



## Tamsin Troff

December 9, 1954 - October 15, 2024

Tamsin Troff, age 69, passed away on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, peacefully in her home.

She was born in Kalamazoo, MI and was raised in the Detroit area. She received her bachelor's degree in education from Eastern Michigan University, and her master's from Grand Vally State College.

She loved experiencing the beauty of this world and was incredibly grateful for so many things it has to offer, and of which she happily took advantage.

Tamsin proudly taught in the Holland Public School District, where her students made her a better person. She loved their wit and intelligence and seeing them succeed was the ultimate gift. She often said that it was the perfect career choice and that HPS students, teachers, and staff are the best. She took pride in being an HEA AR for most of her career.

As much as she was entranced by teaching, Tamsin always considered her most important job was that of being a parent and later a grandparent, and that she was richer as a result. Her children and grandchildren became her favorite humans: kind, respectful, hardworking and adventurers. She just couldn't get over how cool they all are! (Her words)

Tamsin and her family worked as a team. She always looked forward to hanging out with her siblings and in-laws. She considered herself to be extremely lucky to have been raised in a family that made the effort to continue fun traditions and have many get-togethers with all generations, regardless of living in multiple cities and states.

Tamsin had many friends who were supportive soulmates. She was fortunate to have dear friends who went back decades. Connecting with them was a priority. She was especially thankful for the strong network of people who loved her as she lived out her health journey.

Travel, art, reading, being outside in all kinds of weather, woods, volunteering, especially at HPS and the Holland Area Arts Council, and so many other activities kept life interesting. She was an optimist. When tough times happened, she looked for the silver lining. For example, her illness, Tamsin thought of her body as a giant science experiment, and was intrigued, wondering what was next. Regardless of any negative side effects, the journey was always interesting, and some could be learned.

Although she would have liked to have had more conversations, gone to the cottage more, seen another set of seasons, taken more bike rides, read more books, hung a few more times with friends, and hugged her children, grandchildren and family more, she knew she had a wicked good life. She knew she was luckier than most people on the planet, which is why she cared deeply about those less fortunate.

Tamsin asked, most importantly, be kind and fair to one another, and do the right thing.

Tamsin was preceded in death by her father, Fredric Saunders Troff, and sister, Robin Troff Cornell (Paul).

Tamsin is survived by her fabulous children; Erin (Jared) Boeve; grandchildren, Charlie Isla and Grace DuMez; son, John (Nicole) Bonzelaar, granddaughter arriving in January; her New York family, Phin (Sara) DeMink, grandchildren, Porter, Fletcher, Trey; mother, Mary Tyndall Troff; siblings, Nancy Troff (Michael Harrell), Bill (Paulette) Troff, Sarah Troff (Jaime Uribe), her beloved nieces and nephews; Angie Troff and family, Garrett Troff and family, Andres Uribe, and Catherine Uribe.

A Memorial Service will take place at 3:00 pm on Sunday, October 27, 2024, at Langeland Sterenberg Funeral Home, 315 E. 16th St. Holland, MI 49423.

An Open House will immediately follow the memorial service from 4:00-6:00 pm at the Holland Area Arts Council, 150 E. 8th St. Holland, MI 49423.

Friends, family and anyone who Tamsin inspired throughout the years are welcome to both or either to remember and celebrate her.

Memorial contributions in Tamsin's honor may be given to one of the following organizations important to Tamsin; Holland Area Arts Council at [www.hollandarts.org/donate](http://www.hollandarts.org/donate) or the Fellinlove Farm at [www.fellinlovefarm.com](http://www.fellinlovefarm.com).

