



## Mrs. Katharine Carter Handel

July 31, 1945 - April 4, 2019

Katharine Carter Handel, 73, of Columbia, died Thursday, April 4, 2019. Born on July 31, 1945 in Dayton, Ohio, she was a daughter of the late James Grafton and Jean Harrington Whipple Carter.

Kathy was a graduate of Parchment High School, Parchment, Mich., and then earned her bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in social studies and received a master's degree from MSU in guidance and counseling. Later, she received a master's in education in school psychology from Wright State University. When she and her husband moved to New York, she attended New York University as a full-time student. Throughout her career Kathy has taken courses on a variety of campuses including the University of Hawaii and Ohio State University.

Her work experience included teaching in high school, counseling in junior high school and interning for a year as a school psychologist. Immediately after moving to Columbia, she took a counseling position at Spring Valley High School. While a counselor at Spring Valley, Kathy helped to develop a career-based course for freshmen where students developed electronic portfolios. She co-presented her program at numerous conferences. In 1995, she became the first Director of Guidance at Ridge View High School. As the Director of Guidance at Ridge View, she organized guidance by career clusters and supervised teachers who taught the freshman career course. She also organized a career and college information center staffed by parent volunteers. Within months after retiring from Ridge View, she took a part-time counseling position at Richland Northeast High School. In all, Kathy was a guidance counselor for more than 32 years.

Kathy completed several certificate programs, including a Primary Training Course from The Institute for Advanced Study in Rational Psychotherapy in New York City and the 40 hours of Family Mediation Skills Training from the SC Council for Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution in cooperation with the SC Bar Association and the USC Law School. Kathy was a Licensed Professional Counselor and a National Certified Counselor. She was awarded the Outstanding Counselor Award by the South Carolina

Counseling Association in 1986. In 1994, she received the South Carolina Counseling Association Humanitarian Award. She served as the chair of The Faith Coalition on Gun Violence, and the South Carolina chapter of Alternatives to Violence Project, and Governor of the Mayflower Society of South Carolina at the same time her mother was the Governor of the Mayflower Society of Ohio. She dressed up as Constance Hopkins, a teenager who came over on the Mayflower, to talk with and answer questions as Constance for high school classes.

She was an active member of Washington United Methodist Church, where she attended the Dawsey Sunday School Class, the Charles Pfeiffer Circle, worked with Alcorn Middle School, and was active on many church committees. She participated in a Women's Group, sometimes referred to as the Cult, for 35 years.

Survivors include her husband of 49 years, Richard C. Handel; brothers, James W. Carter (Carol) of Kalamazoo, Mich., Charles G. Carter (Marita) of Concord, N.C.; nephews, James C. Carter (Rebecca), Jeffrey R. Carter (Ana Maria), Jeremy J. Carter (Jessica), and Austin S. Carter (Christina); eight grandnieces and grandnephews; as well as her brothers-in-law, Jeffrey J. Handel (Louise) of West Chicago, Ill., and Todd D. Handel (Divya) of Del Ray Beach, Fla.

The memorial service for Ms. Handel will be held at 11:00 a.m., May 4th, at Washington Street United Methodist Church. Visitation will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the Wesley Room of the Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the Handel-Carter Assistance (Scholarship) Fund at the Central Carolina Community Foundation, 2142 Boyce St., Suite 402, Columbia, SC 29201, or to Washington Street United Methodist Church, 1401 Washington St., Columbia, SC 29201.

Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel, is assisting the family.

# Events

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**MAY**   **Visitation**                      10:00AM - 11:00AM

**4**

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Washington Street United Methodist Church  
1401 Washington Street, Columbia, SC, US, 29201

**MAY**   **Memorial Service**    11:00AM

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Washington St United Methodist Church  
1401 Washington St, Columbia, SC, US, 29201

# Comments

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“ Jan and I were sorry to hear about Kathy.

**David Jordan** - April 15, 2019 at 02:09 PM

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“ I had the pleasure of working with Kathy at Richland Northeast. Enjoyed her humor and kindness as she got me through my youngest's Senior year.

**Cheryl Lausi** - April 13, 2019 at 08:52 AM

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“ Ms. Handel was my guidance counselor when I was in high school. She was a wonderful person who made a difference in many peoples lives.

Denise Owens

**Denise Owens** - April 12, 2019 at 11:52 AM



“ I was honored to work with Kathy at Richland Northeast. She served our students so well with her expertise combined with an abundance of compassion. She was generous to share her knowledge with me in the College and Career Center. So very thankful for her.

