

HOW KATHY AND I MET

A lengthy story whose pieces are connected by music. When I moved to the Cleveland area to start work at the research laboratories of BFGoodrich I lived in an apartment complex called the Vineyards. It had a duck pond in its midst. At some point my loud stereo interfered with my next door neighbor's and he did not like my music as much as I did not like his, so I moved to an apartment on the other side of the duck pond that was next to Kathy's. As was my wont I played my stereo too loudly (a Sibelius symphony either 1 or 2 with loud timpani) and Kathy knocked on my door to complain about it. I apologized and thought that was that. Some time later I was playing on my stereo Handel's Messiah at what I considered a moderate volume but Kathy knocked on my door again. I said something like "I did not think I was playing it too loud" and she said something like "That's not the point, I had just finished my record playing of the Messiah and I could still hear it afterwards". I said something like "Well, since we like the same music why don't you come over and talk about things". One thing led to another and I fell in love first with her laughter and later with her intelligence. What a home run I had hit. We got married on September 17 1983, in Vermilion OH.

After Kathy's death a sympathy card I received from one of her friends in Cleveland said in part "It seems just yesterday she called me to tell me she was going across the hall to tell the new tenant to turn down the music. Look what happened after that. A wonderful life together".

THE END

The end was mercifully short and peaceful. After many years of misery things happened very rapidly in the final months. Increasingly negative home symptoms (fatigue, dizziness, breathlessness, feeling the cold, etc etc) culminated in a visiting nurse sending her to the hospital on Friday 6/2/17. She was in the emergency room for a few days before being admitted to the hospital, that seemed to indicate no urgency. On Friday 6/9 she was on oxygen but alert and even managed to share an inside joke with me. Fluid retention became the issue, stressing the heart, lungs and kidneys. The kidneys went first and she was placed in the hospice unit at Strong Memorial Hospital on Monday 6/12. She became catatonic by Tuesday PM and died Friday 6/16.

OBITUARY

Hodge, Kathalee (Kathy). June 16, peacefully at age 73 after a long illness. She was the beloved wife, best friend, and life-companion of Ian. Also survived by cousin Thomas Chew (Medina OH); niece Michelle Hrnchar (Medina OH); and extended family in Ohio and New York. A memorial service will be held July 14 at Paul Harris Funeral Home in Irondequoit NY. In lieu of flowers please donate to the library of your choice.

Kathalee was born and raised in Vermilion OH, the daughter of the late LeRoy and Catherine Grant. She graduated with a degree in English Literature from Miami University OH and earned a Master of Library Science from Case Western Reserve University. She rose to the position of Branch Manager in the Cuyahoga County Library System until moving to Rochester NY with her husband. In Rochester she volunteered at the PBS station WXXI and later joined its TV programming department.

Everyone will miss her laughter.