

Karen was born on March 10, 1939 in Eveleth, MN to Harold and Florence Johnson. She graduated from Utah State University where she met and married her husband, Robert, six weeks after meeting on a blind date. In 1962, following graduation, they moved to Fontana, where her husband was employed by Kaiser Steel. In California, Karen went on to receive her Masters Degree from Chapman University and a Doctorate Degree in education in 1984 from the University of La Verne.

Karen had a long and su