



Roderick Brown

November 22, 1928 - May 21, 2020

Roderick Higgins Brown, 91, of Unionville, husband of Sarah (Prentis) Brown, passed away Thursday (May 21, 2020) at his home. He was predeceased by his first wife, Judith (Weld) Brown in 2001. Born in New Britain, Rod was a former Kensington resident until moving to Farmington. A graduate of Tilton Academy in New Hampshire, he received his under graduate degree from Brown University, served with the US Army in the Occupation Forces in Japan and received his Masters from Wesleyan University. Rod was a teacher and Assistant Head Master at Mooreland Hill School in Kensington for many years. Many students considered him their favorite teacher. After MHS, he formed his own construction company. Rod was a member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church; the New Britain Rotary Club; the Board of Directors of CCARC; The Art League of New Britain; The Round Table; The New Britain Museum of American Art. He was also active with art projects at the Hospital for Special Care.

He was happily married to his first wife Judith for 43 years. With their four children, Rod and Judy spent every summer enjoying their family beach house together in Clinton, CT. They also had an active social life in Kensington, CT with their bridge and country club friends. Rod became known for the unique and creative family Christmas cards that he designed with Judy. Family and friends looked forward to receiving them every year. Later in life, Rod and Judy enjoyed traveling together--often to see their children and

grandchildren. Their travel destinations included England, Scotland, Spain, Florida and Nova Scotia. He is remembered by his children and grandchildren as always being warm, welcoming and interested in their lives and adventures.

Rod had a glorious 17 years with his adoring second wife Sarah (Penny) with their combined families, sharing their houses in Unionville and Clinton, CT. He had a lively sense of humor, which brought levity and joy to all the family and friend gatherings. He and Sarah shared a love of art and were constantly found drawing and painting together. He was known as a positive soul, deeply fine man, artist and educator.

Besides his wife Sarah, he leaves a son, Vance Brown and his wife Nina of New York City; three daughters, Amy Bonomo and her husband Paul of Boca Raton, FL; Heather Alling and her husband Philip of London, England; and Cristabel Brown-Feeley of Cortland Manor, NY; four step daughters, Nancy Farrell and her husband Craig of Conway, SC; Beth Garrett and her husband William of Long Island City, NY; Amy Gates and her husband Neville of Greensboro, NC,; Sarah Spackman and her husband Tom of Greenport, NY; 17 grandchildren and two nieces. Besides his first wife, Judy, he was predeceased by and a brother, LeRoy Brown.

A Memorial will be held at a later date. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. There are no calling hours. Carlson Funeral Home, New Britain is assisting with arrangements. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The New Britain Museum of American Art 56 Lexington Street, New Britain, CT 06052 and The Farmington Land Trust 128 Garden Street C, Farmington, CT 06032. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at www.carlsonfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

SN

“ *Sonja Naughton and Carol Miller would like to extend our sympathy. We worked at Herald for several years*

Sonja Naughton - June 02, 2020 at 01:30 PM

ZG

“ *To Sarah and the Brown Family, We are so sorry to hear of Rod's passing. We enjoyed seeing Rod -- and his artwork -- at many cultural events and will miss his presence in the art community. Thinking of you at this difficult time- Zbigniew and Susan Grzyb*

Zbigniew Grzyb - May 29, 2020 at 11:34 AM

WM

“ *To Amy, Vance, Heather and Cristabel, I am very sorry to hear of your Dads passing. He was a heck of a guy and touched many lives. He is definitely someone that formed the foundation for many people that passed their way through Mooreland Hill. Thank you for sharing him with us. Peace*

Walter Murdoch - May 29, 2020 at 09:14 AM

EB

“ *So sorry to see Mr. Brown pass away. Feels like the end of an era to me. What a great teacher he was--knew how to not take himself or others too seriously and always made us feel like what were we saying was important. Take care Amy, Vance, Heather, and Chrissy. Miss you. Betsy (Howe) Bradley*

Elizabeth Howe Bradley - May 29, 2020 at 01:26 AM

MA

“ Amy Brown Bonomo is one of my dearest friends and I will be forever grateful to Mooreland Hill School for bringing her, and of course Mr. Brown, into my life. He was a great teacher, artist and a true gentleman. I last saw him at dinner at the beloved Clinton beach house. He was his usual charming and funny self and I'm glad I was able to spend that time with him. I know his spirit lives on in Amy, Vance, Heather and Christabel, and I hope they can find comfort in the memory of such a great dad and human being.
-Maggie Anderson-Murphy

Margaret Anderson-Murphy - May 28, 2020 at 02:35 PM

TV

“ I met the Brown family back in 1982-1983, in my first year at Mount Holyoke College, the first Mrs. Brown’s alma mater, where I met their daughter, Heather Brown Alling, my dearest friend on the planet. There is no other family outside of my own that means more to me.

Mr. Brown, and yes I still called him that to the end, was never anything but warm and welcoming to me. I spent many a Summer evening sharing a gin and tonic and cheese and crackers on the porch in Clinton, CT. with him and his family and he would invariably corner me to find out what was going on in my life, which brings me to my story.

I spent an especially interesting afternoon two summers ago in Clinton with him and Heather and Cristabel, one of his other daughters, who has become one of my closest friends over the years as well. Heather was hellbent on proving that she was a “daughter of the revolution” so had started working on Mr. Brown’s family tree to figure out the lineage back to Martha Carrier, a proclaimed witch during the Salem witch trials, who had been hanged for having been, in reality, just an outspoken, ornery woman according to Mr. Brown’s research. I, having grown up in MA, 20 minutes from Salem, was fascinated with this so took over the search when Heather got stuck on the heritage app. We grilled Mr. Brown all afternoon for the missing details which he cheerfully provided to help us find the missing generations to get us back to Martha. And, after we succeeded and were laughing about exactly what the benefits of being a “daughter of the revolution” would mean, Heather went on to read more about Martha to us when she discovered that the day she was hanged was that exact day in August, 2018! It completely raised the hairs on the back of our necks. We all felt very witchy and connected to Martha.

Rest in peace, Mr. Brown, knowing you have touched the lives of so many.

You will be dearly missed.

*All my love,
Tanya Vlahos*

Tanya Vlahos - May 28, 2020 at 10:36 AM