



Garth A. Pollock

October 15, 1952 - May 24, 2018

Garth Pollock, 65, passed away peacefully in his home on May 24, 2018, immersed in the loving atmosphere of family and friends.

Born in California on October 15, 1952, he grew up in the coastal area of San Jose. Garth became a member of the Bahá'í Faith at the age of 17. Since then, he devoted his life to service to humanity on several continents including South America, eastern Europe, Africa, and North America.

Garth lived in Bolivia for seventeen years, helping to establish a language school and to found Nur University. He then lived in Albania for five years working with Health for Humanity and contributing to the work of the Bahá'í community in developing human resources to be of service within their communities. He met and married his wife Karen Jensen in 1997 and they moved to Zambia for twelve years, where he served as the CEO of the Board of the William Mmutle Masethla Foundation, umbrella organization for several educational and community health programs. During this time Garth co-founded the Inshindo Foundation which implemented the Preparation for Social Action program, helping youth become agents for change within their local communities in Zambia.

He served full-time as Counselor on two Continental Boards: Africa and the Americas, traveling extensively to help build vision and nurture capacity among the Baha'is to devote themselves to building community.

Garth is survived by his wife Karen, their two sons Ryan and Scott, his brother Bryan Pollock of California and his family.

In lieu of flowers, if friends wish they might choose to make contributions to Inshindo Foundation in Zambia by making a check payable to Karen Pollock with "Inshindo Foundation" written in the memo line, and sending c/o Allen Funeral Home, 4155 S Old State Rd 37, Bloomington, IN 47401.

There will be a graveside funeral service on Saturday, 26 March at 3:00 p.m., Clear Creek Cemetery, immediately followed by fellowship and refreshments at the Pollock home at 1413 E Elliston Drive, Bloomington. All are welcome.

(A memorial celebration of Garth's life will be planned for a later date.)

You are invited to share a memory or leave an online condolence to the family at www.allencares.com

Tribute Wall

TS

“ Mr. Pollock facilitated several book 7s we youth were taking at the time. Something simple yet profound he shared with us was instead of asking "does anyone know what this word means," we can say "what is everyone's understanding of this word?" It touched on his humility and the open and kind manner in which he interacted with others. He treated others with so much respect and love and truly valued their knowledge. I have other very positive memories, but this one stands out most because as a teacher and study circle tutor I utilize this recommendation daily!

Tj Stapleton - December 17, 2018 at 02:05 PM

MA

“ Kabwe Baha'i Community and Inshindo Foundation staff and students held a memorial service for Mr. Garth Pollock at his last residence in Africa which is now the Headquarters of Inshindo Foundation in Zambia.



Mohamed Abdou-Salami - June 08, 2018 at 01:04 PM

MA

“ Mohamed Abdou-Salami lit a candle in memory of Garth A. Pollock



Mohamed Abdou-Salami - June 08, 2018 at 07:07 AM

“ I first met Garth Pollock in Nakuru, Kenya in June 1998 where he came to assist the Baha'i Institutions of East Africa to understand the Training Institute and acquaint them with the materials of the Ruhi Institute. From then on, he became to me the pioneer of the Training Institute in Africa. I then had the bounty to serve with him at the William M Masetlha Training Institute where he was the Director and found that his office was also the Institute Desk for Africa. Among his many qualities, his great sense of humor that rejoiced both young and old and his ability to give you so much attention as to seem as the only issue that occupied his great mind. As a youth living and serving with him, I learned the greatest lesson in combining Justice and Love at the same time. In the same breadth, He fired me and informed me of a new job he found for me. Garth and Karen provided me their loving guidance and protection during the most uncertain period of my life and for this I will be eternally grateful; and my indebtedness to them is both material, intellectual, social and spiritual.

In 2005, Garth and Karen Pollock, following the Guidance from the Universal House of Justice, started the process of establishing Inshindo Foundation for which they have sacrificed energy, safety and health so that the youth of Zambia can arise to spearhead the development of their communities. Here again, I was to witness another great quality of Garth Pollock, namely his forgiveness, as welcomed me to work in his organization as he had to leave Africa for the United States. Inshindo Foundation has since trained over 2,000 youth in the Preparation for Action Program and has now added a Community Schools program and an Agriculture Research Program. Very soon the Health Education Program, for which he dedicated so many years developing the modules, will be added to Inshindo's Programs. Through Inshindo Foundation, the PSA program has been introduced to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, starting with Lubumbashi and the Health Education Materials he developed are now being translated into French to benefit many French speaking African countries.

