



## Ellen F. Elmendorf

November 18, 1923 - March 8, 2019

Albany-Ellen Fehsenfeld Elmendorf, 95, died peacefully, March 8, 2019 surrounded by her loving family. Born in Baltimore, Maryland she was the daughter of the late William Henry and Sarah Williams Fehsenfeld. Proud of her American heritage, she was a direct descendant of Captain John Smith, born in Virginia 1710.

Ellen was also a proud alumna of Goucher College, Class of 1945, where she served as Class President and was Queen of May Court. After graduation she hosted a radio fashion show under the name Betty Howard with Hutzler's in Baltimore. She then focused on caring for her children and restoring their family home, a 200-year-old farmhouse in Feura Bush.

Some years later, she was a manager of The Shop at the Albany Institute of History and Art. She also worked as a realtor, nursery school teacher, and at the Cottage Herb Farm Shop. Music was an important part of her life, especially opera, as her mother was an opera singer at the Peabody Conservatory. She was an avid reader and enjoyed gardening, traveling, classical music, museums, Adirondack summers, Newport, Woodgate, all things Maryland, but above all spending precious time with her beloved family. Her sense of adventure included living in Europe for several years with her young family, parasailing on her 70th birthday, swimming anywhere, anytime, any season. She was the consummate lady with an elegant buoyant spirit.

Ever the essence of grace and charm, Ellen greeted one and all with her warmth and kindness.

She was a legacy member of the Fort Orange Garden Club, honorary member of the Lake George Club, past president of the Mother's Association at Albany Academy for Girls, Regent for the Daughters of the American Revolution, honorary member emerita of The Friday Morning Club, former member of Capital Hill Choral Society and longtime member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

Ellen was the beloved mother of Dr. Sarah Elmendorf (Bruce DiStefano), Mary Elmendorf Dunn (David), Rev. Gretchen Elmendorf (Andrew Vaughan), Laura Elmendorf Britton (Dr. Lewis Britton) and the late DuMont Frelinghuysen Elmendorf III; cherished grandmother of Keith Elmendorf DiStefano (Jamie), Ellen Alexandra DiStefano, Timothy Bruce DiStefano, Hannah McKellar Dunn and Maxwell Williams Vaughan; sister of the late Dorothy Leithiser, Katherine Gminder and Gwynneth Wilson; aunt of General Richard Leithiser; Godmother of Jeffrey Redding; and also survived by many devoted great nieces and nephews.

The family would like to especially thank the caring staff of the Eddy Village Green at Cohoes.

Funeral services Friday, March 15, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Albany, NY.

There will be no public visitation, and interment at Albany Rural Cemetery will be held privately.

In Lieu of flowers, those wishing to remember Ellen may send a contribution to either St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 107 State Street., Albany, NY 12207 or

the Albany Institute of History and Art, 125 Wash-ington Ave., Albany, NY  
12210.

To leave a message for the family, light a virtual candle, obtain direc-tions or  
view other helpful services please visit [www.McveighFuneralHome.com](http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com)

# Previous Events

## Service

MAR 15. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
107 State Street  
Albany, NY 12207

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ellen F. Elmendorf*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *Dear Laura and Family - Just realizing today that Ellie has passed. I've been thinking about her lately and just looked her up and saw her obituary. I had lost touch with her after my son's health declined. My husband and I really enjoyed visiting her after she left The Beverwyck. Always had interesting accounts of her childhood to reminisce about - I absolutely loved going down Memory Lane with her! She was a sweet lady and her default mood was just pure joy - that's what I'll always remember the most about her. Please accept my belated condolences on the loss of your beautiful mother. I know we shall see her again at the appointed time. - Daniela Filmer*

**Daniela Filmer** - February 16, 2023 at 07:58 AM



“ *To Ellie's family,  
Although we haven't seen your mother in a number of years, we were saddened by her loss. Certain words come to mind when we think of Ellie - lady, gracious, kind, happy, warm, embracing, tenacious and humble. She produced a wonderful family but never shirked her commitment to the larger community. She was simply a joy - to be around, to talk with, and to know.  
Thank you, Ellie, for sharing yourself with all of us and for bringing a little light to our world.  
Don and Vicky McGoldrick*

**Victoria McGoldrick** - March 17, 2019 at 03:25 PM

JH

“ Dear Gretchen,  
*I remember your mom coming into my classroom. She was always so gracious and complimentary. Reading about her life, puts me in awe. How fortunate you and your siblings were to have her influence.*  
*I am sure your many memories are a comfort now and will be forever.*  
*Love and prayers from your Fourth grade teacher,*  
*Jane Hilson*

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**Jane Hilson** - March 15, 2019 at 07:33 AM

KW

“ Dear Laura,  
  
*Am offering my heartfelt condolences to you and your family on the loss of your beloved Mother. Though you'll miss her everyday, know that she will continue to be with you guiding you from above.*  
  
*As you grieve your loss, also know that the love & support from your family and friends will be there to comfort you. I will keep you close in my thoughts and in my prayers as you grieve & heal. Your Mother's goodness and legacy will be carried forward in the strong children she reared.*  
  
*Sending you love and strength,*  
*Karen Wolf*

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**Karen Wolf** - March 14, 2019 at 08:33 PM

VA

“ Dear Marcy and all of your beautiful family,  
Our deepest and heartfelt sympathies to you  
during this most difficult time.  
I know how special a mom she was to all of  
you..  
Thinking of you. Ginny and George Aluskewicz



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**Virginia Aluskewicz** - March 14, 2019 at 02:05 PM

LB

“ Dear Sarah, Marcy, Gretchen and Laurie- We have such wonderful  
memories of your Mother, especially one very memorable  
Thanksgiving we spent with your family. Your Mom was always so  
kind and generous to us whenever our paths crossed. She could  
turn her attention on you, give you her smile that made her eyes  
twinkle and make you feel like you were the most important person  
in the room. She was authentic. We always loved seeing her.

We are thinking of you all and extend our deepest sympathies to  
you and your families at this difficult time. Linda and Garry Brown,  
Averill Park

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**Linda Brown** - March 14, 2019 at 11:14 AM

JT

“ Our deepest heartfelt sympathies to all of you. Ellen was a dear and  
kind friend of our mother, Jessie Cogswell. Ellen always visited our  
mother at Beverwyck and made her laugh with wonderful life  
stories. She will be deeply missed. Thinking of you all at this time-  
The Cogswell Family

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**Jessie C Tichko** - March 14, 2019 at 07:36 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ellen F. Elmendorf.* ”



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March 12, 2019 at 04:51 PM