



Kimberly Ann Heston

March 14, 1969 - September 30, 2016

Kimberly "Kira" Ann Heston

Passed away peacefully at 11:35 AM on Friday, September 30, 2016 at her home.

She was born on March 14, 1969 in New Orleans, LA to Ann Thompson Stiebing and William H. Stiebing, Jr. She attended St. Martin's Episcopal School in Metairie, LA from Kindergarten through High School, becoming a member of the National Honor Society and graduating as Valedictorian of her class. She attended Rice University in Houston, TX as a national merit scholar and graduated in 1991 with a B.A. in English and Philosophy. At Rice she met her future husband, Keith M. Heston whom she married on May 11, 1991. Immediately after their honeymoon, she and Keith moved to Pittsburgh, PA where he was employed by Accenture, eventually becoming a Quality Associate Director.

Though born "Kimberly," from High School on she was known to her family and friends as "Kira," a name she adopted from a character her favorite singer and actress, Olivia Newton John, played in Xanadu. Kira loved singing, participating in the choir and a group that sang German folk songs at Salem United Church of Christ in New Orleans and the music program at St. Martin's High School. After moving to the Pittsburgh area she frequently sang karaoke,

was part of a singing duo with W. Randy Hoffman called Partners in K'RHyme, and a member of the Greater Harmony Chorus, a part of Sweet Adelines International. She had many other hobbies including solving puzzles (she was a finalist in the Stave Puzzle Contest), playing board games with friends, Science Fiction and Fantasy books and organizations, especially PARSEC, and creating and acting in amateur theatrical productions in High School and for Confluence here in the Pittsburgh area. She also loved traveling and learning about other cultures, having visited Greece, Italy, Switzerland, Germany and Austria as a child with her parents, Italy with her husband and mother-in-law, France with the Greater Harmony Chorus, and the Caribbean, India, Scotland, England and many U.S. destinations with her husband.

She is survived by her husband of 25 years, Keith M. Heston; her parents, Ann and William Stiebing, Jr.; her mother-in-law, Jean Heston; a sister-in-law, Melissa Machaj-Abbs and her husband, Trevor Abbs; two nieces, Josephina and Chloe Abbs; a nephew, Cohen Abbs; and many aunts, uncles and cousins. She is also mourned by a host of friends here in the Pittsburgh area, in the New Orleans area, and in Hot Springs, AR where her mother and father now live.

Memorial service to be held on Sunday, October 2, 2016 from 4-8pm at the D'Alessandro Funeral Home and Crematory, Ltd., 4522 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201 (Lawrenceville).

Graveside service at 1:30pm on Monday, October 3, 2016 at Penn Natural Burial Park, 121 Colorado Street Verona, PA 15147.

Memorial contributions may be made to Susan G. Komen for the Cure, www.komen.org or to the American Cancer Society, www.cancer.org.

Cemetery Details

Penn Forest Cemetery

121 Colorado Street
Verona, PA 15147

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT 2. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

D'Alessandro Funeral Home and Crematory Ltd.
4522 Butler St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15201

Graveside Service

OCT 3. 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Penn Forest Natural Burial Park
121 Colorado Street
Verona, PA 15147

Tribute Wall



“ *Kimberly Ann Heston*

January 13, 2023 at 04:43 PM



“ *The lives of many women continue to be touched and inspired by repostings, to online support groups, of Kira's YouTube video, singing and dancing to a parody of "I will survive." I did not know Kira personally, but as a volunteer administrator of one online group of survivors, have often used this wonderful video in welcome messages to new members. In gratitude and love for Kira's gift.*

Diane DuBay - July 08, 2022 at 07:56 AM



“ *It has been several days since we lost Kira and I can't stop thinking about her. I knew her through karaoke at The Baltimore House and The Royal for about 3 years now. I can honestly say that I have never met a more sweet, gentle, real, alive, beautiful, vibrant and genuinely good person as Kira in my life. We have all lost a courageous, wonderful friend with a gorgeous voice, a radiant smile and a contagious personality like no other. Kira, you are in my thoughts, in my prayers, and in my heart Always and forever.*

Susan Logothetis - October 09, 2016 at 05:17 PM

BS

“ I was a member of the Greater Harmony Chorus and I remember Kira sharing her home traditions with the chorus by bringing in a Mardi Gras treat, complete with the "baby baked in". She was full of life and so generous and fun loving. She will be missed by us all.