**Kim Sanders** - April 12, 2019 at 12:15 PM

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“ Kathy will always be my dear friend in this life and the next. Loving, smart and fun, she was a dedicated guidance counselor giving her all to her career and co-workers. She really cared about students. As a friend, she had no equal. I will miss her terribly.  
Garwood Wells

**Garwood Wells** - April 11, 2019 at 02:35 PM

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“ Kathy was an inspiration to anyone she was around. I worked with her for 13 years at Spring Valley and the epitome of a wonderful woman and guidance counselor

**Darlene Hebert** - April 11, 2019 at 09:42 AM

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“ Vonda Wilson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Katharine Carter Handel



**Vonda Wilson** - April 11, 2019 at 08:57 AM

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“ The RICH Village salutes Mama Kathy for all her generosity over these many years to elevate the concept of peace especially among young adults who are struggling in violent communities. Mama Kathy is now an Ancestor who I know is whispering in my ear every time we have to hang a wooden gun on the tree...."Never stop what you are doing for the youth!" Most humble respect from Mama G

**Mama G** - April 10, 2019 at 01:29 PM

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“ Melissa Bush is following this tribute.

**Melissa Bush** - April 09, 2019 at 08:40 PM

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“ Kathy and I shared favorite books (Louise Penney's characters became part of our families) and we shared a love of twirling in our beloved exercise class. She is a dear soul who will be sorely missed. Judy Dawson

**Judith Dawson** - April 09, 2019 at 05:55 PM

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“ Kathy was such an inspiration. May her memory be a blessing, just as her life has been.

**Cheryl** - April 09, 2019 at 01:45 PM

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“ Kathy was truly a great person. She was the heart and soul of the Faith Coalition On Gun Violence. It was her determination and dedication that inspired me to join the FCGV. Kathy was a wonderful person who was always there for everyone. On behalf of the FCGV, we want to express our deepest condolences to the family and friends. You will truly be missed.

-Perry Bradley



**Perry Bradley** - April 09, 2019 at 01:03 PM

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“ Kind Kathy was a beautiful spirit who lit the way for me many times while I lived in Columbia. She encouraged me to dive deeper into the community and inspired me to be a better person every space I shared with her. She will be greatly missed and is tremendously loved.

**mital lyons** - April 09, 2019 at 07:42 AM

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“ Kind Kathy, as she was known to the participants and facilitators in the Alternatives to Violence Project, had chosen her adjective well. Her kindness was genuine and active. She was dedicated to making the world a better place. She leaves a gaping void.

**Sylvie Dessau** - April 08, 2019 at 05:01 PM

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“ Kathy was my High School Guidance counselor who also became my closest and dearest friend. More like my 2nd mom and her husband Rick my 2nd dad. She was also my eldest son Rob Gable's Godmother. We always got together on each other's birthday and Christmas to have lunch together. If she needed yard work or cleaning done my husband, youngest son Zech, and I would go over to her house and do whatever she instructed us more my husband and son what to do. While Kathy and I visited with each other. How I became close to her was in high school I had family issues and attempted suicide she helped me get into carolina children's home till I graduated high school i then left their a moved in with my grandparents. She was always their for me. Kathy I will miss you dearly, I love you to the moon and back. Till we meet again my dear friend and 2nd mom.

**Holley Gable** - April 07, 2019 at 05:36 PM



“ I remember Kathy so soft spoken, calm, and always a beautiful smile. I know her family and friends will sorely miss her.

**Peggy Clement** - April 11, 2019 at 12:52 AM



“ When I worked at the State Department I visited Kathy at Her schools. She was a visionary in terms of helping students especially in working with them on career planning. She always put her students first and provided counseling services that enriched their lives and made them successful. I admired and respected Kathy and her work. Just recently I ran into her in the grocery store and we had a wonderful visit as she told me about her working through the faith community against gun violence. She was a wonderful caring person whom I will miss seeing.

Carolyn Donges

**carolyn** - April 12, 2019 at 08:46 PM

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“ Her passing truly took my breath away! She was one of the most genuine people who has walked on this earth. I will miss Kathy as a friend and as a fellow guidance counselor in Richland School District 2. We had enjoyed reuniting since I joined Washington Street UMC. Kathy so loved her church. Praying for her Dear Husband, Rick as well as other family members during this difficult time.

Betsy G. Halloran

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**John Halloran** - April 07, 2019 at 02:06 PM

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“ Mrs. Handel was my High School Guidance Counselor. I remember when it was time for me to take the SAT, my parents didn't have the money to pay for me to take it. So Mrs. Handel had me and someone else come to her house on a Saturday and do some cleaning and she paid for both of us to take the SAT. Although my scores weren't high enough for me to get into college I always remembered Mrs. Handel's care and concern enough to do that for me. I'll never forget you Mrs. Handel.

**Libby Sloan** - April 06, 2019 at 07:41 PM

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“ Kathy was a wonderful and beautiful person. She helped many students find a career that the student would want. She had many friends. She was a faithful member of Washington Street United Methodist Church. My husband, Kevin, and I will miss her. Many people will miss her. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband.

Carol Cook Duggan



**CAROL COOK DUGGAN** - April 06, 2019 at 12:34 PM