

Cynthia Gallup Phelps, d. June 6, 2022, [READ MORE](#)



Cynthia was an equestrian, a conservationist, and an avid reader as well as a librarian and teacher. Family and friends will miss her lively spirit and intellect, and she will be remembered for her love and respect for children of all ages.

After graduating from MHC with a B.A. in English, Cynthia headed west on the California Zephyr to the University of California at Berkeley. There she earned an M.A. in Library Science and Education and witnessed “the turmoil of the times.” Writing in our 50th REUNION Book, she recalled that the experience “changed my world view in unexpected ways”. After some years working in California, she traveled back East on Route 66 to “the new adventure of marriage, building our own house, founding a business and raising two boys.” She taught and worked in schools and libraries in Connecticut and Western Massachusetts, including the MHC library. In her last position as teaching librarian at Smith Academy in Hatfield, she was voted teacher of the year.

Cynthia grew up her family’s farm in Granby, Ma. She was an avid rider, and it was as a counselor in charge of horseback riding at a summer camp that she met fellow counselor Gary Phelps. A decade later the couple were married in Abby Chapel. For more than 20 years of their busy lives they operated a B&B catering to MHC and other Five College Alums. “We met all kinds of people from around the world at our breakfast table.”, Gary remembers.

Cynthia was instrumental in permanently conserving 200 acres of forest in Granby and was a proud member of the Mary Lyon Society.

She is sorely missed by Gary, their two sons, Jared W. and George R. Phelps, her granddaughter Fiona Rose Phelps and numerous nieces and nephews.