[www.langelandsterenberg.com](http://www.langelandsterenberg.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT **27**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home  
315 E 16th St  
Holland, MI 49423-4213

## Celebration of Life Open House

OCT **27**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Holland Area Arts Council  
150 E. 8th St.  
Holland, MI 49423

# Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Tamsin Troff*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - October 24, 2024 at 10:01 AM

JS

*Sad lost for words I miss you Mrs troff rip*

Julie Sosa - November 12, 2024 at 05:18 PM

LW

“ *Troff (always just Troff to me) was my lifelong friend. We met as freshman in college. She was a loyal and loving friend who kept up with me despite my many moves. I loved her honesty, sense of adventure, love of nature, and love of people. The room just seemed to be brighter when she was in it. I look at the pictures of her children and grandchildren and I see that same brightness. Rest well my friend.*



Linda Weiss - October 27, 2024 at 08:32 AM

MB

“ I’m on the plane to celebrate your life, Tamsin Troff, and looking at this photo of us standing on the top of the Teotihuacan pyramid near Mexico City, circa 1980 or so. The photo lives in my office and reminds me of so you and the many ways you enriched my life. You taught me so much, and I’m not sure that I can even articulate them all, so I’ll just mention a few.

*You taught me how to take a genuinely honest interest in other people, no matter how different they were. You had a knack for making people feel special and finding the gems within them.*

*Likewise with art – I remember when we were traveling across the country in a Drive -Away Silverado pickup truck and had to make a special stop in Lincoln, Nebraska because they had a wonderful art museum, who would know? You knew.*

*This last year or so has been especially been a treasure as we both became critically ill. Our weekly, sometimes by monthly calls meant so much to me. We could talk so frankly about our health journeys in a way it is sometimes hard to talk to others about.*

*I was lucky, I received the gift of life from my liver donor. Someone I have never met saved my life. You, my dear friend, journeyed on, crossing the threshold into the afterlife with the same grace that you lived your life. You are on the most amazing journey yet, and may our love accompany you. We will meet again, dear friend.*



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**marcia barton** - October 26, 2024 at 09:47 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Tamsin Troff.*



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October 24, 2024 at 05:55 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Tamsin Troff.

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October 24, 2024 at 05:55 PM



“ *Pamelynn Taylor, Karen Howard & Julie Lilly planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tamsin Troff.*

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**Pamelynn Taylor, Karen Howard & Julie Lilly** - October 24, 2024 at 01:16 PM



“ *Ac purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Tamsin Troff.*



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**Ac** - October 24, 2024 at 09:20 AM



“ *Ac planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tamsin Troff.*

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**Ac** - October 24, 2024 at 09:20 AM

LB

“ Love, The Bin purchased the Sweet Solace Spray for the family of Tamsin Troff.



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Love, The Bin - October 23, 2024 at 02:36 PM

LB

“ Love, The Bin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tamsin Troff.

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Love, The Bin - October 23, 2024 at 02:36 PM

GD

“ Gary D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tamsin Troff.

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Gary D. - October 23, 2024 at 11:28 AM

MC

“ Molly C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tamsin Troff.

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Molly C. - October 22, 2024 at 09:34 PM

RH

“ Russell Hutchings purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Tamsin Troff.



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Russell Hutchings - October 22, 2024 at 02:44 PM

RH

“ Russell Hutchings planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tamsin Troff.

Russell Hutchings - October 22, 2024 at 02:44 PM

JU

“ Lost for words Mrs troff used to be my teacher I will miss her alot she always loved me my husband crying rip Mrs troff

Julie - October 21, 2024 at 07:39 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Tamsin Troff.



October 21, 2024 at 04:09 PM

HS

“ Holland Middle School planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tamsin Troff.

Holland Middle School - October 21, 2024 at 04:09 PM

UF

“ Uribe Zapata Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Tamsin Troff.



Uribe Zapata Family - October 21, 2024 at 03:00 PM

LL

“ Laurie L. purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Tamsin Troff.



Laurie L. - October 21, 2024 at 12:54 PM

CN

“ I did not know Tamsin personally but have been getting to know her mom, Mary, at Royal Atrium Inn where I serve as a chaplain. Mary was so proud of Tamsin and I know she feels this loss profoundly. The staff at RAI and Mary's friends there are keeping Tamsin's loved ones in our thoughts and prayers. Sincerely, Cindy Nyhoff

Cindy Nyhoff - October 21, 2024 at 12:17 PM

LT

“ Laura Wegl and Terrie Teutsch purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Tamsin Troff.



