



Mary Clifford Lewis

July 20, 1964 - May 13, 2017

Mary Clifford Lewis, 52, of Bloomington passed away unexpectedly at home on Saturday, May 13, 2017. One of five children, she was born July 20, 1964 in Anderson, Indiana, the daughter of William and Rosina (Yoder) Clifford. She graduated from Highland High School in 1982 and received a bachelor's degree from Indiana University—Bloomington in 1990.

While working her way through college, she was employed at Nick's English Hut, where she developed lifelong friendships with both patrons and fellow employees. As an IU student she also became a member of an unofficial sorority known as the "Roachettes," a group of women who shared a house (Roach Motel) together near campus from 1983-1984. The bonds she established at that time were strong and lasting. Mary's vibrant friendly nature was key to her ability to maintain enduring relationships with so many individuals over the years. Her fun-loving spirit and devotion to others is what led to her career in the hospitality service industry. She had an infectious smile that made everyone feel warm and welcomed.

During the 1990s, she worked at the Village Deli in Bloomington. Then, in 1996, she moved to the US Virgin Islands where she gained fine dining and catering experience, which helped expand her knowledge of wine and food pairings and the culinary arts. She was an excellent cook and often toyed with the idea of opening her own restaurant. She moved back to Bloomington in 2014 and worked briefly as a Wine Steward for Kroger's Supermarket, where she won a trip to California Wine Country as a reward for her top sales efforts.

Despite her success, she longed for greater job satisfaction so in recent months she was taking time off to explore and reevaluate her career goals. In addition to her culinary interests, Mary was a gifted artist who enjoyed drawing, painting, and photography. She always talked about her need to share the beauty of the most seemingly simple and mundane things, such as rocks or the way light shown on the leaves of trees. Known to hold up traffic on occasion by stopping in the middle of the road to capture that perfect image, Mary loved sharing her artwork, which she used to communicate her unique perspective of the world, via social media. She also loved rainbows and saw them as a great source of spiritual inspiration.

Mary was a member of Sherwood Oaks Christian Church in Bloomington. She expressed her faith in God through her kindness and generosity. Always recognizing the good in people, Mary treated practically everyone she met as if they were a best friend. She was a beautiful person inside and out.

Mary is survived by her son William (Bill) Lewis of Bloomington and his girlfriend Joie-Ann Logan, whom she thought of a daughter, her husband Mike Lewis of Jacksonville, Florida, step-daughter Sierra Michael Mize of Melrose, Florida, step-son Aaron Lewis of Spencer, sister Jennifer (Tim) Holihen of Fishers, brother Jon (Juan) Clifford of Indianapolis, sister Amy (Sam) Wilson of Rio Grande, Ohio, sister Annie Ackerman of Bloomington, several nieces and nephews and many dear friends—especially Jim (Moe) and Judy Mathias of Bloomington who made her feel like family, and finally, her beloved pet cats Theo and Athena.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brother-in-law Jeremy Ackerman.

A Celebration of Life will be held 1pm Saturday, June 3, 2017 at Allen Funeral Home and Crematory at 4155 S. Old State Road 37 in Bloomington. The family will receive friends beginning at 11am prior to the service.

Memorial contributions may be made to a special fund to help support her son with his continued education and transition to adult life: <http://bit.ly/2qVMYTY>

The family acknowledges with deep appreciation the many expressions of

love, concern, and kindness shown to them during this difficult time. May God bless and keep you! You are invited to share a memory or leave an online condolence to Mary's family at www.allencares.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Gathering

JUN 3. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-5905
<http://www.allencares.com>

Celebration of Life Service

JUN 3. 1:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-5905
<http://www.allencares.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Love's Embrace Roses – Purple was purchased for the family of Mary Clifford Lewis.*



June 02, 2017 at 03:44 PM



“ *Myrna Yoder and the entire Gerald Yoder family purchased the Healing Tears - All White for the family of Mary Clifford Lewis.*



Myrna Yoder and the entire Gerald Yoder family - June 02, 2017 at 01:21 PM



“ *Love, Aunt Joyce, Annette and Family. purchased the Love's Embrace Roses – Purple for the family of Mary Clifford Lewis.*



Love, Aunt Joyce, Annette and Family. - June 01, 2017 at 06:06 PM



“ *Eternal Paradise was purchased for the family of Mary Clifford Lewis.*



May 29, 2017 at 08:16 PM



“ *The world was a better place because Mary was here.....you will forever be loved and missed by us all !!!*

Debbie Burton - May 26, 2017 at 11:40 AM



“ *Multicolor Pastel Mixed Flower Fireside Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Clifford Lewis.*



May 25, 2017 at 08:51 PM

“ I met Mary in the kitchen of Nick's English Hut in Bloomington. I was about 23. She was 21. I was a low-paid cook, and she had just started the more lucrative job of waitress. We had botched one of her orders, and she came into the kitchen with a few sharp words for us. "Oh, no," I thought. "This one is going to be trouble. Her first day and she's already yelling at us. We can't have this."

