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Harriett Brooks Dickey-Chasins

8-17-2023



Harriett Brooks Dickey-Chasins died August 17, 2023, at home, surrounded by loved ones. She was 63. There will be no services, but the family will share information about a memorial at a later date.

Harriett was born on February 20, 1960, to Edward and Sue Chasins, in Tarrytown, New York. She grew up in Ossining and Garrison, New York. In 1982, she graduated from Grinnell College with a degree in philosophy. She married Jeff Dickey-Chasins on July 12, 1986. After working at City University of Seattle, she and

Jeff moved to Lawrence, Kansas, where she earned a PhD in Clinical Psychology. In 1994, she welcomed her daughter Ruth to the world.

She finished her clinical training at Penn State University in State College, Pennsylvania. Then, seeking a small college town to begin her career as a psychologist, she took a position at the Poweshiek County Mental Health Center in Grinnell, Iowa. When that facility closed, she launched a private practice, working with a variety of clients. After many years, she became a staff psychologist at Grinnell College. Later she ended her psychological career with a practice in Des Moines. She also served four years on the Grinnell School Board.

Her second career in sustainable farming and local foods began when she purchased Grinnell Farm to Table, a local food hub. After several years, she sold the business, which thrives to this day. At the time of her death, she was the marketing manager for two sustainable farms owned by Optima Lifeservices. She was an advocate for local foods and sustainable farming, and would encourage everyone to eat local and organic! She cherished her time in her garden, and loved getting her hands dirty.

Harriett was a warm and empathic person who truly cared about everyone she met - even those she did not agree with. She acquired friends easily, and was always expanding her circle. She is survived by her husband, Jeff, and daughter Ruth (Spencer); her sister, Margaret Arman (Nurhan), and her brother, Daniel Chasins (Maria); her sister-in-law, Denise Andes, and brother-in-law, Charles Dickey; her nieces Katherine, Sarah, Koharik, Katie, Madison, Chandler, Chauncey, Francesca, and Lillawah; her nephews Elijah, Stepan, Varoujan, and Lindsey, as well as many close friends in Grinnell and elsewhere.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Sue, and her father, Edward. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Grinnell League of Women Voters, or a local non-profit of your choice.

Harriett Dickey-Chasins

A Celebration of the Life of Harriett Dickey-Chasins will be held at Herrick Chapel, 1128 Park St., at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 9, 2024. The family notes this is an informal ceremony, adding: "Harriett would say, 'wear something comfortable.'"

Dickey-Chasins, 63, of Grinnell, died at home surrounded by loved ones on Aug. 17, 2023. A full obituary appeared in the Aug. 17, 2023, edition of this newspaper.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Grinnell League of Women Voters, or a local non-profit of your choice.

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