

**Barbara (Barb) O'Connell) – August 14, 1947 – May 19, 2017**



Barb O'Connell was an amazing woman. She was classy, witty, smart, hard-working and fun-loving. She was a TBBCF marathoner and walk leader who quickly became part of a core founding group of friends who pitched-in to do whatever was needed to help get the foundation up and running. From 2006 through 2011, she participated in the Walk Across Southeastern CT as a marathoner and walker training leader. In 2007, she founded the Black Hall Country Club Women's Golf Association tournament to benefit TBBCF. From 2007 to 2013 she served as the Chairperson for that annual event, raising thousands of dollars to benefit for breast cancer research.

Even in later years, when illness prevented Barb from fully participating in the golf tournaments and the marathons, she was always on-hand on Walk day cheering on walkers and volunteers. In 2016, we found Barb with her daughter, Jen, on the walk route in Waterford cheering on the walkers and especially her grandchildren.



Barb will be missed especially by her family and dear friends including her long-time TBBCF sidekick, Irene Corsino, of Old Lyme. Barb and Irene became great friends from the moment they began training together for TBBCF marathons. They could often be seen walking through Lyme and Old Lyme or having coffee at Ashlawn Farm in Lyme. Irene

joined Barb for a kayaking breast cancer awareness fundraiser, One Square Mile of Hope held in Inlet, New York.



Barbara enjoyed golfing at Black Hall Golf Club, working in her many gardens, taking long walks on the beach and developed a passion for painting landscapes from special places she visited. Several of Barb's paintings were on display at her memorial service along with her last painting done earlier this year.



Barbara's last painting.  
Completed in early 2017

Barb was deeply devoted to her family and friends and loved by so many.

Following are excerpts from Barb's obituary.

Old Lyme - "Happiness is when what you think, what you say and what you do are all in harmony," said Mahatma Gandhi. These words describe the life of Barbara (Belnap) O'Connell of Old Lyme, who left us on Friday, May 19, 2017, surrounded by family.

She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Daniel Francis O'Connell; a son, Jeff O'Connell of Essex; a daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Marc Brodeur of Old Saybrook; five grandchildren, Hayley, Will, Luke, Anna and Ryan Brodeur; brother and sister-in-law, Frank and Carolyn Belnap of Half Moon Bay, Calif. and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents, Nancy and Francis Belknap; her stepfather, William Maxwell; and her sister, Nancy Stinson.

Barbara was born on Aug. 14, 1947 in New York. She grew up in New Canaan and graduated from House in the Pines boarding school in Massachusetts. She graduated from Marjorie Webster in 1968 with a degree in merchandising. Barbara worked in New York City as a buyer for Lord and Taylor Department Store and later opened her own shop, The Corner House, continuing the tradition of stores her mother had in Darien and New Canaan. She later worked at Astrea Clothing Company as well.