

# Mount Holyoke College Class of 1965 In Memoriam

## Lucy Taylor Bremner

January 22, 1943 - April 1, 2019

Dear '65 Classmates,

It was a bluebird day, clear skies, puffs of white clouds, that graced the gathering at St. Columba's Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C., the afternoon of April 13 for the funeral of our dear friend, Lucy.

The church was full, of family and of friends, from all chapters of Lucy's life. The church musician played selections of Bach for a prelude. At 1 p.m. the family walked in from a side aisle to the front three pews reserved for them.

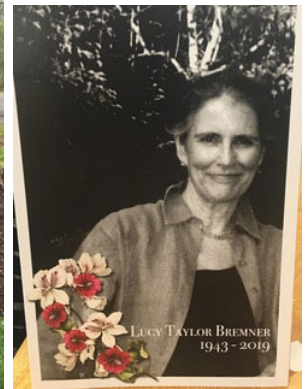
The clergy processed during the opening hymn, "I am the bread of life." Afterward three family members and a friend shared remembrances of Lucy.

Yvonne Dixon, the long-time friend, talked of gatherings and family celebrations with the Bremners, that spanned more than 50 years. They met during the husbands' World Bank years.

Son Timo Bremner, said "my Mother left our world more beautiful." He talked about his mother's iron memory. She loved tidbits from conversations that she would bring out maybe 10 years later, "Oh you are the one who did such and such."

Daughter Emily Bremner Forbes said, "Mom was a maker. She painted walls, made the bedspread, curtains, pillows. She lived and breathed her creativity every day." She remembered "Mom's strength."

Husband Robert (Bob) Bremner spoke of Lucy's fortitude. She was diagnosed with lymphoma in 2001 and given a life expectancy of 12 to 14 years. "She lasted 18 years,"



*Jo Griffith  
Domingue and  
Helen Tubesing  
Forster at  
Lucy's funeral in  
Washington, D.C.*



he said. Lucy's mother once gave her a Hermes scarf. From then on scarves became the accessory du jour. Bob suggested, for those coming to the funeral, they wear a scarf "in honor of Lucy and her fabulous fashion sense." About half the ladies wore a scarf. Bob talked of how Lucy treasured friendships. He mentioned the Porter People Press and her enduring friendships from Mt. Holyoke College.

Lucy's sister Nancy Taylor read a selection by William Sloane Coffin, Jr. Sister Anne Almy read the 23rd Psalm. Daughter Sara Bremner Barry read the Gospel, a selection from the Beatitudes, "Blessed be those who mourn for they will be comforted."

In his homily, the rector, the Rev. Ledlie Laughlin, said "Lucy made the world a bit more like the kingdom of God! She was a person of immediate warmth, made all the more remarkable with her day to day pain." Then he paused. And said, "full disclosure: Lucy was on the search committee that brought me here. We had a mutual admiration society." He said that Lucy's joy was a gift.

Holy Communion followed. During Communion, the choir, comprised of the St. Columba Singers and the Ingleside Singers, from the community where Lucy and Bob lived, sang an anthem by Thomas Talis. After Communion they sang a choral blessing by John Rutter.

After the final blessing, Rev. Laughlin walked over to Bob, sitting in the front pew, and presented him with an engraved 6- by 6-inch brass box with Lucy's ashes. Tenderly cradling the box, Bob led a procession of family down the aisle. There was an interment of the ashes outside in the St. Columba columbarium.

Rest eternal grant to Lucy, O Lord;  
And let light perpetual shine upon her.  
(From the Committal Service)

A catered reception followed in the church Fellowship Hall. Bouquets of fresh garden flowers decorated the tables.

Later that day, Bob hosted an elegant dinner for family and out-of-town friends at the Sulgrave Club at DuPont Circle. Cocktails began at 5:30. Dinner followed: butter lettuce salad, herb and panko crusted salmon and a spring fruit tart galette. About 35 attended, including friends from Fairfield, CT; Dayton, Ohio; San Jose, CA; and Oconomowoc, WI. Family and friends shared delightful, endearing Lucy stories.

Jo and Tuby, xo

As the first fundraising vice president of the Dayton Branch of the American Red Cross and also the first fundraising vice president for Arts Dayton, the city's united arts organization. Returning to Washington, DC, she became Vice President for Development for the American Symphony Orchestra League and then became responsible for fundraising for the National Public Radio Foundation's Board of Trustees. She ended her career in 2016 as the Financial Development Officer for the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, DC.



Her passions included the Good Shepherd's Ministry of St. Columba's Episcopal Church in Washington, DC, which provides meals to families in emergency situations and which she led for twelve years. She considered it her personal ministry to empathize with and provide support for these families. She was an enthusiastic member of the Smithsonian Women's Committee for over fifteen years as it provided financial support for new projects undertaken throughout the Smithsonian system. She served as vice president in 2015. She helped found the "Play Group," a large group of friends that read and acted in classic and famous Broadway plays for twenty years. She loved to make music and sang in choral groups throughout her life, beginning in college, singing in the Cathedral Choral Society for ten years and finishing with church choirs and the Ingleside singers. She was an inveterate traveler with family and friends. She had an appreciation of the culture, history and beauty of Europe and the world's great civilizations elsewhere.

Those who knew her will also miss her ability to bring color and zest to interior spaces she decorated and her sense of style in her fashion choices. Her life was characterized by love of friends and family and making life better for all those she met throughout her life.

She leaves behind her husband of 52 years, Robert P. Bremner, and their three children: Sara Bremner Barry (Randall) and Emily Bremner Forbes (Dan), both of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Timothy Taylor Bremner (Jaemi) of Berkeley, California, and her four grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held at St. Columba's Episcopal Church in Washington, DC, on Saturday, April 13 at 1:00 pm with an internment to follow. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy (CURE) ([www.cureepilepsy.org](http://www.cureepilepsy.org)) or to the Outreach Ministries of St. Columba's Episcopal Church in Washington, DC ([www.columba.org](http://www.columba.org)).

Lucy Bremner Funeral Details  
Funeral Service  
Saturday, April 13th, 2019  
1:00pm  
Reception at church to follow

Funeral Service & Reception Location  
St. Columba's Episcopal Church  
4201 Albemarle St., NW  
Washington, DC 20016  
202.363.4119  
[www.columba.org](http://www.columba.org)

Nearby Hotels  
Embassy Suites at Chevy Chase Pavilion  
4300 Military Road, NW  
Washington, DC 20015  
[www.embassysuites3.hilton.com](http://www.embassysuites3.hilton.com)

Washington Marriott Wardman Park  
2660 Woodley Road, NW  
Washington, DC 20008  
202.328.2000  
[www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wasdt-washington-marriott-wardman-park/](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wasdt-washington-marriott-wardman-park/)

Omni Shoreham Hotel  
2500 Calvert St., NW  
Washington, DC 20008  
202.234.0700  
[www.omnihotels.com](http://www.omnihotels.com)

If you are coming in from out of town, please let Sara know. You can reach her at the contact info below:

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Please let Sara know if you have any questions.

(Posted April 2019)