



Caroline Jane Beebe

August 11, 1948 - August 1, 2020

Caroline Jane Beebe, August 11, 1948 – August 1, 2020.

Caroline died peacefully at home on a rainy Saturday evening surrounded by her family who whispered messages of love in her ears as she slowly drifted into the beyond.

She was preceded in death by the love of her life, Michael Yoakam, as well as her father whom she adored, Vernon “Bud” Beebe, Jr. Among those mourning this loss are her mother Jane Beebe; brother Dana Beebe (and wife Stania Sestak); daughters Crystal Timbrook and Genevieve Pritchard; son-in-love Coy Timbrook; and grandchildren Cruz Timbrook, Creed Timbrook, and Miko Pritchard.

Born in Evanston, Illinois, Caroline landed in Bloomington, Indiana by way of Colorado in 1976 and quickly grew strong roots. She was a pioneer in so many areas of the local community, joining the founding circles of many long-lasting Bloomington institutions such as May Creek Farm, Bloomingfoods, Harmony School, and UITS (formerly BACS).

Caroline was silly and generous and beautiful and brilliant. She made lists, lived her values, and adopted old blind/deaf dogs. She was an artist in every sense of the word, a true world traveler, and had a permanent table for 12 in her minimalist home because she welcomed everyone. Caroline was delightfully humble and never thought of herself as very funny or entertaining, but once you got her started she regaled you with stories of jaguars circling her tent in the jungles of Belize, bravely singing acapella by herself during a

worship service in India, or losing a contract renewal because she showed up to the job in her suit paired with short, intensely fuchsia hair in 1998, long before it was popular.

As a bibliophile and consummate researcher, education was a central tenet in Caroline's life. Returning to study multiple times throughout the years, she held two master's degrees, an Ed.S., and a Ph.D. (though she would blush if you called her "Doctor"). Smart and inspired, she applied her skills in a variety of professional ways, including developing early graphics and multi-media systems for Indiana University, serving as the Head of the Digital Library Department at North Carolina State University, as well as an unwavering dedication to a decades-long project in which she developed a new system for archiving complex three dimensional data from archaeological mapping and excavation of Chau Hiix, an ancient Maya city in Belize.

Enjoying camping trips with cousins to Kenora, Canada and Girl Scout canoe trips to Quetico Provincial Park, Caroline's parents nurtured her early love for nature. An avid fan of the water, Caroline was a member of synchronized swim teams in high school and college. Through life she never slowed down—skiing, scuba diving, or sailing whenever the opportunity was presented.

When she turned 60, she outdid herself by hiking to the Annapurna basecamp in Nepal's Himalayas and then went on to become a yoga instructor, go paragliding in Peru, and take up competitive ballroom dancing.

In her final weeks, so many friends around the world sent their love to Caroline and this brought her unspeakable joy. From her earliest companions at Joseph Sears Elementary and New Trier High School, to the DGs and Duck friends at DePauw, to all those who knew her in Bloomington, Mexico, Belize, Kyrgyzstan, India, and more—beloved friends emerged from all eras of her life and shared stories and fond memories. Caroline was truly lifted and sustained by this beautiful energy, and she was ushered out on a carpet of love.

As a lifelong follower of Indian spiritual master, Avatar Meher Baba, Caroline strived to adhere to his path of living with unconditional love for others. Deeply faithful, she believed that our souls return to this world time and time again,

remaining intertwined in clusters with other souls closest to us for millions of incarnations. As such, she was able to leave us gracefully, certain that we will all see each other again.

She was pragmatic when she was given her diagnosis in late spring, making the decision to take a few wonderful months at home with friends and family rather than gamble on a year full of doctors and hospitals. When people would tell her she “could beat this thing,” Caroline would turn to her family and say, “I hope they will come to understand that winning isn’t always continuing to live. Winning can be living with love and leaving knowing that you have had a wonderful life full of wonderful friends and experiences.”

We invite you to tune in and join us for a virtual service to be held at 1pm Eastern time on Friday, August 7, 2020. The event will be livestreamed via the Unitarian Universalist Church in Bloomington, Indiana www.uubloomington.org/live-stream/

Caroline loved the theater and was a passionate supporter.

In lieu of flowers, she requested that donations be made to Cardinal Stage (www.cardinalstage.org) or Bloomington Playwrights Project (www.newplays.org). We encourage you to use “In Memory of Caroline Beebe” in the memo field.

