



## Kathleen Patricia Schmidt Mangi

March 25, 1949 - December 15, 2024

With a luminous smile and a high-octane laugh, Kathleen Schmidt Mangi brightened the day for anyone who crossed her path, but the 17 years of her unwelcome journey with Younger Onset Alzheimer's Disease have now ended at age 75.

Kathleen was a scientist with a wide-ranging career which included, among other efforts, working for the Pentagon on the Star Wars program, and for the National Park Service on creating a new national park in Mississippi that acknowledged the horror of slavery. She worked for the Department of Energy on cleaning up leftover contamination from the Manhattan Project, and on compensating workers poisoned by radioactive materials.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Kathleen met and married Jim Mangi at school in upstate NY and together they pursued their careers all over the country--in Montauk and Syracuse NY, New Brunswick NJ, Seattle, WA, Greensboro and Raleigh NC, Huntsville AL, Arlington and Annandale VA. They retired to Saline MI to be near their daughter and her family.

Kathleen was an accomplished photographer, a member of an award-winning Sweet Adelines Chorus, and a winning amateur tennis player. She overcame her own abusive childhood and was a devoted mother to her daughter. Kathleen fought sexual discrimination and harassment decades before it was

a mainstream issue; she pushed for comprehensive tolerance, (as she said, “Not just tolerance of people who agree with you”) and supported diverse groups battling hatred and bigotry. After retiring from the Department of Energy, she worked with adults who were seeking their High School Equivalency, and as a volunteer in her local school system.

Kathleen survived breast cancer, a double mastectomy, and then a second incidence of cancer ten years later. She beat cancer, but could not win the battle with Alzheimer’s Disease; no one ever has, yet. Even as the world became more and more confusing to her, she retained her sense of humor and the ability to launch zingers at her caregiving husband even when she no longer quite knew who he was. “Sweetheart”, husband Jim once said, taking her hands in his at the Memory Center where she lived for nearly 7 years, “You know I will always love you”. “Yes”, she said, “but I wish your hands weren’t so cold, you toad.”

Kathleen is survived by her husband of 49 years, Jim Mangi, and by their daughter Charlene Mangi.

Cremation has taken place. There will be a celebration of Kathleen’s life on Saturday, January 11th. Starting at 10:00 AM, there will be a visitation in the Social Hall of Holy Faith Church (6299 Ann Arbor Saline Rd Saline, MI 48176). All who choose to stay for the in-person Celebration of Life Funeral Service at 12:00 PM in the church are welcome to do so. Holy Faith Pastor Rev. Andrea Martin will officiate. Rev. Theresa Rohlck of Ann Arbor’s First Unitarian Universalist Congregation will also participate. The service will be in hybrid format—in person and also on Zoom. Following the service there will be a reception, more music, more celebration, and a buffet, in the Church Social Hall. The reception too will be Zoomed, and friends joining remotely will be welcome to participate---see what’s going on, hear the music, join the conversation, and enjoy all aspects of the reception (except for the food). Contact Jim Mangi ([jim.dfsaline@gmail.com](mailto:jim.dfsaline@gmail.com)) for a link to participate via Zoom-

--no tech skills needed.

Kathleen always cared much more about other people than about cut flowers, and since the church will provide more than enough flowers for the altar, any generosity you care to show in her honor could be directed toward supporting the faith-based outfit where she was cared for during the last 7 years of her 17 year journey-- EHM (Evangelical Homes of Michigan) 200 Brecon Dr Saline, MI 48176), or to the wonderfully welcoming Holy Faith Church 6299 Ann Arbor Saline Rd Saline 48176 MI. There's also the non-profit that husband Jim set up a few years ago to raise awareness about dementia and help other persons with dementia live in the community with less difficulty and more dignity. That's Dementia Friendly Saline (dfsaline.org) 400 W. Russell St Saline MI 48176.