In 2 hours, the staff of Inshindo Foundation in Kabwe and the Kabwe Baha'i Community will hold a memorial service at the

Pollocks' last residence in Africa (which now serves as the headquarters of Inshindo Foundation) to remember one whose sacrificial decision to move to this town, a decade ago, has established both the organization and this Baha'i community. Dear Karen, Rayan and Scott, Please accept on behalf of Isabel, Rasheed, Jamila and Jasmine our deepest sympathies and on behalf of Inshindo Foundation and the Baha'i community of Kabwe our eternal gratitude.
Mohamed Abdou-Salami

Mohamed Abdou-Salami - June 08, 2018 at 06:49 AM

DG

“ *Dear Garth Pollock, you will remain with us for ever, in the Baha'is Communities in Africa! Thanks for your service.*

Domingos da Gama - June 07, 2018 at 08:45 AM

MH

“ *Marilyn Heaton purchased the European Sympat hy Dish Garden for the family of Garth A. Pollock.*



Marilyn Heaton - June 05, 2018 at 06:24 PM

LL

“ As our Counsellor for Zambia, it's such a sad story to hear that he passed away and Mr. Moses Mumba Lungu would have been the most hit by this had he been alive today. Sadly, he is no more just like Mr. Pollock. I hope they will be able to recognize one another and share all the memories once more. Mr. Pollock was such a good friend to Dad who was always by his side even in times when Dad's life was hard. He would encourage him to go another step forward hoping that things would better and the results were just amazing.

Much has already been said by my friends and nothing can beat their memories of the Pollock's family. It was such a loving family who knew no race and their love was all-embracing. Him and Karen helped many lives here in Zambia through Capstone Educational Program which I was part of in 2007. Many children learned how to read and write before they could even start their primary level such that when they got enrolled into government schools, all the kids who passed through Capstone exceptionally did well more especially those that once stopped school in the 7th and 8th grade. He will be greatly missed by many Zambians for his love for them. He was such an asset a community could ever had in a life time. As tutors who were coming from different provinces of Zambia, his family kept us well that we never missed our homes in any way possible.

May Our Almighty God's bounties pour on his progressing soul for eternal life.

Thanks.
Lusenga Lungu, Zambia.

Lusenga Lungu - June 05, 2018 at 05:53 AM



Jedda
Cain

“ *The previous post under "Jedda Cain" was shared by my mother, Therese Mwika.*

Jedda Cain - June 03, 2018 at 01:54 PM



Jedda
Cain

“ *I knew Garth as counsellor, but I also regard him as my spiritual father. The news of his passing brought much shock and sadness to me and my family. To honour him, we had a gathering in our home with others who knew him and said some prayers for the progress of his soul. Karen and the children are in our thoughts and prayers as we remember the cherished times we shared in Zambia. We love you dearly and sympathise deeply with you.*

Jedda Cain - June 03, 2018 at 01:49 PM



CM

“ *The thing I will most remember about Garth is the way everyone felt welcome in his and Karen's home at Banani. You knew that if you needed a hug, a game of chess or a kitchen to make cookies in you were welcome anytime of the day or night. I'll also remember his advice on marriage 'Don't hesitate, all you can do is try, read the Writings , trust in God and pray about it.'*

I'll also remember one very temperamental green van that decided to break down and Garth trying to steer it while attached to the back of a minivan.

What a wonderful man he was and how missed he will be. Dear blessings to you Karen, Ryan and Scott. I dreamed about you all last night and woke up feeling peaceful and calm. I wish we could have been there to give you a hug and to celebrate Garth's life.

What beautiful qualities he leaves in his two beautiful young men. Sending so much love, Corinne and Kabengele Muma

corinne muma - June 01, 2018 at 03:02 AM

KC

“ We used to get very excited about quirky new technologies. He'd often walk into my end of the office to share what he'd read and share his thoughts. He used to have this little retractable mouse that was so small, I often laughed at how he managed to work with it.

One of the best things (of many) he ever talked to me about was on life, and how we should never create these false dichotomies around how we act when it is time to serve, time to have fun, etc. And it bothered for a very long time, because, I was a victim of multiple personalities, and depending on who I was around, i would respond differently. Fast forward almost a decade later and i find myself hoping that I can be such an example to my old child.