Previous Events

Service

AUG 7. 1:00 PM (ET)

Unitarian Universalist Church
2120 N. Fee Ln
Bloomington,, IN 47408

Tribute Wall

PC

“ I have only just learned of the passing of Caroline today, and I am heartbroken. I only knew Caroline for a few years in the mid-1990s, when we shared a hut in the middle of the rain forest in Belize while working at Chau Hiix. She was a wonderful and kind and generous person, and I wanted immediately to be like her. This place is dimmer without her, but the other side is so much brighter because of her spirit. I hope we indeed meet again to laugh and share stories under a brilliant moonlit and star studded sky. My deepest sympathies to her family.

Patricia Cook - July 31, 2024 at 05:41 PM

WG

“ I distinctly remember meeting Caroline for the first time in late 90s at H.B. Wells Library. She was with her daughter and at the time a TA for the school. A few things we had in common were library science, the UU Church and devotion to Meher Baba. Over the years we had a number of meetings of the mind. But in so many respects she was way beyond the normal personality and certainly will be missed. I applaud her courage in life and in death and send condolences to her close ones.

Our prayers and Baba's grace - William Graham

William Graham - March 13, 2022 at 02:20 PM

JO

“ I am very sorry for your loss. I will always remember the fabulous trip we had in Nepal around Caroline's and my mom's 60th birthday. Following our spectacular trek to Annapurna Base camp, she spoke about planning a bungee jump for her 70th birthday. Her energy and sense of adventure was amazing. Josselyn



Josselyn - August 15, 2020 at 03:47 PM

JK

“ Genevieve and Beebe family: Deepest sympathy for your loss. Caroline was such a vivacious, bold and talented woman who contributed so much to our community. We are forever grateful for her many contributions. Jillian Kinzie

Jillian Kinzie - August 12, 2020 at 05:04 PM

BC

“ Caroline was a wonderful person. I am sorry for your loss and hope all the best for all of you.



Britt Callison - August 10, 2020 at 06:21 PM

KP

“ Dear Crystal, Genevieve, and Family,
I'm so sorry for your loss. Thank you for sharing the service online -
it was beautiful. Caroline was such a lovely person. She'll be greatly
missed.
With deepest sympathy,
Katy Pastel

Katherine Pastel - August 09, 2020 at 04:52 PM

AH

“ What a Beautiful service today honoring such a beautiful soul.
Caroline truly touched so many lives. I will try to live the remainder
of my life honoring her memory by living more mindful of others,
being grateful for every moment of my life. I struggle to find the
words to convey how much she has meant & continues to mean to
me. Prayers for all of her family & friends 🙏 Annamarie Hart

Annamarie Hart - August 07, 2020 at 07:52 PM

GB

“ Caroline, such a very special person. Your caring and wisdom will
be missed by all who knew you. Wishing you love, peace and
happiness on your continuing journey. We will miss you. Gwen
Brown

Gwen Brown - August 07, 2020 at 05:04 PM

BA

“ To all --
Thank you for a beautiful service. Mike and I shall try to "leave things on the beach" as we go along . . . Caroline's combination of creativity, mathematical precision, spontaneity and acceptance was, sadly, unique -- but you all were right . . . we need to try to live those traits in her memory.

*Love to all,
Mike and Betsy (Fyfe) Amey*

Betsy F Amey - August 07, 2020 at 02:58 PM

SS

“ *Caroline and I were both students at a local dance studio, and that is where I met her. As I watched the moving tribute to her today, I was amazed at the depth of her life experiences, the quality of the love she shared with others, and the love that was so freely on display today. It was a beautiful service, and my regret is that I didn't know Caroline earlier in life. It was an honor to witness her service today. What a lovely family. May you know healing and strength in the days ahead.*

Sherrie Shuler

Sherrie Shuler - August 07, 2020 at 02:29 PM

NF

“ *I will never forget the jalapeno chili that Caroline made when a bunch of us lived together in an A-frame outside of Denver in the summer of 1972. It was HOT! But we all enjoyed the experience with Caroline.*

Nick Fitzgerald - August 07, 2020 at 01:49 PM

SK

“ We picked up a bread cookbook not too long ago. Used book sporting recipes from co-ops and related bakeries. One of the participating bakeries was in Bloomington, IN, and I could not help but smile as I read the description of the bakery. BloomingFoods. Kinda bittersweet as instantly I am thinking of Caroline and Michael, recognizing that they left this world with so much good - from their kids and grandkids and Jane to BloomingFoods, to an ethos based on love to a used cookbook in a used book store in the Berkshires that brings a smile and a tear to a cousin.



stacey knapp - August 07, 2020 at 12:11 AM

BM

“ Caroline was the most generous, happy, intelligent, and kind person I have known in this life. Her influence on my life and direction has been immense. Fond memories of our time together, especially of our three trips to India together, have sustained me and allowed me to be grateful and happy at this time of her passing. I'm very glad that her physical suffering did not have to be any longer. Naturally, I will miss her physical presents, but for her, I'm joyfully in her transcendence. Her impact on people's lives is without measure.

