



Kathleen Kolean Leshner

January 22, 1964 - February 6, 2024

Kathleen Kolean Leshner, aged 60, passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 after a determined 2 year battle with cancer. She was born on January 22, 1964, in Holland, Michigan to John and Darlene Kolean. A 1982 graduate from West Ottawa High School, Kathy continued her education at Western Michigan University where she received her Bachelor's degree in printing marketing in 1987.

Following her college graduation, she worked in Chicago at the Wall Street Journal where she met the love of her life, Murray. The two married on September 24, 1988, in Farmington Hills, Michigan, and eventually moved back to Holland where the two completed their family with the birth of their daughter, Alena.

Kathy joined her sister-in-law, Sarah (Madison) Kolean as an owner of Black River Framing in 1993, which later evolved into the business many locals knew as Uptown Gallery & Frame Shop. Kathy and Murray owned and operated the business side-by-side for many years. Kathy passionately served hundreds of clients over the course of 30 years, eventually forced to close in March 2023 about a year into her battle with cancer. Her many former clients and friends will miss her artistic eye and hours of amiable conversation while preserving treasured art and memorabilia.

Kathy was a loving, compassionate woman who opened her home to many young people, including exchange students and friends of her daughter, Alena. She is missed not only by her vast community locally, but by so many

friends and family abroad. One of her great loves in life was traveling Europe with her favorite travel companion, Alena, as well as with Murray and Alena's husband, Jake (Collaer). She especially loved spending time in the northern Alps of Italy and in Austria with dear friends met through study abroad programs.

Embodying a servant's mentality, Kathy was a devout Methodist who spent her life making others feel loved and accepted, whether they were newcomers to Holland, members of the LGBTQ+ community, or simply a random person off the street. She was also an active philanthropist who supported many non-profit organizations over the course of her lifetime. Beginning with the adoption of her beloved morkie, Falco, in 2011 from Headin' Home Pet Rescue, she and Murray continued to adopt exclusively rescue dogs. She was also an avid supporter of BestPals Animal Rescue and the Refresh Program organized by the First United Methodist Church in Holland to provide support to the local unhoused community.

Survivors include her husband Murray, their daughter Alena (Jake) Leshner Collaer, two beloved dogs Tanzi and Wolfi, brother Daniel (Sarah) Kolean, mother Darlene (Nynas) Kolean, niece Emily (Eric) Matych, nephew Charlie Kolean, and many cousins and other family members. She is preceded in death by her father, John Kolean.

A visitation and Celebration of Life will be held at 2 PM with the service beginning at 3 PM on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at the First United Methodist Church, 57 West 10th Street, Holland. Prior to Kathy's passing, she requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to any of the following organizations in her name:

Headin' Home Pet Rescue (<https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1780677>)

BestPals Animal Rescue (<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/bestpalsarc>)

First UMC/Refresh: Hygiene and Hope (<https://fumcholland.churchcenter.com/>)

giving/to/refresh)

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **24**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
57 West 10th St.
Holland, MI 49423

Celebration of Life Service

FEB **24**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
57 West 10th St.
Holland, MI 49423

Tribute Wall

AK

“ *Kathy and I were classmates, study partners, and friends while attending WMU's Printing program. She is dearly missed. Annette (Fox) Kruger.*

Annette M Kruger - July 06, 2024 at 06:53 PM

PW

“ *Kathy and I met when our daughters were in Girl Scouts and we were both Leaders. Kathy was always positive and had a good word to say. Later, in her frame shop I could always count on great advice and quality workmanship when I brought in a project. I will miss Kathy's smile, encouragement, positivity, and the ability to talk about almost anything. pat whitaker*

Pat Whitaker - February 25, 2024 at 05:14 PM

KM

“ *I always enjoyed working with Kathleen on many projects. She was kind and a person of great integrity. She was helpful and thoughtful. She brought so much to the arts community in Holland. I will miss her. Many Blessings to you as you mourn her loss. Best to you, Kari Miller (Miller Fenwood Restoration)*

Kari Miller - February 24, 2024 at 03:02 PM

RC

“ *Rachel, Ben & Sam Collaer purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Kathleen Kolean Leshner.*



Rachel, Ben & Sam Collaer - February 22, 2024 at 10:14 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kathleen Kolean Leshner.*



February 22, 2024 at 12:58 PM



“ *Erin and Stephanie Doolittle planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathleen Kolean Leshner.*

Erin and Stephanie Doolittle - February 22, 2024 at 12:58 PM



“ *I fondly remember Meijer trips at the beginning of the semester with Alena and Jake, with Kathy at the helm to make sure we were prepared for another year.*

I always felt at home when visiting Kathy, Murray, and Alena in Holland and always like a part of the family. Their house was warm and inviting and helped me feel less homesick since I had moved away from my hometown to go to GVSU.

Kathy was an amazing person and I could tell she loved everyone she brought into her home.

- Dan Burchett



Dan Burchett - February 20, 2024 at 12:19 PM

AH

“ When I was a Hope College student, I found Uptown Gallery & Frame Shop, thanks to its close proximity to campus at that time. I was a studio art minor and had my first piece of professionally framed work done at Uptown. After I graduated, I bought a framed Joel Tanis print and hung it proudly in my modest apartment. When my rock band was featured in *The Grand Rapids Press*, I had the article framed at Uptown. Even as a poor college student, Kathy always made me feel just as respected and validated and appreciated at the shop as a person with the means to make large purchases. Twenty years later, having returned to Holland from out of state, Kathy remembered me, much to my surprise! She was so very kind to me and my (then) wife, working with us on a number of pieces. She was vibrant and engaging and fun. She was one of the good ones...and will be greatly missed...

Amy Hall - February 17, 2024 at 08:30 AM

UF

“ Ulla and Daniel , Reijo Perkiömäki + fam purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Kathleen Kolean Leshner.



Ulla and Daniel , Reijo Perkiömäki + fam - February 15, 2024 at 02:49 PM

UL

“ Ulla L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathleen Kolean Leshner.

Ulla L. - February 15, 2024 at 02:12 PM

RV

“ Whenever we look at the many prints Kathy matted and framed for us, that we now have on our home’s walls, I think of Kathy. I didn’t get to know her very well but I will miss her. My heart goes out to her family and friends.

Russ & Amy Venlos - February 14, 2024 at 06:05 PM

JG

“ Dear Leshner Family: I was lucky enough to have Kathy as my apartment roomie during my junior year of college at Western Michigan University. We shared loads of laughs and fun times! My dear Kathy-You will be greatly missed and know that you made the world a better place by being in it. I was fortunate enough to call you a friend. God Bless. 🙏👼❤️
Jill Goetz



Jill Goetz - February 14, 2024 at 05:49 PM