

Katherine Louise Boruff
November 22, 2004
Age 50
San Jose, California

We knew her as Kathy, but somewhere along the way, she changed her name to Kate. She died of metastatic breast cancer in San Jose, California on November 22, 2004, six months after her 50th birthday.

Born on May 2, 1954, Kate was one of four daughters of William and Ellen Boruff. In her newspaper obituary her birthplace of Lakewood, Ohio was described like this: "Kate had an idyllic childhood in a place where you didn't need to lock your front door, until the freeway came through and ruined the sense of place."

This is what eventually led to her passionate interest and professional career in historic preservation and community development.

Kate was married to Paul Krutko, and the couple, who had a full and happy life together, enjoyed European travel. She loved music—even though she couldn't sing or play an instrument. And her choices were quite eclectic from violin concertos to Bruce Springstein.

Kate had two children, Brendan McHale and Meghan McHale, as well as a stepdaughter, Erin Krutko. At the time her death, all three were in college.

Kate was survived by her parents, William and Ellen Boruff and her sisters (and their families): Jane Tesso, Christine Goehner, and Barb Ruben. She was also the aunt of five nieces and nephews.

Diagnosed with metastasized breast cancer in 1995, Kate found the diagnosis gave her a new perspective on life and she valued every day knowing it was a gift. She tried to live well and strong.

While in high school, Kathy (as we knew her then) was involved in many activities, including Barnstormers where she achieved the rank of Thespian, and the Environmental Action Committee.