

Sarah–Anne Morton Smith

March 22, 2010

Sammy, who lived in South Dartmouth, MA, died after a very long struggle with cancer - 31 years! Her obituary in the *South Coast Today* stated: "Sammy filled her life and those of countless others with her extraordinary artistry, wackiness, wisdom and joy, and was rightly dubbed by many in her life as the true human incarnation of the 'Energizer Bunny'." Sammy taught elementary school art in the Dartmouth public schools until 1994 and enjoyed many artistic hobbies, both before and after retirement - most notably, handcrafted miniature porcelain dolls and miniature antique reproduction furniture. Sammy and her husband, Jerry, created a business called "Happiness Is..." to market and sell their creations.

In her home town, she was legendary for creating a 'signature' end-of-the-school-year celebration each year for her 5th grade students. They were allowed to paint her enormous Ford station wagon any way they wanted. After driving it around town for a few days, her students were then charged with a major car wash event for charity.

Dee deFerranti Abrahamse writes: "Sammy was my roommate and I remember her wit and talent vividly!" Jane Kaplan Yendell adds: "Sammy was part of our senior year group on the top floor of Pearsons. She was quiet most of the time, and then out would pop the funniest, wryest and most outrageous truths. I've been to some of the miniature shows with her, where she was both beloved and revered for her artistry. I thought that she and Jerry were particularly well-matched in terms of interests, skills and personality - and from what she told me - he was the reason that she was able to fight to live for such a long time. "

Besides the "Bald is Beautiful 'vanity plate on her car, her life was a testament to 'living' with cancer. "Attitude truly is the paintbrush of the mind. It can color any situation."