

## **Sidney Littlefield Kasfir**

YORK, Maine - **Sidney Littlefield Kasfir**, age 80, passed away peacefully Sunday, December 29, 2019 due to complications from a short illness. She was born January 18, 1939 and raised in York, Maine by Robert and Rose Littlefield.

After graduating from Simmons College, she married Nelson Kasfir in 1962, obtained a PhD in African art, and taught in New England and then at Emory University for 23 years.

In 1991, she met her husband, Kirati Lenaronkoito, in Maralal, Kenya. There she helped raise 10 children.

Sidney is survived by her husband Kirati; children Melania Turgelsky and Elisabetta Kasfir; granddaughters Zoe and Maddy Turgelsky; ten children and eleven grandchildren in Kenya; and sisters Natalie Archer and Nina Bisognani.

SERVICES: Her funeral will be held in Maralal, Kenya with Memorials in Atlanta and York.  
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<https://networks.h-net.org/node/12834/discussions/5686819/obituary-sidney-littlefield-kasfir>

### **Obituary: Sidney Littlefield Kasfir**

Discussion published by Helena Cantone on Tuesday, January 7, 2020

Written on behalf of Jean Borgatti:

It is with great sadness that I pass on to you the information of the death of my friend and colleague Sidney Littlefield Kasfir on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December 2019. I last saw Sidney at the Triennial in Ghana in 2017 where ACASA formally recognized her distinguished contributions to the field of global African art as a scholar, teacher, and mentor. She will be remembered for her pioneering work on contemporary African art as well as her research among Idoma and related peoples of the Niger-Benue confluence.

Sidney had remarried in Kenya where she lived for increasing periods of time each year, especially after retiring from Emory University's history of art department in 2011. In the last couple of years, she lived with her husband, Kirati Lenaronkoito, on their farm in Maralal for ten months each year. She would spend a month each year with each of her two daughters.

She fell and fractured her hip in September 2019 and despite successful surgery in Nairobi, never quite recovered. About two weeks ago she suffered an attack of malaria and developed a pulmonary embolism among other complications. She was taken back to Nairobi Hospital too late to save her.

She was buried on the farm outside Maralal that she shared with Kirati.