



## Gary R. Schark

November 24, 1945 - November 27, 2018

Gary R. Schark, 73, of Hamden passed away peacefully on Nov.27,2018 after a long illness. He is survived by his beloved wife Katherine Sherman Schark, a son Robert (Amanda) Schark of S. Hadley,MA, grandchildren Summer and Lilah Schark, a sister Janet (Lor) Blasi of IL, niece Karen Acevido, nephews Mark and David Blasi and brother in laws Walter (Leslie) Sherman and Kenneth (Susan) Sherman. Gary also leaves his Bichon Fur Kids, Lucky,Jacky and Mollie. He was born Nov. 24,1945 in Maywood,IL a son of the late Robert B. and Lois Johnsen Schark, served with the US Army during the Vietnam War and was a social studies teacher for many years at the Hamden High School.

Calling Hours and a Celebration of Life Service will be held Saturday,Dec., 8th in Sisk Brothers Funeral Home, 3105 Whitney Ave., Hamden from 3:00 to 6:00 pm with the service to commence at 5:00pm. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Assoc, PO Box 417005, Boston, MA, 02231-7005. [www.siskbrothers.com](http://www.siskbrothers.com)

# Previous Events

## Calling hours

DEC 8. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Sisk Brothers Funeral Home  
3105 Whitney Ave.  
Hamden, CT 06518  
(203) 288-7114  
siskfuneral@sbcglobal.net

## celebration

DEC 8. 5:00 PM (ET)

Sisk Brothers Funeral Home  
3105 Whitney Ave.  
Hamden, CT 06518  
(203) 288-7114  
siskfuneral@sbcglobal.net

# Tribute Wall

LR

“ Dear Schark Family,

*I am so sorry to hear of your loss. While visiting my dad at Whitney Manor I had the opportunity to share fond memories of my 7th grade Social Studies class at Sleeping Giant in which he was my teacher. He truly loved his family and all his students and showed much pride in both. He is now in a peaceful place and may you now find comfort in all your wonderful memories with him.*

*Laurie (Sola) Ray*

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**LaurieAnn Ray** - December 08, 2018 at 12:41 PM



“ Sorry for your loss Kathy. Wishing you the best.

*Tom Rank*

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**Tom Rank** - December 06, 2018 at 08:55 PM

ED

“ My thoughts are with you. [erdavis4@gmail.com](mailto:erdavis4@gmail.com)

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**Ellen Davis** - December 05, 2018 at 12:04 PM

EL

“ I always look back fondly when I think about my time in the few Gary Schark classes I took. I chose one of his electives because he was such an engaging teacher. Now as a high school teacher myself, I hope I have half the impact he had on his students. I am so sorry to see him go, for his family, and surrounding community. I hope his family knows how loved and appreciated he was by his students, and the thousands that adds up to! Sincerely, Elena (Campo) Kazienko

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**Elena** - December 05, 2018 at 09:09 AM

MA

“ When I heard of Mr. Schark’s passing, so many memories flooded my mind that I had not thought of in years. Mr. Schark was an exemplary teacher who relentlessly strove to guide each of his students to keep an open-mind and to critically think. A light would spark in his eyes when a student would debate an issue with him or peers with well-thought out logic. He was not an educator who needed his students to agree with him. By example, he taught how to play devil’s advocate and how to respect an opposing viewpoint. Mr. Schark was kind, gracious, and selfless. The world is a better place for all his contributions. There is no one quite like him and I am deeply saddened by his passing. I offer my sincerest condolences to his family and friends.  
Mr. Schark, for everything you have done for us, we owe you our eternal gratitude with the promise that we will never forget you.

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**Marcie (Foley) Addy** - December 04, 2018 at 02:33 PM

JL

“ I was a student of his at hamden high school

*He was great and had an amazing passion for teaching*

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**Jared Liscio** - December 04, 2018 at 02:32 PM

CF

“ I was Mr. Schark's student teacher in 1998 at Hamden High School. He was a legend by then. He set high expectations for both me and his very talented students and Mock Trial team. I believe his team won the state championship that year. Mr. Schark's commitment to excellence was relentless- he demanded a lot of himself professionally and his students academically. He was an intense, passionate role model for myself and other teachers. I have now been a social studies teacher for 21 years and his influence is with me daily in my law classes and Fairfield Warde High School Mock Trial team. I owe him a tremendous gratitude for his help with my career. My sincerest condolences to his family at his loss. Gary Schark was a great man, teacher, and American citizen. May he rest in peace.

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**Charles Flynn** - December 04, 2018 at 09:19 AM

LB

“ I always enjoyed working with him on election day, I will miss him. He was such a kind man. Love and prayers are with you all.