Laura Wegl and Terrie Teutsch - October 20, 2024 at 02:01 PM

LT

“ Laura Wegl and Terrie Teutsch planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tamsin Troff.

Laura Wegl and Terrie Teutsch - October 20, 2024 at 02:01 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Tamsin Troff.*



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October 18, 2024 at 01:32 PM



“ *Erin and John,  
I am so sorry you have lost your beautiful mom, who loved you both so much. I first met her when she attended teacher parent conferences when I was Erin’s sixth grade English teacher. She leaned in and asked if Erin was working up to her potential. I had never heard such a question at conferences, but I was asked a very similar question a few years later when John was in my class. In recent years, as retirees, Tam and I met at an exercise class, and later became pool buddies at the Aquatic Center, where she would update me on the lives of Erin and John and the grandchildren. There was plenty of love for all of you. Tam continued to swim and workout with a smile on her face and a positive attitude even as her illness relentlessly progressed. Through it all, Tam was a champion. It saddened me when I no longer saw her at the pool, and I knew it would only be a matter of time before I would be reading this obituary. I know she gave this life her all and she will be so dearly missed. Erin and John, the loss of one’s mother is a loss like no other, and it brings a sense of emptiness. You are Tam’s legacy, and her goodness will shine through the two of you. I send my deepest condolences to you and your beautiful families and to all who loved Tam.*

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**Mary Skoglund** - October 17, 2024 at 07:45 PM



*A beautiful tribute to Tam Mary!!*

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**Kathy Torrey** - October 17, 2024 at 10:40 PM

EG

“ Eddie & Dana Ghazal purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Tamsin Troff.



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**Eddie & Dana Ghazal** - October 17, 2024 at 06:48 PM

EG

“ Eddie & Dana Ghazal planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tamsin Troff.

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**Eddie & Dana Ghazal** - October 17, 2024 at 06:48 PM

BD

“ I grew to admire Tam over the years as a dedicated teacher and friend. Her love for children in the classroom, in our neighborhood we shared, and for her own family was evident in the stories/memories that she often shared with me. I loved her zest for life and taking every opportunity to do and be better. Her words in the early morning at school or later in the quiet morning/evening on our street after we both retired were conversations I looked forward to. I recall the day she shared with me that she had cancer. Her strength she demonstrated to me in that moment is a model for each of us on recognizing what/who is important in our lives and how we should spend our time together. She will be sadly missed. My sincere condolences to her family and friends. Brian Davis

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**Brian Davis** - October 17, 2024 at 05:15 PM

DI

“ Oh such a strong and wonderful LADY who will be missed. Love and hugs

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**Dinah** - October 17, 2024 at 03:45 PM



“ *Statuesque. That's what comes to my mind when I think of Tam Troff; a woman of feminine and athletic beauty, with a gracious presence and a knowing countenance, I have no problem admitting that I admired her. While I knew her through her sister Nancy, I became familiar with her from my time on Pine Lake. In one memorable experience, I had the pleasure of watching her conduct a reading of my screenplay Decatur at the lake one summers day. As the master of the ceremony, I saw firsthand her native ability to teach and direct, traits I'm sure she employed in her career as an educator. And as many of her friends did, I watched, from afar, as she courageously battled the health demons determined to take her from us. And battle she did - never submitting to the insurmountable obstacles in her path. As a non-religious person, I don't know what, if anything, becomes of us after we pass, nor is it something I wonder about. But I do know this, that after we pass, that the ones who loved us will miss us. And I miss Tam.*

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**Doug Guido** - October 17, 2024 at 12:18 PM



“ *Tamsin you are missed already. Love you.*  
*Bill*

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**Fredric Troff** - October 17, 2024 at 10:16 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Tamsin Troff.*



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October 17, 2024 at 09:33 AM



“ *Fairest of All* was purchased for the family of Tamsin Troff.



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October 17, 2024 at 06:46 AM



“ Larry & Michele Hoelscher, Brighton MI planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tamsin Troff.

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**Larry & Michele Hoelscher, Brighton MI** - October 17, 2024 at 06:46 AM