



Mrs. Hedy Lipez Burbank

June 20, 1940 - January 10, 2021

Hedy Lipez Burbank, 80, of New Ashford, died peacefully in her sleep on January 10, 2021, after a number of long illnesses and complications from Covid 19.

She is survived by her children, Sydney J. Lipez, of New Rochelle, NY, and Zachary H. Lipez (Zohra Atash), of New York City, her brother Charles Harris (Kary Harris), her step-children Kelton Burbank (Kathy Burbank), Brooke Burbank, Josh Burbank (Mirium Preus), Betsy Burbank, and her three granddaughters, Phoebe Lan Burbank, Katherine Xian Burbank, and Samara Preus Burbank. She is also survived by her former husband Richard Lipez (Joe Wheaton). She is predeceased by her husband, Kelton "Kim" Miller Burbank. She was well loved, and also leaves a tremendous circle of friends. She will be deeply missed.

Hedy grew up in Port Chester, NY, the daughter of Else and Sidney Harris. She graduated from Swarthmore College with a degree in Philosophy. She later graduated as an RN at Berkshire Community College, was trained as a nurse practitioner at Northeastern University, and earned a Masters Degree in Psychiatric Nursing at Yale. Hedy was well known in Berkshire County for her work at Doyle Detox, the Neighborhood Health Center, and Williams College, as well as her private counselling practice. A lifelong volunteer, Hedy volunteered in Ethiopia and later Zambia with the Peace Corps, numerous times with the Red Cross, and locally with the Elizabeth Freeman Center (formerly the Rape Crisis Center, which she also helped to found), and the

New Ashford Volunteer Fire Department, among other organizations. She also ran an HIV/AIDS support group for many years, as well as an eating disorder support group.

Hedy was a voracious reader of mystery novels, favoring series with protagonists who led full and complex lives. With that, she was also a gifted proofreader, having been a first reader for various writers in her life. An excellent cook, she happily experimented in the kitchen, accommodating all her children's and guest's constantly shifting dietary needs. She put coffee in her chocolate chip cookies and somehow made it work. Hedy loved her neighbors and being part of the New Ashford community. Even after retiring from the volunteer fire department, she took great pride in working the election polls. Hedy had the gift for good advice that felt like mothering, mothering that felt like a friend's good advice, and a wry, grounded humility that stood in almost comical contrast to how much she was needed. Hedy also enjoyed reality television more than one would think. But only the nicer shows, like *The Voice*. More than anything, Hedy loved spending time in the sun. In the days since her retirement, Hedy could be found lounging in her backyard in New Ashford, or at the home she and Kim loved so much in Bisbee, Arizona.

Funeral Notice:

A memorial service for Hedy Lipez Burbank will be Saturday, July 31, 2021, at 12:30 p.m. at the Unity Terrace at the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home, 220 East Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201. A live webcast of the service will be available for all of those who are unable to attend. To view this webcast, please visit <http://www.dwyerfuneral.com/obituaries/permalink/9793990/LTWebcast> . A celebration of Hedy's life at her home will directly follow the service. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her memory to the Berkshire Natural Resources Council, the Elizabeth Freeman Center, the New Ashford Volunteer Fire Department, and the North Berkshire EMS of North Adams, in care of the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home, 220 East Street, Pittsfield MA 01201. Donations CANNOT be made online, but may be made through the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Service

JUL 31. 12:30 PM (ET)

Dwyer -Wellington Family Funeral Home - Pittsfield

220 East St.

Pittsfield, MA 01201

(413) 445-4064

info@dwyerfuneral.com

<https://www.dwyerfuneral.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. created a Webcast in memory of Mrs. Hedy Lipez Burbank*



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - July 15, 2021 at 01:36 PM

BB



benjamin bertocci - July 31, 2021 at 12:28 PM



Charles
Majors

“ *Hedy was (and still IS) my maternal grandmother's niece. What a wonderful and giving spirit - and a tremendous loss to the medical industry, family and friends.*

I slumped onto the floor when I received the news Hedy moved on to the other side.

She didn't have to... but Hedy, her husband Mr. Burbank and daughter, my cousin Sydney came to my wedding in '06. She didn't have to - but it was great to have her and family at the ceremony.

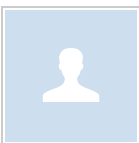
Today, I'm not able to be there in person as my son (slightly special needs), had a recent seizure (a totally new condition), and needs extra care.

Otherwise, I'd drop everything to take a direct flight to MA.

I will miss Hedy's presence on our physical earth, just as much as my own father, who passed in '04.

