



## Karen Louise Strauss

December 28, 1962 - August 22, 2017

Karen Louise (Osborne) Strauss was born in Hagerstown, MD in 1962. As a child, she lived in Monrovia and Nimba, Liberia, Far Rockaway, NY, Dubai, UAE and Casablanca, Morocco. In 1971, Karen arrived in Walnut Creek, CA. She was active in Brownies and Girl Scouts. In the fourth grade, Karen fell in love with music. She started on drums and cello. She then moved to flute and piano. Karen enjoyed both music and French language in Jr. High and High School. During high school, she worked at the Sandpiper Hallmark Store and was a member of the Job's Daughters Masonic Group. She graduated from Northgate High School in 1981.

Karen was accepted to the University of the Pacific's Conservatory of Music in Stockton, CA. Her musical talents increased as she learned to play all band and orchestra instruments. Karen graduated in 1985 with a BM in Music Education. She began teaching elementary school music in Greenfield, CA. In 1987 Karen married David Strauss. Karen met David in high school band. Their first date was to Fentons Creamery in Oakland in 1978 and they had been together ever since. After honeymooning in Victoria, B.C., the newlyweds moved to Rancho California in 1987.

For the last 29 years, Karen taught Fifth Grade beginning band in the Murrieta Valley Unified School District. As a teacher, Karen was known for her smile, her patience, her positive attitude and her delight in her students' success as musicians and scholars. She worked tirelessly to be sure every student practiced, got band shirts and that the chairs would arrive at the district honor band concerts on time. She rewarded her classes every year by organizing a concert at Muligan's Fun Center. After school, she gave private piano lessons from home. Some of her students have become music teachers themselves. Karen was very proud of her legacy of giving the gift of music to nearly three thousand students in her lifetime.

Karen played flute and piccolo in the community concert bands of Palomar Jr. College, Mt. San Jacinto Jr. College and the Temecula Valley Winds. She was also a member of the Silver Sounds Flute Ensemble and Orange County Flute Ensemble. As a student of the

K8Trills Music School, Karen gave classical flute and piccolo recitals. Her favorite venues to perform were the Wine Country Band Festival and Disneyland. Karen could sing and dance, too. She was in "Annie Get Your Gun" and the the Sweet Adelines in Temecula.

Karen was devoted to her children's interests and gave time for band practices, singing and instrument lessons, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. She always gave an enthusiastic "Woo-Hoo" when her kids performed at talent shows, parades and competitions. Her "Yeah!" for each girl and boy who earned an award in school or scouts was enjoyed by all.

Karen's artistic talents also included tole painting, stained glass windows and decorating her home with Eiffel Towers. Karen loved to travel. Maui, Sedona and Palm Springs were favorites. She also enjoyed trips to Graceland in Memphis and the Eiffel Tower in Paris. In the last three years. Karen took up weekend residence in Cathedral City, CA where she embraced the desert resort lifestyle. She became a "foodie" reporting on Facebook about her dining experiences in Palm Springs. She loved the creative energy of art shows, musicals and concerts including David Cassidy, Wayne Newton, Al Jarreau, Bob Newhart and Herb Alpert.

The driving force in Karen's being was to heal quickly from life-threatening illnesses to return to her family and students. She had a fulfilling life thanks to the concerted efforts of her many medical professionals and her family and friends. She was grateful for the care she received.

A few of Karen's other "favorite things":

Ice Cream

Lavender Roses

Chinese Food

The Roaches

Crocks

The Princess Bride

BBQ

American Idol

Mother's Day Brunch

Days of Our Lives

# Comments

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“ I will always associate Karen with joy. She was always quick to laugh, full of positivity, and music. She loved Paris, her family, and delicious food. The world needs more Karen's! She will be missed!

September 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Are lord and savior said to Karen jts time to leave this world and join me in heaven and karen said yes

September 02, 2017 at 12:00 AM