

Marie Louise Farr
Obituary

Marie Louise Farr, of Chester, Vt., passed away at age 77 after a mercifully brief battle with cancer at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center on May 5th, 2017. Mary Lou was born in East Orange, NJ on October 19, 1939 to Marie Louise and Charles Hodge. She grew up in Short Hills, NJ attending the Kent Place School for girls. She loved horses, riding and playing golf. She developed a unique intellect including a formidable memory and avidity for reading. A gifted student, Mary Lou received her bachelor's degree from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts in 1961. Until the time of her death she cherished the close friends she made during her teenage years and maintained contact with them.

Mary Lou lived for several years in New York City where she worked at Rockefeller University. In 1962, she met and married Willoughby Farr. They lived in Short Hills, NJ and had three children, Bill, Missy and Anne. The marriage ended in eventual divorce. Mary Lou then had years of severe depression, but with courage and hope she built a new life in Florida where she managed an exclusive seaside resort. The vicissitudes of life were not always good to her. After living in Palm Beach, Mary Lou moved to Vermont, a place she loved, and settled in Chester. She thrived in Chester becoming active in the local library and Unitarian Church. Over her many years in Vermont, she again built a cadre of close friends and became a devoted animal lover. The care and love she gave her dogs and cats, her skills at cross stitch and knitting as well as her voracious reading were the most satisfying parts of her life. She cherished her children and her frequent contacts with her brothers and sister. Her humor, generosity, strong opinions, intellectual attributes and mostly her love for family will be dearly missed by her surviving children, Bill, Missy and Anne, her sister Patricia, and her brothers Jim and Charles. A memorial service for May Lou will be held in Chester in June.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Springfield Vermont Humane Society are welcome.