



Donna Van Raaphorst

DEC 5, 1943 - OCT 6, 2019



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Donna Raaphorst Obituary

Donna Van Raaphorst, 75, of Oberlin, OH, passed away October 6, 2019. She was born December 5, 1943 in Detroit, Michigan to Leonard and Eleanor Van Raaphorst. Donna graduated from Dearborn High School and attended Eastern Michigan University, where she graduated with a double major in psychology and history. The following year, completed her MA in history at Eastern Michigan University and continued with her PhD at Kent State University. Over the next thirty years, Donna taught at Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland State University, Baldwin Wallace College and Kent State University. Throughout the course of her career, she was involved with the American Historical Association, The Organization of American Historians, The Ohio Academy of History, The Women Historians of Greater Cleveland, The Greater Cleveland Labor History Society, The Western Reserve Historical Society and The Oberlin Historic Preservation Committee. Donna authored two books: *Union Maids Not Wanted: Organizing Domestic Workers*, published in 1988, and *The History of an Island Prison: From the Development to an American Myth*, published in 2011. She was the recipient of two National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships, one at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL and the other at Amherst College in Amherst, MA. She loved reading, writing, traveling, sailing and raising orchids. Donna is survived by sisters, Janet Szopo, Cheryl Klug and Susan Noland; brother, Derek Van Raaphorst; ten nieces and nephews; and thirteen grandnieces and grandnephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Eleanor Fillion. A memorial service will be Friday, October 11, 2019 at 4:00 pm at Kendal at Oberlin, 600 Kendal Drive, Oberlin, OH 44074. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Cleveland Orchestra, Severance Hall, 11001 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106.. Memorial



Obituary

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ServiceKendal at OberlinFriday, October 11, 2019 4:00 PM 600 Kendal Dr.Oberlin,
OH 44074

To send flowers
to the family or plant a tree
in memory of Donna Van Raaphorst, please visit our floral store.

[Read More](#)



Tribute Wall

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AJ

Anna Van Raaphorst-Johnson posted:

I'm the first cousin of Donna's dad, Leonard. Donna and I had corresponded occasionally in recent years, and because of the pandemic I didn't follow up when I didn't hear from her at the end of 2019. I only came across her obituary recently. I'm so sorry to hear of her passing, and I'd like to extend my and my husband's sympathy to family members and friends. Anna van Raaphorst-Johnson and Dick Johnson

January 25 at 8:00 PM

KS

Ksu Professor Emeritus Robert Swierenga posted:

I'm very sorry to learn of Donna's passing. I directed her doctoral dissertation. She stood out as an excellent student and went on to have a splendid career in academia. I am proud of her. We even shared Dutch surnames. I have a hardbound copy of her dissertation and would be happy to send it to one of her siblings. Let me know by email if that would be desired.

October 10 at 8:00 PM

PT

Paul M. Thayer posted:

I am truly sad to read of Donna's passage. In the summer of 1987, I co-taught a history class with her at Cuyahoga Community College in Parma. May she rest in peace!

October 9 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Donna by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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