



## Kent Harvey

July 19, 1950 - March 17, 2026

Kent Harvey, 75, New Haven lawyer and renaissance man, died in peace at his home in Hamden with his close people around, on March 17, 2026. He was a brilliant lawyer's lawyer who practiced for many years, a skilled fine carpenter, a licensed contractor who could build or repair anything, an early computer guru and a tinkerer with a gift for gadgets. He charged the same low hourly rate – if any – for all his work. Kent graduated in the first class at Bennington College, Vermont, to admit men. Vermont always had a special place in his heart, and he respected women with egalitarian ease. He earned a JD from Yale Law School with spectacular grades, despite seldom attending classes. To keep himself sane in law school, he built a ceramics studio for a friend and assembled an Alfa Romeo swapping engine and body, 1969 vintage. It still runs. Kent's wry, curmudgeonly, hilarious sense of humor punctured pretense, challenged impractical sentimentality, and lighted many a darkness. It never left him. He was independent and private, open-handedly generous, and utterly trustworthy. His intellect was prodigious and informed, his memory legendary, and his politics unsparing, principled, and acute. Over his lifetime, Kent curated an eclectic chosen family, who he allowed to see beyond his cantankerous exterior. Despite his otherwise pragmatic wardrobe, he was famous for showing up at family events in unexpected attire including a dress, a full set of Mardi Gras beads, and the most offensively large St. Patrick's Day hat imaginable. He also had a vast array of stories, most of which should have come with a "don't try this at home" warning. He is

predeceased by his parents William Burnett Harvey and Mary Lou (née Geleide) Harvey and his beloved border collies, Jess, Tess, and Nell. He is survived by his close circle of chosen family, who feel unmoored without him, and will keep his warm, sweet, loving spirit with them forever. A Celebration of his life will be held at The Playwright in Hamden on April 25th at 4 pm. In lieu of flowers, the family would suggest a donation to Ct Foodshare at {<https://www.ctfoodshare.org/ways-to-give>}.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

APR **25**. 4:00 PM (ET)

Playwright Irish Pub  
1232 Whitney Avenue  
Hamden, CT 06517