



Laura Klein Feldbaum

*Submitted with thanks to
Laura's lifelong Vassar
friends Leni Gurin, Sara
Scribner, Lane Schulz, and
Martine Richards Minnis.*

"Remember that I lived, and oh, I had myself a good time." -from a letter Laura wrote to her family.

Laura Klein Feldbaum died peacefully on August 27, 2008 surrounded by her family. She had lived with brain cancer for 4 years. Laura was married to Carl Feldbaum (Princeton '66), and was the mother of Mia and Harley, mother-in-law of Nicole Fraser, grandmother of Maddox and Nora, and sister of Susan Klein '64.

Always an amazing individual, Laura was especially inspiring to her friends and family these past few years. Throughout her challenges, she never lost her trademark sense of humor: asked at a mini-reunion with her above-mentioned friends at her home in April how she still went through the day with a smile, Laura said, "When I wake up in the morning, I ask myself, "Am I having brain surgery today? If the answer is no, it's a great day."

Laura lived a full, accomplished, and adventurous life. She met Carl in her freshman year, and they married right after graduation in 1968. In the early 1970s the couple took a year off from working to sail around the Caribbean and the Intracoastal Waterway, after which they settled in the Washington, DC area and raised a family. In addition to raising two terrific kids (Harley, 33, is Associate Director, Global Health and Foreign Policy at Johns Hopkins SAIS, and Mia, 29, is currently an after-school curriculum developer at UC Berkeley), Laura's professional life included working for the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship and the German Marshall Fund Fellowship Program, where she put her gift for languages and people to work managing US exchange programs for emerging leaders from around the world. Her most recent accomplishment was receiving her PhD in clinical psychology from the Fielding Institute a few weeks before her death; her focus was exploring the Roma (gypsy) women's dual cultural identities.

Shortly after Laura's brain tumor diagnosis, she and Carl accelerated their plans and

moved from DC to their vacation home in Ketchum, Idaho. Laura was a life-long lover of nature, travel and art, and she was extremely happy there. Carl did a remarkable job caring for Laura with great love during her illness while still managing to travel on business when essential, and family and friends old and new were all part of the supportive community that surrounded her during that time.

A beautiful photo of Laura from her days living on the sailboat graced the memorials held for her in both Ketchum and Washington, DC, where many, many friends and family shared happy memories of Laura. The caption under the photo, from a letter written by Laura to her family, read: "Remember that I lived, and oh, I had myself a good time!"