Bob Mulligan - August 06, 2020 at 03:37 PM

RB

“ My deepest condolences to Caroline's family. I didn't have the opportunity to get close to Caroline, but my admiration for her was, and remains great. I always loved connecting with her. She invariably exuded genuine warmth, in-the-moment humor, and open acceptance. I was intrigued by her career, by the stories she told, by her unwavering spirit of adventure. I will miss her, and I know your sense of loss is profound.

I was thinking about her this morning, and I felt a powerful wish that the next time around, Caroline would be my sister, that we'd grow up together, share in childhood misadventures, that we'd console one another in the struggles of adolescence and commit some delightful misdemeanors during those years. I thought about when we became elders again, how we'd clink glasses of sweet and dry wine to memories of our amazing times. I imagine everyone has hopes that they'll be that close to Caroline in a next life. That's the kind of person she is. One whose manner and grace inspire those around her to do better, to be more loving, and to wish they were part of her family.

I'm holding her loved ones in my heart,

Rebecca Beck

Rebecca Beck - August 06, 2020 at 11:28 AM

PD

“ I am shocked and saddened to hear of Caroline’s death. We all have so many good memories of our days with Bloomington Swim Club. She was a treasured colleague at UITS and the library. Her beautiful smile and blue eyes lit up a room. I know you will treasure all your memories and miss her terribly. Thinking of you with love and sympathy.

Phyllis Davidson

Phyllis Davidson - August 06, 2020 at 10:21 AM

BS

“ I worked with Caroline together at UITS back so long ago. She was a wonderful coworker: a lot of fun, very bright and very energetic and very creative. I always value her feedback and contributions, and I’m happy to see that she’s done so much since she left UITS! But I’m sorry to see that she has left us so soon. I wish the best to Michael and all of her family.

Brent Sweeny

brent sweeny - August 05, 2020 at 06:44 PM

DS

“ Caroline’s smile and joy when randomly meeting her out and about never failed to fill me with the knowledge that it was genuine and heartfelt. Peace be with you. Love Daria

Daria Smith - August 05, 2020 at 06:33 PM

LC

“ I want to send my condolences to Jane, Dana and Caroline's children and grandchildren.

The Beebe family was my second family while growing up in Kenilworth. I loved spending the night at their house, eating dinner in front of the TV or in the kitchen. It was so easy to be there - they absorbed my presence so easily! When we graduated from Sears, Mrs. Beebe chauffeured us to New Trier so that we didn't have to walk. It wasn't that far, but I think that she worried about the tunnel under Green Bay Road. As a grandparent now, I would surely have that concern. Caroline and I reconnected at the Sears reunion years ago and the time just disappeared. We laughed, shared memories, news of our kids and the interesting turns that our careers had taken. I went into Music, got a MM at Northwestern, specialized in opera, sang in Italy and have been teaching voice since 1975. I live in Montana in a log home that my husband and I designed and he built. It evolved as we had kiddos. The kids had the upstairs and we had a private space in a "Parental Suite" - a bedroom, study/office and bath. It's still home to me and my youngest son, an artist with MFA in painting and drawing who works all night and sleeps most of the day. Sending my love to all of you! Linda Sullivan Curtis

Linda Curts - August 05, 2020 at 03:54 PM

JB

Linda, thank you for this. Those were wonderful years. Glad you live in "God's Country". we spent 18 years at Lairds lodge, In Missoula. Love to you, Jane Beebe

jane M Beebe - August 06, 2020 at 10:05 PM

BA

*Love you, Linda -- hope we can reconnect! Betsy
bfamey1@verizon.net*

Betsy F Amey - August 07, 2020 at 03:00 PM

JD

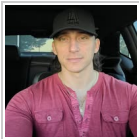
“ Reading your last wishes was so moving. You truly were a special gift to all who knew you. Wonderful Lady, till we meet again

Judi and Drew - August 05, 2020 at 01:56 PM

WB

“ I am honored to officiate this celebration of Caroline Beebe's amazing life. I would invite everyone to livestream the service as attendance at the Unitarian Church is for immediate family only due to the covid virus.--peace--bill breeden

William Breeden - August 05, 2020 at 01:09 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Dmitriy Volodko - August 05, 2020 at 11:52 AM