<https://badasht.bandcamp.com/track/prayer-for-the-departed>

Kawawa Chitiya - May 31, 2018 at 05:50 PM

KS

“ I am so sorry to hear about Garth's passing. I was 18, when I did part of my Year of Service at Banani School in Lusaka (i think it was 1997/1998). Garth and Karen, you must have moved to the Institute around the same time, because I remember that I loved hearing Karen play her guitar at 19 dayfeasts. Looking forward to the time after my Year of Service, I found myself tied up in knots and full of insecurities of what to do next with my (young) life. I will never forget, how Garth invited me over to your house, to consult with the two of you. I remember that I was served a cup of hot chocolate with marshmallows on top, and I believe it was Garth who made it for me. I felt like at home and could open up to the two of you about all my aspirations, worries etc. for the future. The three of us had a wonderful consultation, and Karen recommended me a book (finding your true calling?) that helped me in choosing my college degree. I left the meeting full of confidence and hope. Many times in the following years, when I was struggling with something again, I was thinking back of that safe space you had created for me and it carried me forward. I later saw, I think on facebook, that you have two wonderful sons together, and I was so happy to learn of that. Sending you much love from Ireland (formerly Austria),
Katharina

Katharina Swirak - May 31, 2018 at 03:55 PM

 Jedda
Cain

“ I've been reading all these memories the friends have shared about Uncle Garth and I wish I had gotten to know him as an adult to be able to discern more deeply the many wonderful things about him. However, I am glad and feel very lucky that I knew him when I did - as a child and junior youth. I have so many wonderful memories of the times he played games with us, showed us magic tricks and told us stories. He and aunty Karen always welcomed all the children from the neighbourhood in into their home. My heart goes out to Ryan and Scott whom I spent much time with, babysitting and playing. I know you are big boys but nobody is ever old enough to lose a parent. Prayers for you all.

Jedda Cain

Jedda Cain - May 31, 2018 at 02:48 PM

HJ

“ I first heard of Garth from my brother, when he visited Albania. stories of this dynamic and energetic Board member were among the key highlights my brother shared. A few years later, we were blessed to have him and Karen in our community.

It was a true privilege to have known Garth. His matchless qualities and dedication to the Faith, and in particular to the establishment of the training Institute in Zambia, will never be forgotten. We pray for the progress of his noble soul, and for Karen, Ryan and Scott's strength.

We recently had our National Convention, and all the delegates and friends present remembered him in prayer, and shared many shared the impact he had had on their lives. He lives on forever in our thoughts.

Lots of love from Hamed, Anisa, Shidan, Jaida and Ray.

Hamed Javaheri - May 28, 2018 at 05:06 AM

MI

“ O SON OF JUSTICE! Whither can a lover go but to the land of his beloved? and what seeker findeth rest away from his heart's desire? To the true lover reunion is life, and separation is death. His breast is void of patience and his heart hath no peace. A myriad lives he would forsake to hasten to the abode of his beloved.



Bahá'u'lláh

Mirela - May 26, 2018 at 10:25 AM

DP

Was sooooo sorry to know about Garth's Suffering, and ensuing death. I knew Garth when he was a student Baha'i in San Jose, California. My family moved to Ca. I'm early 1974. I will Pray for Garth, and the family's welfare , and for your Broaken Hearts to be Healed 🙏

*Diane F. Patel
Pendleton, In.*

Diane F Patel - May 27, 2018 at 08:40 AM

MI

“Garth was one of my few genuinely encouraging and supportive Baha’i friends to help me and lovingly guide me in my new Baha’i journey from the moment that we’ve met. He was a kind, loving and deepened Baha’i who spread love and support wherever he went. He had a loving and generous heart.

“To consider that after the death of the body the spirit perishes,” ‘Abdu’l-Bahá has said “is like imagining that a bird in a cage will be destroyed if the cage is broken, though the bird has nothing to fear from the destruction of the cage. Our body is like the cage, and the spirit is like the bird...if the cage becomes broken, the bird will continue and exist. Its feelings will be even more powerful, its perceptions greater, and its happiness increased...”

