

Carol Kassoy OBITUARY

Carol (“Caryl”) Fuchs Kassoy, a resident of Boulder since 1969 and a dedicated community leader who profoundly shaped the arts and culture landscape of Boulder, passed away peacefully on Nov. 8th after a brave struggle with Parkinson’s Disease and dementia.



Caryl was born in 1942 to Ruth and Reuben Fuchs of Jamaica, Queens, NY. Her father was the principal of Clara Barton High School in Brooklyn and emphasized the importance of public service in their family. She attended Jamaica High School and Juilliard Pre-College program in modern dance and piano, then earned a Bachelor of Music, with a Political Science minor, from the University of Michigan in 1964, where she was a member of the Phi Sigma Sigma sorority, and she earned a Master of Music from San Diego State University in 1967. Caryl met the love of her life, David R. Kassoy, at a 1960 dance in the Michigan Union while he was studying for a PhD in Aerospace Engineering. They were married in 1964, moved to San Diego in 1965, where David completed his post-doc at UCSD, and in 1969, they moved to Boulder with 6-week-old Andrew for David to join the faculty of the Mechanical Engineering Department at the University of Colorado. Their second child, Erin, was born in 1975. Caryl taught piano lessons while raising two children, but was soon drawn to a fairly new music venture in town, the Colorado Music Festival (CMF), to which she eventually dedicated nearly five decades of service, leaving an indelible mark. As a member of the CMF Board of Trustees, including President, she was a tireless strategic planner and fundraiser, seeking to engage all levels of individual donors, businesses, and major corporations to ensure Boulder had quality professional classical music offerings. In particular, Caryl felt strongly that all children, regardless of background, should have access to live music performances. Toward that end, in 1987, she founded the CMF Young People’s Concert (now the Family Concert), securing sponsorships to engage Boulder’s diverse communities and to keep ticket prices low, an initiative that later led to the prestigious “Sally Parker Education Award” from the League of American Orchestras. Caryl also led a strategic effort to establish an endowment for CMF to ensure the orchestra’s long-term stability. Caryl’s extensive volunteerism extended far beyond CMF, making her a leading voice for arts and education throughout Boulder County, the State of Colorado, and on the national stage. She served on the boards of the Boulder County Arts Alliance and the Boulder Youth Symphony, was a member of the City of Boulder Cultural Master Plan Committee, initiated

Boulder's sister city relationship with Yamagata, Japan, and served on the committee that led to the establishment of the Dairy Arts Center. At CU, she was a member of the College of Music Advisory Board and, most recently, helped establish and served as Chair of the Advisory Board of CU's American Music Research Center. Caryl's dedication to arts and culture in Boulder resulted in her being named a Boulder Dairy Arts Honoree in 2016. She also served on boards of the League of American Orchestras and was a Review Panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts. Her advocacy was instrumental in the passage of Colorado's Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) authorizing legislation in 1988, which created funding to support large and small arts and culture organizations throughout the State of Colorado. Beyond the arts, Caryl was a member of the University Women's Club, serving in nearly every capacity, including President, and a member of Congregation Har Hashem. In addition to her professional volunteer activities, she took pride in parenting, supporting her two children, Andrew and Erin, in their academic pursuits in the Boulder Valley Schools, and spending countless hours attending their athletic, music, and service activities. Caryl was an avid bridge player, savored slow hikes with her Friday morning hiking group, loved to travel internationally, including visits with friends made during David's overseas sabbaticals, and she enjoyed spending time with her husband, children, and grandchildren, taking interest in all their accomplishments and activities. Ever-present and impeccably dressed at parties and events, she cherished the many lifelong friendships she developed throughout her decades in Boulder and cared deeply for the community, and she will be missed dearly by the family and friends whose lives she touched. Survivors include her husband David of nearly 61 years; brother, Daniel Fuchs of Highlands, NC, and his wife, Linda; daughter Erin Falquier of Basking Ridge, NJ and her husband Dario; daughter-in-law Margot Brandenburg of Brooklyn, NY; and Caryl's six grandchildren: Caroline and Marcela (Erin), Max, Jed, Henrietta and Xavier (Andrew). Caryl was preceded in death by her parents and son, Andrew R. Kassoy, who passed away in June 2025. A celebration of Caryl's life will be held in the new year. Donations can be made in Caryl's memory to the Colorado Music Festival and to Congregation Har Hashem.