



## Melissa Gay Keller

September 4, 1958 - April 14, 2018

Melissa Keller, 59, of Bloomington passed away Saturday, April 14, 2018 at her home with her family by her side. She was born in Fort Worth, Texas to Alex and Gayle Keller. She grew up in New Orleans, Memphis, Dallas, and Cincinnati, followed by her years in Indianapolis and Bloomington, Indiana with the love of her life, Thomas Kuhn, and their children. She loved her family and friends without measure and she was grateful for their unflinching support. Melissa received her Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, and Ph.D. from Miami, Xavier, and Indiana Universities, respectively. She was a lifelong educator of students of all ages and delighted in all that they taught her. She taught in public and private Montessori elementary schools in Hamilton and Cincinnati, Ohio, and Indianapolis, Indiana, as well as at Xavier and Indiana Universities. Along with her husband of 33 years, Melissa was a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana. She loved to read and write stories, including the volume of stories she self-published entitled *Crazy is Relative*. She had few regrets but was sorry she never learned how to throw a Frisbee in the direction she intended. Melissa believed in the power of love, universal salvation, and the great unknown. She believed that true blessings were mysterious, subtle, and sometimes came with a price. She accepted the miracle that was her life and was ready to go when it was time. Melissa is preceded in death by her mother Gayle Keller; her grandparents J.B. and May Wadsworth, Arthur Keller, and Bess Crafton; her father- and mother-in-law Walter and Shirley Kuhn; and her sister- and brother-in-law Joe

and Dorothy Kuhn. She is survived by her husband Thomas Kuhn; their beloved children and daughter-in-law, Ben Keller-Kuhn, Alison Keller-Kuhn, and Honna Keller-Kuhn; and their granddaughter Lyla Keller-Kuhn. She is also survived by her father and his wife, Alex and Joan Keller; her siblings and their spouses, Laurie and Gary Cochrane, Lynne and Mark Anderson, and Rob and Shawna Keller; along with nine nephews and nieces, and six great-nephews and nieces.

A memorial service will be held Monday, April 23, 2018 at 4:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Bloomington, With Rev Mary Ann Macklin officiating. A reception will follow the service in the fellowship hall including an opportunity for others to share their own stories of love.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to Planned Parenthood or the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington. You are invited to share a memory or leave an online condolence to the family at [www.allencares.com](http://www.allencares.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR 23. 4:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall

DH

“ Dear Ben,  
My deepest condolences on the loss of your dear mother. I was saddened to hear of her passing. She was hands down one of the finest educators i knew and was equally the best mom. She loved her job and her family and spoke with much passion about both. I am so sorry i can't be there today, but know that i am with you and your family in spirit. May God bless each of you during this difficult time.

*Diane Hanks- Ben's middle school asst. principal*

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**Diane Hanks** - April 23, 2018 at 02:28 PM

JP

“ Melissa was my professor for multiple classes and inspired me in my teaching career in so many ways. She was a true light in this world and lived with such grace and beauty. After graduation we kept in touch, she even brought me meals after my babies were born. There truly was no one else like her. I'm so sad to hear of her loss, I know she will be missed by all who knew her. Love and prayers to her family.

*-Jessie Pritchett*

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**Jessie Pritchett** - April 23, 2018 at 12:55 PM

MD

“ I was one of the kids in Melissa's USA delegation to Norway in 1984, with CISV. It was a memory of a lifetime, and although Melissa and I didn't stay in touch over the years, I remember that time with great fondness. She was a wonderful person back then, and I'm sure she just got better with age. Rest in peace, Melissa.

*- Mike Doyle*

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**Mike Doyle** - April 20, 2018 at 01:14 PM

JN

“ *Melissa was a jewel at the School of Education where I worked with her. She was always pleasant and considerate of students. I am sure that you miss her.*

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**Jeane Novotny** - April 20, 2018 at 11:05 AM

 Meg  
Sterchi

“ *Thomas, Alison and Ben,  
I have always loved being in the presence of Melissa. Her kindness, wisdom and grace filled the room. She thought deeply and loved her family fiercely. My heart goes out to you all as you grieve the loss of her in your lives. Sending love and hugs.*

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**Meg Sterchi** - April 18, 2018 at 04:04 PM

DN

“ *Though it has been many years ago, I always remember my time with Melissa fondly. She was among the kindest and easiest-to-be-with people with whom I have had the pleasure to share time. My heart goes out to old friend Thomas and the family. In Jewish tradition, we say at such times, Zichrona l'vracha.... May her memory be a blessing..... to all who loved her.... and I have no doubt that she lives on in that love.*

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**Danny Nerenberg** - April 18, 2018 at 10:08 AM

 Liz  
Joss

“ *I am so sorry to hear this. Melissa was one in a million. Much love to Thomas and the rest of the family.  
Liz*

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**Liz Joss** - April 18, 2018 at 08:24 AM

DI

“ Dear Tom,  
I am deeply saddened by your huge loss. I have admired you so much over the years as we worked together in the Bloomington ER. I pray that this strength will carry you through these deeply tragic days. Dwain Illman

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**Dwain Illman** - April 17, 2018 at 07:18 PM

KC

“ Tom-Ben and family,  
  
So very sorry to hear of your loss, we will miss her beautiful smile. Thoughts and prayers for all.

*The Carson Family*

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**Kimberly D Carson** - April 17, 2018 at 03:32 PM

EH

“ Melissa touched so many of us at IU. She was a comforting presence, and a kind and gentle human being. Blessings to all of her family, and know that we all loved her, too!

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**Ellie Hoffman** - April 16, 2018 at 08:26 PM

KH

“ I was fortunate to work with Melissa during my grad school years (2003-2008) at IU. She was such a bright light and loving force. I loved supervising and teaching her TAL students and and receiving her feedback and ideas on how to best engage the students. She made the SOE warm and welcoming. So very sad to hear this news. I too have cancer and can say with deep empathy how truly sucky it is. Knowing Melissa she faced it with courage and love. xo Kara Hume, Chapel Hill NC

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**Kara Hume** - April 15, 2018 at 10:07 PM