

Jean Davies (1927-2018)

Following a very active life, Jean Davies, age 90, died peacefully and in the company of family on April 22, 2018 in Rutland, Vermont. Her death was of natural causes. Born in Vermont in 1927, she was a resident of Pittsford, Vermont for over 80 years. As a child of the Depression, Jean was always a make-do/can-do person. Jean greeted everyone with a smile.

She was a graduate of Pittsford High School, going on to receive a B.A. degree from Middlebury College. After her marriage to Charles Davies in 1951, she lived in Arlington, Mass, then in Rutland and Brandon, Vermont. In 1960 the family moved to the house in Pittsford Village that her parents had purchased the year she was born, and there she raised her family and lived until 2015.

Jean's passion was summer camps. Jean will be forever connected with Camp Betsey Cox in Pittsford. Her parents, Leone and Eleanor Smith, were the founders of Camp Sangamon for Boys in Pittsford. Sangamon was an inspiration for Jean, and in 1954, Jean and Charlie founded Camp Betsey Cox for Girls. Jean was Director there for 35 years. Thousands of campers and staff know Jean as "Mrs. D.". In the spring and fall, local school children enjoyed outdoor education experiences, led by Jean at Camp Betsey Cox. Jean was President of the Vermont Camping Association for years. She was recognized in Vermont and in our country for her work with summer camps. Jean was co-founder of the General Breed Fund that provides camperships to support children who would not otherwise have access to the summer camp experience.

Jean was a prolific writer. For years she contributed stories of town happenings to local papers. She authored NEIGHBORLY NOTES, stories of town happenings and anecdotes, CAMP WITH A SONG IN ITS HEART, on the history of Camp Betsey Cox, and was a main contributor as co-author of PITTSFORD'S SECOND CENTURY; 1872-1997.

Jean was a Chair of the Pittsford Planning Commission, President and curator of the Pittsford Historical Society, a Girl Scout leader, a Cub Scout Den mother, a 4-H Club leader, a Sunday School teacher, and a school teacher. A Pittsford Town Report was dedicated to Jean. She read to local third graders at school weekly. She regularly visited the town's general store (Kamuda's Market), participated in the Vermont Home Share program, was a main contributor to the preservation of the Pittsford Ice Caves, was on the Vermont Natural Resources Council and on the Vermont Chamber of Commerce Board. She was an active member of the Rutland Unitarian Universalist Church.

Jean was a hiker, gardener, skier, and knitter. She led many Senior Hikes. She was President of the Rutland area Toast Masters. Her primary interest was being with and interacting with people.

She is survived by her children, JoAnne Kenyon (Paul) of Vermont, Sherry Wilson (Dick) of Texas, Rick Davies of New Hampshire, Pat Davies (Joe) of Colorado, and Chrissy Davies of Colorado. Also, step grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and grand and great grand nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband of 55 years, Charles Davies, and her brothers, James Smith of Virginia, David Smith of Vermont, and Lawrence Smith of Vermont.

April 26, 2018

A special thank-you to the caring staff of The Meadows at East Mountain in Rutland, Vermont where Jean lived for the past 3 years, and to the Bayada Hospice staff for their support.

There will be a memorial service to celebrate Jean's life, on Saturday June 9 at 2 PM in the Congregational Church, 121 Village Green, Pittsford, Vermont. There will also be a memorial service at Camp Betsey Cox, date to be announced. There will be a private family gathering at Evergreen Cemetery

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the summer camp scholarship fund, The General Breed Fund (please note that your gift should be directed to Camp Betsey Cox), 85 Prim Road, Suite 201, Colchester, Vermont 05466 ([generalbreed.org](http://generalbreed.org)); or to the Pittsford Historical Society, PO Box 423, Pittsford, Vermont 05763.

Barnard Funeral Home of Pittsford, Vermont assisted the family with arrangements.