*My prayers and loving thoughts are with his family and friends as his soul transitions
In the beautiful peaceful and mysterious Abhá Kingdom.*

Lovingly,

Mirela Swaynie

Mirela - May 26, 2018 at 10:17 AM

JV

“ I met Garth when I was just 13. He lived next door to me and was often outside throwing a ball for his beloved dog, Shogi. As neighbors, our families often shared times together. I remember playing tennis with Garth and my Mom, then going for ice cream afterward. The first, and last time that I ever hitchhiked, I was picked up by Garth but didnt even look at the driver until we were well down the road. Lesson learned. Garth was always kind and friendly to me. I remember when he first went to Bolivia to teach english. I remember him helping me write about the mesning if “Summer Breeze” by Seals & Croft, for a high school assignment. I remember the besutiful lesther bound book he gave me, Khalil Gibran’s The zprophet. I remember his kind eyes and easy smile. I remember Garth, as love. He was my friend. Blessings and comfort to his family. Julie Wilcox Valentine

julie valentine - May 26, 2018 at 10:11 AM

NA

“ A true visionary. He transformed organisations and people. My sincere condolences to Karen and boys. Nazar



Nazar - May 26, 2018 at 07:10 AM

SB

“ My heartily condolences!

Shaku Bagabo - May 26, 2018 at 06:20 AM

SH

“ *Stella Herbert lit a candle in memory of Garth A. Pollock*



Stella Herbert - May 26, 2018 at 04:52 AM

SH

I knew Garth and family from my time in Zambia and came to admire his brilliant mind, understanding and vision for the future, informed by his belief in and study of the Baha'i Faith. It was a privilege to learn from his insights. My heartfelt love to Karen, his perfect balance and co-worker - together they made their house a place of refuge, fun and laughter for young and old, away from home. Special thoughts for Ryan and Scott, for the loss of a father in their teenage years. All are in my thoughts and I send them my fondest love and prayers.

Stella Herbert - May 26, 2018 at 05:23 AM

SH

Garth was a knowledgeable and wise follower of Baha'u'llah. He was a dedicated husband and father. I knew him in Bloomington IN. He struggled through brain cancer with fortitude and detachment during the last 5 years. He told me often that he was not afraid of death and believed deeply in life after this earthly one. He will be missed by many many people

Sara K Hatch - May 26, 2018 at 08:15 PM

BU

Garth gave us the way to return to Indianapolis, safely, late one night, after a happy day in Bloomington. I am grateful for his cheerful humility and dedication to people of different colors on several continents, He left footprints of unity that awe and inspire. We can strive, to the level of our ability amongst those that we know to walk as he did, following 'Abdu'l-Baha's guidance. Thank you, Garth.

Beverly Usher, - May 27, 2018 at 01:46 PM

DB

“ 1 file added to the album *We cherish the blessed memory of Garth's Ruhi Book 1 tutor training in our home, November 2015*



Dianne Bohannon-Letzer - May 25, 2018 at 05:35 PM

AP

“ *Had to joy to serve together with Garth on the Continental Board Counsellors in Africa for more that 10 years. He has been for me a great source of inspiration. His love for the service to mankind through is faith to Bahá'u'lláh, mixed with his analytical capacities made him a person with whom was a pleasure to spend time. Thank you Garth. Ahmad Parsa from Rwanda*

Ahmad Parsa - May 25, 2018 at 03:51 PM

AG

“ *I served with Garth on Continental Board of Counsellors for Africa. Garth was very kind, loving and generous. He had a wealth of experience in the institute process and developed a lot of material to help strengthen the institute process. Dear Garth assisted me greatly by visiting Ghana and working with coordinators at both the National and cluster level. He was a very devoted person. I really missed him when he left the Continental Board of Africa for the Continental Board of the Americas. It was really sad when we heard of his illness and tried to remember him in my prayers from time to time and also at our Board meetings. Last year I wrote to him a number of times but never got response. We will continue to pray for his dear soul and that of the family. Garth may you dear soul continue to progress towards God.*

Agatha Gaisie-Nketsiah - May 25, 2018 at 03:19 PM

DS

“ Garth was big man; physically, spiritually, intellectually and as a supportive friend. Although his work load was stratospheric, and the levels he worked at far beyond most people's sphere, Garth specialised in bringing things down to simple levels and helping others to get a glimpse of the much bigger picture he saw. Garth was mischievous, loved to tease and could keep young children spellbound with his little magic tricks. In the 90's and early 200's we worked closely together in Zambia and I grew to love and admire his selfless attitude to service, his encouragement and support, his keenness of vision and attention to details.

Garth led a full and active life and gave much to many. No doubt his soul is excited at his new adventure and will undoubtedly, be watching over his beloved family. Thank you Garth, for enriching my life. David Smith. Zambia.

D S Smith - May 25, 2018 at 02:53 PM