We corrected her order, and I took it back to her. (I remember this only because Mary reminded me of it often.) I said to her, "Just so you know, kitchen guys are the highest form of life around here." Mary looked at me, started laughing and said, "OK."

Far from being trouble, Mary turned out to be one of the best things about working at Nick's. After I devolved into a waiter position, I spent every Thursday and Saturday night for about two years working with Mary and a bartender in the back room. We quickly learned to rely on each other when things got busy. More than once, Mary backed me up when a bartender lost his cool, and I backed her up. She didn't hesitate to speak her mind, but tempered it with a genuine affection for people. That made her a great friend -- one who would applaud you when you were right, let you know when you were wrong, and make you laugh a lot in between. It was so easy to fall into conversation with Mary, I often lost track of time. A quick trip to pick up my paycheck might turn into an hour chat if Mary was working a slow shift. My shifts with her always seemed shorter than they were because we always had something to talk about.

When I left Nick's, Mary demonstrated perhaps her two most admirable traits: her thoughtfulness and sense of fun. I was leaving for a reporter job at a small-town newspaper, so Mary, being a wonderful artist, made me a cake that looked like a typewriter. She used a couple of Ho-Hos for the roller and Ding Dongs for the roller knobs. She'd written the name of the newspaper on a piece of paper in the "typewriter." The result was touchingly clever and delicious.

The night before I left, I was anxious about failing at my new job, so Mary dragged me to a UB-40 concert to mellow me out. It should have worked, but I was too uptight to enjoy it and left. Mary understood why and didn't take it personally.

I saw her a few times after that, but I moved to North Carolina six months after leaving Bloomington and lost contact with her. When she found me on Facebook a few years ago, I was delighted, and, as in real life, she quickly became one of my best Facebook buddies. She posted a lot of good stuff, we dutifully "liked" each other's posts when we saw them, and we argued about the existence of God. (Mary, yes; Frank, no).

Mary was so full of life, it took me a long time to accept her death. I read her sister's Facebook post announcing it several times, looking for some sign that it was sick joke or didn't mean what I thought it meant. I was pretty desperate to delude myself into thinking it wasn't true.

Now that our Facebook debates about God are over forever, I hope, for her sake, that she's right about God and heaven. And I hope she meets heaven's membership criteria. I'd hate to imagine how cold and boring it must be, if she doesn't. And I hope she remembers to put in a good word for her non-believing buddy, Frank, when my time comes. I'd hate to deny her a chance to say, "Told you so."

Frank Maley - May 25, 2017 at 11:17 AM



“ With Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Clifford Lewis.



May 21, 2017 at 10:41 PM



“ *Bountiful European Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mary Clifford Lewis.*



May 20, 2017 at 10:10 AM



“ *To all of the friends and family of Mary. Especially her beloved son! We are so sorry for your loss. I believe she will always be with you. Your special angel! Take care and be strong.*

Sadly, Angela and Fred Stewart, Golf, Illinois

Angela Stewart - May 19, 2017 at 05:27 PM



*Our loss is Heavens gain.
Go Mary Go .
Moe*

Moe Mathias - May 20, 2017 at 06:11 PM

JN

Shortly after Mary left St Thomas, she sent me a handwritten 10-page letter describing her journey. This is one quote, "Watching God move is so wonderful, seeing Him in action is a gift in its own right. I am privileged to be invited by Him along this journey. I'm happy to have gone through what I've gone through to get where I'm going. I was sad in the VI a lot of the time, but He put me in a beautiful place with wonderful people and gave me my beautiful son Billy....It's funny how God prepares you always for the next step."

We send love and prayers from Mary's St Thomas Reformed Church family. Her love and faith were contagious. May you, her family and loved ones, find peace knowing that she has found her eternal rest.

*Peace,
Pastor Jeff
St Thomas Reformed Church*

Jeffrey Neevel - May 31, 2017 at 10:29 AM