Barbara Stelluto

Barbara Stelluto - October 05, 2016 at 05:58 PM

LD

“ Dear Keith and family, I was so saddened to hear of Kira's passing. I will keep you very close in my thoughts and prayers during the difficult days ahead. If there is anything I can do, please know that I am just a phone call away.

Lisa Dunnery - October 05, 2016 at 03:28 PM

BB

“ I met Kira for the first time at Confluence in 2010. She was one of the most energetic and friendly people in the room at all times, and what a delightful character on stage. Running around in blue spandex as an Avatar character, as Wonder Woman in SuperMannie and as part of the singing duo with Randy. I remember being at a Confluence planning meeting a year ago, and amongst all the busy todos and schedules, she mentioned to the group that she may not be as on top of things because she has cancer. Looking at her you would have had no idea. She kept on working, kept smiling and singing and participating in activities... I was away at a conference last week, a music conference for games, and I remember thinking on my trip how blessed I was to know so many creative wacky people in my life. The day I flew back I found out she had been in hospice while I was flying home, and before I had time to find out where and how she was gone. Kira, you were an amazing person. I wish I had more time to get to know you and work with you and sing with you. My heart goes out to your husband and family and I hope that they know how much you were loved by everyone you touched.

Bonnie Bogovich - October 04, 2016 at 08:09 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Kimberly Ann Heston .



October 04, 2016 at 12:22 PM



“ *Kira was one of a kind. Her bright smile and loving heart touched many people. She gave so much, to so many people. I'll never forget her. She's gone from us too soon. My deepest condolences to Keith and the rest of her family and loved ones.*



Sherry Whitfield - October 03, 2016 at 05:25 PM

KC

“ *Kira staffed the welcome table at Confluence this past summer. There she was with her long colorful wig, smiling and greeting everyone who came by. She didn't let being sick or even chemo keep her out of the action. Her warm smile and colorful appearance were gifts she freely shared. I will miss her at PARSEC, as I know the other members will too.*

Kate Coluccio - October 03, 2016 at 02:47 PM

MA

“Piers Anthony, the science fiction and fantasy writer that Kira admired, wrote this in his newsletter in memory of Kira (toward the end of the newsletter). I don't know how many people knew of Kira's struggles with depression and how she overcame them to become the bright and happy person that we all remember. I will not cut and paste the whole memory here, but you can read the whole section (toward the end of the newsletter) in here, <http://www.hipiers.com/newsletter.html> Here is an excerpt of it...

"Kira Heston died [...] I introduced her to my collaborator Julie Brady, Dream A Little Dream, another Ligeia, and they became friends; Kira attended Julie's wedding in 2000. Kira visited us; I remember how she met our big dog Obsidian, who was not necessarily friendly with strangers. Kira dropped to her knees and hugged and kissed the dog; Obsidian didn't have a chance to be unfriendly. I think Kira also knew my daughter Penny, and attended her wedding too, in 1995. She had become a kind of family friend, and I remember her with fondness. We corresponded closely all during the 1990s; in the 2000s we lost touch, but I did hear from her once in 2013, as she told me had she had finally managed to conquer her depression. I think she had moved on to social sites like Facebook that I, with my balky dial-up, don't have access to; I'm simply not part of that scene. But now in 2016 I learned from another friend that she had breast cancer and was going into hospice care. She never told me. Before I could write to her she died, I think being in hospice only hours. Damn. So this is my informal memorial. Kira, rest in peace; we do remember you."