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**Loraine Brown** - December 03, 2018 at 05:37 PM

SB

“ My deepest condolences, Gary was dedicated, passionate and caring as an educator. I'm so sorry for your loss.

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**Sonia Beloin** - December 02, 2018 at 03:40 PM

CW

“ While the influences on my becoming a lawyer were many, I have no doubt that one of them was Mr. Schark and the opportunity that he provided to me as the teacher of my criminal and civil law classes during my senior year at Hamden High School, from 1988-89. In his classroom, including during mock trial team practice, the concepts of our individual freedoms from government oppression interwove with the importance of being precise in asking questions and mapping strategies. I had the good fortune of having my name drawn from a hat to be a defense lawyer in a mock trial at the end of one semester, and that random occurrence, along with his encouragement of my reading Truman Capote’s *In Cold Blood*, likely propelled me further down the path on which I continue to walk. To say that Mr. Schark had a role in liberating my clients from prison and holding the Government’s potential for intrusiveness and over-punishment at bay would not be an overstatement.

All that said, my favorite memories of Mr. Schark may be his openness to considering all points of view, his encouragement and enthusiasm for his students, and his understanding that during second semester of senior year, his students may need to slack off. That combination would be refreshing in today’s world. My condolences to his family and friends, but I hope these recollections help to give you peace and comfort in knowing that his influence continues.

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**Chuck Willson** - December 01, 2018 at 05:59 PM

JC

“ Worked with Gary for many years at Sleeping Giant Jr. High, and, team taught for a few years. Always a true friend, and, the ability to see beyond.

Made many bike trips together with the kids we had, and, Gary was always the leader.

Will miss him. Joan Chain

PS: Also, had his on in 8th grade, at HMS, an inquisitive soul, and, brought back the connection to Gary.

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**Joan Chain** - December 01, 2018 at 03:41 PM

AA

“ Gary was a beloved colleague to many of us at Hamden High. The students and staff will never forget him as one of the greatest teachers the school ever had. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family Kathy.

John and Anna Lisa Aurora

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**Anna Lisa Aurora** - December 01, 2018 at 07:57 AM

LH

“ Sincerest condolences! Gary was a true educator, “a gentleman and a scholar” who expected the best from everyone he encountered. He will be missed. May the Holy Spirit continue to strengthen and comfort the family. 🥰🙏

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**Leonora Henderson** - November 30, 2018 at 09:29 PM

RF

“ *Mr. Schark was the best teacher I had at Hamden High School. He had high expectations for himself and for his students. Mr. Schark cared about his students, their learning, and about the content he taught. He will be missed dearly.*

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**Rachna (Pahuja) Fraccaro** - November 30, 2018 at 09:03 PM

JM

“ *Dear Rob and family,*

*I'm so sorry to hear about your dad. I recently got a chance to talk with him at Whitney Manor while I was visiting my dad. He was upbeat and talked with such love and pride about you and your family. You are in my thoughts and prayers*

*Janet Sola Manukas*

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**Janet Sola Manukas** - November 30, 2018 at 08:17 PM

SF

“ *Gary was a great friend to myself and my dog - we will always remember his great smile, his terrific hugs, and his gentle friendship.*

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**sandra Festa** - November 29, 2018 at 09:22 PM

DD

*Mr. Schark was a gifted teacher who knew how to reach even the most distant of students. He was truly admired and beloved by his students.*

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**Deborah Dubois** - November 30, 2018 at 04:11 PM

SG

*Gary was a born teacher. Experience Corps was so lucky that he shared his talents. I am lucky to have known him. My heart is with you, Kathy.*

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**Sheila Greenstein** - December 01, 2018 at 09:04 AM

CR

*My heart aches for all of you. I adored Mr. Schark, he was not only a dedicated educator, but a wonderful human being! Our daughter was very fortunate to be a student in his AP History class. He will be greatly miss, but remembered fondly.*

*Carla Roussel (Hamden Middle School teacher)*

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**Carla Roussel** - December 02, 2018 at 04:24 PM

MK

*I ran into Gary a few years back during summer vacation at Sleeping Giant. Gary was on his bike and I was getting ready for a hike at the Giant. I remember Gary sharing with me the fact that the Giant and the linear trail were two hidden gems of Hamden. I share the fondness of those two hidden gems with Gary. What a nice man and role model!*

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**Michael S Kozera** - December 03, 2018 at 10:50 AM

WW

*As a 1997 graduate and former student of his at HHS, I remember Mr. Schark as a dynamic teacher, full of enthusiasm, and caring. He was inspirational and I am saddened by the news of his passing. I am honored to have known him. My condolences to the family. W. Weeks*

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**W. Weeks** - December 31, 2018 at 02:09 PM