

MAYA ANGELLOU

When Great Trees Fall

When great souls die,
the air around us becomes
light, rare, sterile.
We breathe, briefly.
Our eyes, briefly,
see with
a hurtful clarity.
Our memory, suddenly sharpened,
examines,
gnaws on kind words
unsaid,
promised walks
never taken.

Great souls die and
our reality, bound to
them, takes leave of us.
Our souls,
dependent upon their
nurture,
now shrink, wizened.
Our minds, formed
and informed by their
radiance,
fall away.
We are not so much maddened
as reduced to the unutterable ignorance
of dark, cold
caves.

And when great souls die,
after a period peace blooms,
slowly and always
irregularly. Spaces fill
with a kind of
soothing electric vibration.
Our senses, restored, never
to be the same, whisper to us.
They existed. They existed.
We can be. Be and be
better. For they existed.

Celebration Of Life

Friday, October 6, 2023 - 2:00 PM

United Methodist Church ~ Alexandria, Minnesota

“Be Thou My Vision” special arrangement by Brad Lambrecht, organist

Greeting—Reverend Amy Van Valkenburg, Alexandria UMC

Sing Hymn 451 “Be Though My Vision”—Mary E. Byrne

Prayer read by Kathleen’s sister, Margaret Opp

Poem read by Emma Reilly, Kathleen’s granddaughter

Reading by Grandchildren

Sermon—Rev. Holly Aastuen, Wyoming UMC & Kathleen’s cousin

Eulogy by Heidi Ryan

“Studies in English Folksong” – Ralph Vaughan Williams (Eric Graf, cellist, & Mark Graf, pianist) Psalm 23 read by Tom DeWitt

Time of Sharing

Sing Hymn 2051 The Faith We Sing songbook- “I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry”

Camille Saint-Saens: Sonata # 1 in C Minor, 2nd movement: Andante

Choral Benediction “The Lord Bless You and Keep You”—Alexandria Area High School Carolers, Colt Lien, Director

Arrangements by

Anderson Funeral Home, Alexandria, Minnesota

Kathleen Frances (Haining) Pohlig, age 75, of Alexandria demonstrated courage and deep gratitude for those supporting her during her battle with cancer that emerged in the spring and brought her passing in the autumn on October 4, 2023.

Kathleen was born January 22, 1948, in Margarita, Panama, where her Minnesotan family was living as her father worked in schools in the U.S. Panama Canal Zone, then moved to Minnesota with her family when she was 7 years old.

Kathleen lived in multiple Minnesota towns during her childhood. In 1966 she graduated from high school in Alexandria and from Hamline University in 1970, as part of the third generation of her family to study there. There in 1970 she met and soon married Bruce Pohlig (of Richmond, VA) in 1971, moving to Alexandria, Minnesota in 1976.

Kathleen spent years caring for their three children, though the “stay-at-home” part of being a “stay-at-home mom” could hardly define her. In addition to her great devotion to her family and involvement in her children’s lives, Kathleen was always an active member of the community. She found ways to foster and support our community through the Alexandria United Methodist Church, the District 206 School Board, as a founding member of the Alexandria Education Foundation, working together with Bruce on a fundraising campaign for the building of the new high school, local social programs (supporting local nursing mothers’ groups in the 1970s, working on fundraising events such as the Holiday Ball, volunteering with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Douglas County Hospice), and the local arts (participating in and championing local theater, chairing the Festival of Lakes committee, supporting the high school music programs).

Based in the value she held for reading, education, and the importance of local business, Kathleen opened Cherry Street Books in 2007.

Kathleen loved language and words, “good music,” and considering new perspectives, whether it be through the journey of a well-written book, travel with Bruce, or conversation with varying members of her community. She had a passion for colors and visual arts, which translated into the creation of beautiful quilts, many of which she donated to others. Kathleen loved to bake; her meals and treats were always made from scratch and enjoyed by all.

Kathleen’s life will live on in the loving memory of her husband Bruce (of nearly 52 years), daughter Christine Reilly (Shawn), son Jeffrey Pohlig (Holly), daughter Rebecca Schroeder (Todd), grandchildren Kallie, Emma, Colin, and Olivia Reilly; Sophie Pohlig; Clare, Henry, and Elise Schroeder; brother Bruce Haining; sister Margaret (Roger) Opp; brother-in-law Peter Egan; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. Kathleen was preceded in death by her parents (Roscoe and Kathleen Haining), sister-in-law (Shelley Haining), and sister (Carol Egan).

In Loving

M E M O R Y



Kathleen F. Pohlig
January 22, 1948 ~ October 4, 2023