To leave a memory you have of Kathleen, to sign her guestbook, or for directions please visit [www.rbfhsaline.com](http://www.rbfhsaline.com)

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Gathering

JAN 11. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Holy Faith Church  
6299 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd  
Saline, MI 48176  
<https://www.holyfaithsaline.org>

## Celebration of Life

JAN 11. 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM (ET)

Holy Faith Church  
6299 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd  
Saline, MI 48176  
<https://www.holyfaithsaline.org>

*Contact Jim Mangi ([jim.dfsaline@gmail.com](mailto:jim.dfsaline@gmail.com)) for a link to participate via Zoom---no tech skills needed.*

## Celebration of Life Luncheon

JAN 11. 1:00 PM (ET)

Holy Faith Church  
6299 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd  
Saline, MI 48176  
<https://www.holyfaithsaline.org>

*Contact Jim Mangi ([jim.dfsaline@gmail.com](mailto:jim.dfsaline@gmail.com)) for a link to participate via Zoom---no tech skills needed.*

# Tribute Wall

BH

“ Jim, for seven years we watched you stroll through Brecon Village with Kathleen in her wheelchair. She always had that little smile. We saw the loving care you have for her and humanity. You took her disease and now help so many others. Thank you, Gene and Barbara Hazelfeldt

---

**Barbara Hazelfeldt** - January 11, 2025 at 10:23 AM

JW

“ Jim and Family,  
Our deepest condolences on Kathleen's passing. She was deeply loved by her EHM family, and especially all of her care partners at The Memory Support Center over the years. We will remember her with much fondness, and her spirit will forever be with us. Your incredible love for each other has touched our lives.  
God Bless,  
Julia

---

**Julia Wellings** - January 10, 2025 at 09:54 AM

TG

“ Jim,  
  
My deepest sympathy to you and your family upon Kathleen's passing. I hope you find solace in knowing she's now at peace with Our Lord. You're in my thoughts and prayers.

Tom Grome

---

**Tom Grome** - January 06, 2025 at 06:29 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Kathleen Patricia Schmidt Mangi.



January 02, 2025 at 09:05 AM



“ Jim, I'm sorry for your loss and am also grateful for the light you have shined on the community of those most affected by loved ones with dementia. I knew Kathleen mostly through my association with you, but the love you have for her was so apparent in the thoughts you expressed in our communications. I wish you peace in the coming years and offer gratitude for your invitation to join your company some 17 years ago.

Dave Henney - December 27, 2024 at 04:32 PM



“ Jim- you have my deepest sympathies for your loss. Katherine lived life to its fullest. You must be very proud of her and yourself for the dedication of love for each other for 49years. May she rest in peace. May you have peace as you start another journey. Vanessa



Vanessa - December 26, 2024 at 01:45 PM

JD

“ Jim, We were all very saddened to learn of the passing of your dear wife, Kathleen. We realize how very much she meant to you, so much so that you have dedicated your second career to helping her and all those who have been similarly afflicted by dementia. We know that Kathleen had a much improved end of life experience, and we are certain that many others in this community and beyond have enjoyed the same thanks to your efforts.

*Jim Datson on behalf of the Rotary Club of Saline*

---

**Jim Datson** - December 25, 2024 at 07:29 PM

GW

“ Jim - It was such a pleasure for me to bring Sadie to visit Kathleen each week for the past year. Although she was unable to speak to me, she often smiled when we arrived and that always warmed my heart. She was a very lucky women to have you at her side for so many years.

---

**Gretchen Waters** - December 21, 2024 at 10:34 PM

TB

“ Jim---We are so sorry to hear about the passing of your beloved wife. Our partnership was born out of that love and, while she may not have been able to communicate it effectively to you, I am sure she is so proud of you...as we all are. Thoughts and prayers from the entire Emagine Entertainment family go out to you, your family and loved ones who are saddened by this great loss.

---

**Trevor Baker** - December 20, 2024 at 10:12 AM

PD

“ Jim - I thank you for including me in on the announcement of Kathleen's passing. And, I am so grateful you gave me the opportunity to meet her at EHM during one of my recent classes where we made the crepe paper lanterns (that she watched but did not make). Although she was non-verbal, everything you said about her smiling eyes was true. She held my hand and sharing that time was very special for me. I have a "Hill of Crosses" that I started in my back yard. I am going to put her name on one and hang it along with a prayer for you all.



---

**Pat Deere** - December 19, 2024 at 04:08 PM