



Katharine W. Le Mée

July 8, 1939 - September 3, 2025

Katharine W. Le Mée, beloved wife, mother, and dedicated educator who touched countless lives, passed away peacefully at the age of 86 on September 3, 2025, with her daughter Hannah and son-in-law Thomas by her side.

Born on July 8, 1939, in Albany, New York, Katharine was the daughter of Howard and Margaret Wilbur and was raised in Catskill, New York. She graduated from the University of Rochester and went on to earn her Doctorate in Linguistics from Columbia University.

Katharine was married for over 60 years to Dr. Jean Le Mée', professor of engineering at Cooper Union School of Engineering, who preceded her in death in June 2020. Together, they built a life filled with love, learning, and service to others.

An accomplished scholar and author, Katharine published *Chant: The Origins, Form, Practice, and Healing Power of Gregorian Chant* (1994) and *The Benedictine Gift to Music* (2003). She also wrote a metrical study on Marie de France (1978) and *A Survey of Current Linguistic Thought* in the 1990s. Professionally, she devoted herself to teaching as both a high school educator and a professor of linguistics, inspiring students across generations.

Beyond her academic achievements, Katharine was deeply committed to her community and faith. She was an active member of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Englewood, New Jersey, where she served as church secretary for eight years and participated in the Pastoral Committee. She also volunteered with Books Behind Bars and Pen Pals for Prisoners, organizations dedicated to supporting and uplifting incarcerated individuals.

At home, Katharine found joy in family life. Evenings were often spent preparing dinners with her husband Jean, with help from her cherished daughter Hannah. The family delighted in watching *The NewsHour* on PBS together, discussing the events of the day, hosting prayer groups, and welcoming neighbors to share meals and conversation.

A prayer service for Katharine will be held at Barrett Leber Funeral Home on Monday, September 8, 2025, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, 113 Engle Street, Englewood, NJ, or to the American Stroke Association at www.stroke.org.

The family extends heartfelt thanks for the love, prayers, and support shared during this difficult time.

Previous Events

Visitation with Memorial Service

SEP 8. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Barrett Leber Funeral Home

148 Dean Dr

Tenafly, NJ 07670

(201) 568-8043

<https://www.barrettleberfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Katharine W. Le Mée.



October 20, 2025 at 04:34 AM

SS

“ It has been an honour knowing both Jean and Katharine. I will deeply miss Katharine, our conversations on the phone and our sweet friendship. - Shantala



Shantala Sriramaiah - October 15, 2025 at 12:27 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Katharine W. Le Mée.



October 13, 2025 at 09:31 AM

SS

“ It is an honour to have known Jean and Katharine. I will miss my conversations with Katharine, sending her pictures and news of my children, my life and talking about Jean's work. My condolences to the family. Sincerely, Shantala S

Shantala S - October 12, 2025 at 08:24 AM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Shantala S - October 12, 2025 at 08:21 AM



“ In Loving Memory of Katharine Le Mée

Katharine will forever hold a deep place in the hearts of all who knew her. She carried herself with dignity and grace, always with an open heart. To those blessed to walk alongside her, she was a source of strength, guidance, and love.

In my own life, Katharine was both a supporter and an influence, leading me through dark times with a quiet wisdom and steadfast compassion. Never once did she allow negativity or judgment to shadow her character; instead, she lifted others with her warmth and kindness. With her gentle wit, she had a gift for bringing light to heavy moments, easing burdens, and helping to lift situations with a smile or a well-timed word.

Her family has been a true blessing, offering me purpose, connection, and belonging. Her daughter, Hannah, is a shining reflection of her parent's love. Through Hannah's caring spirit, supportive nature, and devotion as a teacher, it is clear that Katharine's nurturing presence and positive upbringing continue to ripple outward in the most beautiful ways.

Without a doubt, she is now reunited with her loving partner in heaven, once again the radiant duo—an angelic influence that continues to guide and inspire our lives from above.

Katharine's legacy is one of grace, love, and encouragement. She touched lives in ways that cannot be measured and will be remembered always with gratitude and affection.



Catherine Zanghi - September 08, 2025 at 08:10 AM

KG

“ A long-time, dear friend of Katharine's sent this remembrance to me to include on Katharine's Tribute Wall:

"I forget the year, but when I was living in New York, I learned of a man in my age bracket who was single, and he seemed interesting. Katharine knew him and so I asked about him, to know whether we could meet. She said, "I didn't think he was the right man for you." I responded that I'd like to make that decision for myself. She graciously arranged a dinner for the four of us: Jean, herself, me, and the man. He was interesting, but not the right man for me, so I knew she was right. I should have listened to her."

Karalenne Gayle - September 07, 2025 at 07:45 PM

LY

“ My late husband, Edward, and I were close friends and colleagues of Katherine at the School of Practical Philosophy for my years. She was a magnet of poise, kindness and understanding of the teaching of Advaita or non-dual consciousness as the basic fabric of the universe. Katherine had that rare combination of sharp reasoning power and an open heart. I am fortunate to have shared with her a love of music. We sang together in the school choir. We also raised our children at the Ark when it was early in its career, operating out of 82nd St. She will be missed. I send heartfelt condolences and love to her daughter, Hannah. Lyla Yastion

Lyla Yastion - September 07, 2025 at 01:13 PM

NB

“ Katharine and Jean planned and led a very special trip to Russia in 1993 - just after the fall of the USSR. I was privileged to go on that trip with them and a small group. It truly was the trip of a lifetime. I will be forever grateful.

Nancy Blowers - September 07, 2025 at 12:59 PM

JS

“ I remember growing up with Hannah when we were in highschool and middle school . And Katherine would make us delicious snacks and dinners if I stayed for dinner. May her memory be for blessing. She was a wonderful mom .

Jennifer Share - September 06, 2025 at 12:18 AM