MAR - October 03, 2016 at 10:36 AM

WK

“ You have my sympathy for the loss of your loved one. Rest In Peace Kira...



William King - October 02, 2016 at 10:51 PM

WK

“ You have my sympathy for the loss of your loved one. Rest In Peace Kira...

William King - October 02, 2016 at 10:46 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Steve Gingo - October 02, 2016 at 07:09 PM



“ Kira was a huge karaoke fan, and she not only sang the songs, but danced, and even occasionally rollerskated into a song. Her smile was infectious, her trust of others was huge, and she was a child at heart. Any room became happier when she was in it. She will be missed, but her spirit lives on in those who love to sing, perform, and become something other than what they normally are. We will remember the light of her countenance and try to be happy, though it won't ever quite be the same without her.

Steve Gingo - October 02, 2016 at 07:06 PM

MV

“ *Maria G Villenas lit a candle in memory of Kimberly Ann Heston*



Maria G Villenas - October 02, 2016 at 06:53 PM

LW

“ *Our deepest sympathy Keith, Jean and family. May God comfort you in the loss of Kara.*

*Mike and Linda Wilson
Oceanside, CA.*

Linda Wilson - October 02, 2016 at 06:37 PM

 Marisol
Ramos

“ *I never met Kira in person. We always were online friends. First as members of the Piers Anthony Thread (or PATH as we used to call it) mailing list (back in 1999) and then later in Facebook when we reconnected around 2007. Even if we didn't chat as much as we used to when we were in the mailing list but we always sent messages to each other and commented on our posts here and there. I always like to see about her music and events she was involved with the SF community in PA. She always was a bright presence in my FB feed. I wish I have met her in person but even without that face to face experience, it was clear to me and anyone that knew her that she was a beautiful person. It was an honor to be my online friend. We never stop thinking of each others as Piers Anthony fans and our last exchange in Facebook was indeed about missing our days talking about his book in PATH. *Sigh* Cancer is a cruel thing to take away such a wonderful person.*

Marisol Ramos - October 02, 2016 at 03:53 PM

AI

“ I met her through my aunt at Fort Fest and I will never forget those nights we spent stargazing, playing Red Dragon Inn, hiking at the Mineral Springs, or my personal favorite memory with her, when I had just gotten my new ukulele. Me, her, and one other person performed a song together. It won't be the same when we show up at Fort and she won't be there to greet everyone. I was deeply saddened to hear she passed away, however glad she's at peace. Sending prayers for her close friends and family.

Alyssa I. - October 02, 2016 at 02:11 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Kimberly Ann Heston .



October 02, 2016 at 08:05 AM

DB

“ Diane Bauer lit a candle in memory of Kimberly Ann Heston



Diane Bauer - October 01, 2016 at 10:24 PM

DB

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Diane Bauer - October 01, 2016 at 10:23 PM

TL

“ *She greeted Tim Liebe and me at evert Confluence we attended, with grace, cheer, and enthusiasm. I know she will greet us in the Summerlands the same way, but, oh, it will be so hard to arrive at Confluence without her there, and I know I'm not alone in that pinch on the heart. To your loved ones, Kira, I send sorrows and my hopes for the slow easement of pain, and to you I send my hopes that your laugh rings loud, unhampered, once again.*

Tammy Pierce

tamora pierce liebe - October 01, 2016 at 09:51 PM

SL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Scott Logan - October 01, 2016 at 09:44 PM



“ *Melissa Machaj-Abbs lit a candle in memory of Kimberly Ann Heston*



Melissa Machaj-Abbs - October 01, 2016 at 09:17 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Kimberly Ann Heston .*



October 01, 2016 at 04:39 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kimberly Ann Heston .*



October 01, 2016 at 04:12 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kimberly Ann Heston .*



October 01, 2016 at 03:23 PM

TC

“ Tom, Bev, Jennifer, Stacy and Caitlin purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Kimberly Ann Heston .



Tom, Bev, Jennifer, Stacy and Caitlin - October 01, 2016 at 12:49 PM