters, Eleanor of Hancock, NH and Aline of Burlington, MA. Dawn is also survived by her husband of 45 years, Hamer of Southbridge and their sons: Andrew, his wife Jennifer and their children Benjamin and Julia of Concord, MA; Seth and his husband Peter of Somerville MA; Jefferson, his wife Amalia and their daughter Cecilia of London, UK.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at the Elm Street Congregational Church, Elm St. Southbridge, on Saturday, January 25, 2014 at 10:00 am.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Joshua Hyde Library, 306 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566, or the Elm Street Congregational Church, PO Box 723, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Belanger-Bullard funeral Home 51 Marcy St. is directing arrangements.

An online guestbook is available at

www.BelangerFuneralHome.com