



## Carla Plush Smith

January 19, 2022

On January 19th Sarasota lost one of its accomplished daughters when Carla Plush Smith died with her husband Peter at her side after a 25-year pitched battle with breast cancer.

She is survived by her husband, three stepsons, Sean (Jackie) and their daughter Lilian of West Hills CA, Kevin (Adam) of Washington D.C., Cullen of Providence, R.I., her brother Alan (Jennifer) and her mother Lyna Herman (Jon Johnsen) of Sarasota. Carla was predeceased by her sister Tina.

Carla was born in 1960 in Sarasota Memorial Hospital, educated at Sarasota High School and graduated from The University of Florida (bachelor's degree) and the University of South Florida (Master's degree).

Carla practiced as a Certified Public Accountant in Sarasota for over 25 years, she also held the Certified Financial Planner designation.

Carla continued her professional education with some of the nation's most prestigious seminars and conferences in taxation and financial planning. Throughout her career she was at the cutting edge of the accounting and financial planning professions.

Carla was committed to maintaining her expertise because she truly enjoyed

her relationships with her clients who were almost universally her friends as well and always wished and labored for the best for them. Her clients experienced this and continually referred their friends to her as did their attorneys and financial advisors. Carla's masters degree in mental health counseling was a gift to all.

Carla was accomplished in a number of ways. She has held her pilots license, a captains license issued by the Coast Guard, and was a master diver. She traveled the world from Machu Pichu to Bangalore and Siena to Banff. She particularly enjoyed the three months she and Peter devoted to boating in the Exumas.

Carla was active. She loved tennis and regularly swam ½ mile up until the end. She enjoyed collecting unique fountain pens and inks and was a devotee of Liberty Puzzles. Her "Words with Friends" competition was legendary.

Her contributions to the community were significant serving as an officer or director on numerous boards including her role as Chairman of Plymouth Harbor and as the first woman Commodore of The Field Club.

Carla joined the board of the Community Foundation shortly before she again became ill.

Carla will be buried in Sarasota National Cemetery in February. A celebration of her life will occur on March 3rd from 3 to 5 in the afternoon in the Living Room of The Field Club. All friends and former clients are welcome.

No flowers are desired and contributions may be made in her name to the Athena Progressive Giving Circle of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County which funds programs for women and girls and meaningfully improves their lives.



# Previous Events

## **A Celebration of Life**

MAR 3. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

The Field Club  
1400 Field Road  
Sarasota, FL 34231

# Tribute Wall

JM

“*Carla was a pros' pro. She was always available for questions, no matter how complex, and always explained things in a way that a non-CPA could understand . And was the friendliest person you could meet. I only knew Carla for less than 10 years but she was always upbeat, glad to talk, funny, and never had a cross word to say about anyone.*

*RIP Carla.*

*John Mousseau*

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john mousseau - February 16, 2022 at 01:03 PM

DK

“*I remember the conversation with Carla, sitting in the conference room on the 5th floor. We discussed what it was like to go forward and onward and upward in the face of serious health obstacles. We compared notes. "This isn't my first rodeo" she said. "Neither is it mine" I replied. Carla was an inspiration. For me, certainly for Pete, for others I don't even know well and most assuredly for all those I do know who encountered her indomitable spirit and are better people today because of her influence. She is missed. David Kotok*

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David Kotok - February 13, 2022 at 12:37 PM

CS

“ I’ve known Carla for 10 years: first as my accountant, then as my friend. Her positive spirit, warm smile and infectious laugh made it a joy to be together and share special moments. I knew of her recent struggles with breast cancer but certainly was not aware that she and her loving and caring husband, Peter, had fought valiantly for 25 years against this disease. Carla and Peter were in our “COVID bubble”. The last time we saw each other was in December over an outdoor dinner at Kojo. She was thrilled to be living downtown, exploring new bike routes and being in charge of their condo remodel. She was radiant and excited about the future. I will remember her smile and exuberance.

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**Christine Schlesinger** - January 29, 2022 at 09:23 AM

SP

“ Very soon after I moved to Sarasota 12 years ago - because I was working in the same building as the Plush-Smith Accountant business was located, people kept asking me if I had met Carla yet. I heard about her over and over again!! Then, while attending a luncheon event at Michael's Wine Event Space, I was seated at a table with Carla! From that moment, we became friends! We went kayaking, (with Cooper watching from the shore) had many lunches and some dinners together with Peter and Neal... plus the four of us had a memorable boat trip in the Sarasota Bay. Plus more...especially many laughs together. The four of us just had dinner together in December and this last dinner and the fun we had together - yet again...will remain with me for many years. Carla will be missed by many...and for sure, by me.  
sharon prizant, January 28, 2022

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**sharon prizant** - January 28, 2022 at 02:27 PM

NW

“ We met Carla only in the last few months. She was always so outgoing. Her smile could light up a room. I had looked forward to her and Peter being our neighbors at 128 Golden Gate point. I am sure she will live on in the memories of her family and friends. No doubt, she was a most special person. She will be missed.  
Nancy and Christopher Winship

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**nancy winship** - January 26, 2022 at 08:24 PM