*Cousin Charlie M.
NYC*

Charles Majors - July 31, 2021 at 12:13 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mrs. Hedy Lipez Burbank.*



July 26, 2021 at 04:17 PM

RH

“ to the family of hedy lipez burbank,

hedy helped my mother, hazel hartigan, and i work out my mom's overall care in her later years, including access to health, dental, and eye care, fuel assistance in the winter, contacts with support people, living arrangements, and ways i would be involved. she was always open to our needs, looked out for my mother, and kept my mom in touch with a good social life. her help allowed my mom to be at home and for me to be with her when she needed me.

i will never forget hedy's work and kindness to us, and will keep her in my music and memories as a person selflessly dedicated to others. she has changed the lives of hundreds, if not thousands of people over the time she worked as a true humanitarian.

our love to hedy and all her family and friends.

in spirit and music,

royal hartigan

royal hartigan - July 20, 2021 at 10:00 AM

SL

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Sydney Lipez - January 24, 2021 at 08:50 PM

JT

“ Hedy and I shared parallel experience: Philosophy major, Peace Corps, RN, NP, women's health, psychiatric nursing, Nautilus gym, widowhood. She was always a wise counsel and a caring colleague. A guiding light that showed the way. I mourn her loss to myself and to her family and community in the Berkshires.
Jeannine Tonetti

Jeannine Tonetti - January 15, 2021 at 04:25 PM

AH

“ When I moved to the Berkshires in 1984 as I brand new NP, I found a small group of colleagues including Hedy. We shared and supported each other in what was then a very new role in this more rural area. We also were both RPCVs from Africa. I miss her wonderful presence. Anne Hutchinson

Anne Hutchinson - January 14, 2021 at 10:07 PM

NO

“ My sister just told me that Hedy passed away on the 10th. I thought I saw her out of the blue last week in the Northampton area. My mother and Hedy were close when I was a young child, and I have countless memories of her and Richard. The thing I will always remember most though, was her serenity. The calmness of her voice, the kindness in her eyes, and her resolve to make the world better and brighter where she was able, have stayed with me forever. I'm so grateful to have had time with her, no matter how long ago. Condolences to her loved ones. Rest In Peace, Hedy. Thank you for being you!

Noel - January 14, 2021 at 09:03 AM

CB

“ I was saddened to learn of Hedy's passing. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to work in the office next door to her private practice. I much admired her clinical knowledge & expertise as well as her caring and sense of compassion for all those she worked with. She was an inspiration and I am very sorry she is no longer with us during these very difficult times.

Christine Brandon

Christine Brandon - January 13, 2021 at 12:48 PM

JM

“ J Munoz lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Hedy Lipez Burbank



J Munoz - January 12, 2021 at 12:31 PM

MS

“ My heart is truly heavy that this bright light of a human being is gone from our world. What an extraordinary woman; there is no way to measure the numbers of lives she touched, and the innumerable ways she helped make her corner of the world a better place. I met Hedy when she helped me more than fifteen years ago, then we reconnected while sitting on Patient Ethics committee at the hospital. Her fingerprints will stay on my heart. May her memory be for a blessing.

Marcie Greenfield Simons

Marcie Greenfield Simons - January 12, 2021 at 10:58 AM

HM

“ Hedy was my next door neighbor and my Nurse Practitioner preceptor in the 90”s. She was a beautiful person. She fought many battles in her life but she never gave up. She will be missed. My condolences to her family. Helen Majchrowski

Helen Majchrowski - January 12, 2021 at 09:44 AM

VR

“ Having worked in the psychiatric department at Berkshire Medical Center, I had many contacts with Hedy. I was always struck by her brilliance, compassion, patient-centered care, and modesty. She was a phenomenal nurse and a wonderful person. I'm sure she will be sorely missed by all who knew her. Condolences to her family. Vicki Robare

Vicki Robare - January 12, 2021 at 07:17 AM

KM

“ I am very sorry to hear of the passing of Hedy. Every engagement I had with Hedy at New Ashford events was always met with a warm, informative and nurturing conversation. She will be sorely missed. My thoughts and sympathies to the Lipez and Burbank families

Ken McInerney - January 12, 2021 at 06:13 AM



“ I am so grateful to have you as a mother-figure. You were so loving, but not smothering, strong and stoic, but also tender. You laughed at jokes that you wouldn't necessarily tell - and you had the most amazing and cozy home full of delicious foods, lovely art, and fascinating books of poetry, birding, Oliver Sachs... I wish I had been better at expressing my love and admiration for you. Thank you for bringing two amazing people into this world who I love so much. And I love you so much - I am not saying goodbye, just a wishing you peaceful rest until we meet again. <3, Z

Z - January 12, 2021 at 04:33 AM

DN

As a nurse at BMC I first saw Hedy striding down a hall, regal looking in her African necklace, big earrings and head held high, above. I wondered who this interesting looking woman was? Eventually I had the pleasure to work with her, learn from her and become a friend to her and she to me. She was the most loyal of friends and would keep your secrets. Such a gentle soul with an amazing lip sneer. I will miss her dearly. Dale

Dale Newman - January 12, 2021 at 02:45 PM