



## Karen Maxfield

December 1, 1974 - December 11, 2021

Karen Maxfield, age 47 of Cambridge, passed away at her home on December 11, 2021. She was born on December 1, 1974, in Alma, Michigan. Karen is survived by: her mother Elaine (Hawley) Shimp of Cambridge, Ohio; her father Michael Maxfield Sr of Lakeview, Michigan; a brother Michael (Carrie) Maxfield Jr. of Big Rapids, Michigan; a nephew and a niece Aaron and Claire Maxfield; her grandmother Juanita Stokley of Lakeview, Michigan; and many aunts, uncles cousins and friends.

Karen was a 1993 graduate of Norton High School. She then graduated with honors from Alma College in 2012 with a degree in Philosophy. Karen enjoyed playing Celtic music on her flute and penny whistle. She was always listen to music and enjoyed cooking enormous meals and wearing her apron. She loved all animals and was especially fond of her cats. She had a quick wit and a great sense of humor. Karen loved nature and loved to learn. She loved reading sci-fi books and crafting. She was a talented juggler, and had performed at many parades and juggling events. Karen was a very hard worker and gave 100% to everything she did.

The family is planning a memorial service in the spring. Karen's online guest book may be viewed and signed at [www.bundy-lawfuneralhome.com](http://www.bundy-lawfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

**At a later date**

# Tribute Wall

 Alison  
Sanchez

“ I have been putting off coming to this webpage to read through the tributes as losing Karen has been so difficult for me. She truly was one-of-a-kind! We did nearly everything together for the last 17+ years!

*I met Karen my first time attending Danish Band practice. We started talking about recorders and traditional music, and from there my entire life changed its course. It's because of her I met almost all of my friends and broke out onto the local Celtic music scene.*

*We've been through so much together. It's because of her I was able to get my first apartment, join my first band, learn new musical instruments, attend music festivals, and go on too many adventures/trips to count. We shared all of our favorite CD's and songs in our music collections. Same with photos - anytime one of us took photos (whether or not we were together when they were taken) we always shared them so the other could appreciate the cool things we had seen.*

*Our last big trip was a backpacking trip in Ontario, at Pukaskwa National Park. We had bought all kinds of new gear, worked out to get ready for the hike, and ended up only getting a few miles in before neither of us could go further due to old injuries (my ankle and her hips). We made it back to our campsite and spent the remainder of our trip enjoying other sights and knowing that we had to come back to the area before the end of the year with our friend, Terry.*

*My last time seeing her was the day before she left for Ohio to live with her mom. I came over and went with her to pick up the UHaul truck she rented, met her new kitties for the first time, helped her pack up a few things that were left, enjoyed a tasty lunch of veggies and dips, looked through her agate collection, looked at her plants (and took a few cuttings with me). Then Terry met up with us and we spent the rest of the evening getting dinner at Bostwick Lake Inn and driving around the lake.*

*I have nothing but good memories of the times we spent together. I can't recall even a moment when we didn't get along. She enjoyed life to the fullest and appreciated all of nature's beauty. She was always up for spontaneous adventures. She had the biggest heart of anyone I've ever known. I've never laughed so hard with anyone in my life! Everyone who ever met her thought the world of her.*

*The world is certainly darker without her light.*



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**Alison Sanchez** - January 07, 2022 at 11:57 AM

GA

“*Words cannot possibly express how heartbroken I am about losing this precious friend. She was smart, inquisitive, compassionate, she had such a funny sense of humor and fine sense of loyalty. She was like family to my husband and me. She was so much fun to play music with, do crafts with and just hang out with. My deepest sympathy goes out to her family. She was truly a gem.*”

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**Gail Adams** - December 26, 2021 at 10:40 PM

PH

“ My condolences go out to Karen's family and friends. I met Karen many years ago when visiting her dad. Whenever I saw Karen at her dad's she seemed to fill the house with good energy, seemed to always be happy and free spirited. She will be sadly missed.

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**Pj Hammomd** - December 19, 2021 at 07:06 PM

JA

“ I am unable to overcome the shock of losing Karen. I met her 20 years ago at a Celtic jam, and since then she and I often played together and sometimes performed both Irish reels and jigs, as well as Renaissance music. While she was a student at Alma College, she and I organized a weekly jam session at a local pub and derived great enjoyment from that experience for two years. Karen could be hilariously funny, but what I admired most about her was her thoughtfulness, her charming modesty (she was a fantastic musician but never thought so), her keen perceptiveness about people, and her frustration with injustice and human error. She touched my soul. I loved Karen dearly, valued her friendship, and I will always think of her when I play her favorite tunes. I suspect she has already established a jam session beyond the physical realm.

*Julie Arnold*

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**Julie Arnold** - December 19, 2021 at 11:07 AM

LM

“ O my.

*I still can't wrap my head around this.*

*I don't know how long I have known Karen, it just seems like she has always been there. Whether helping me at Hansen's, playing/performing with her as part of MCC programs or working with her at MCC, she was always a joy to be around.*

*I worked closely with her as the college's coordinator for the Montcalm Area Humanity Council, the MCC Alumni and Friends Choir and the Philharmonic Orchestra. She always had great, fresh ideas, new perspectives and, of course, a great sense of humor. We always found things to laugh about.*

*While I shall personally miss her greatly, she will leave an even bigger hole in our community.*

*Karen was truly a community treasure.*

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**Larry Moss** - December 17, 2021 at 02:56 PM

KC

“Karen was such pure joy to be around! I worked with her at MCC (along with another coworker, Sam) and our “offices” were in a shared conference room - we were considered the “laughing room” because we had so much fun together. Day in and day out, we would be laughing together. I swear it’s what made our time at MCC so much fun, being together - laughing at the little trinkets Karen brought in, reading a page out of a fun book, doing a juggling session or even doing our “five minute office yoga” workouts. I swear we still got our work done, we were just the fortunate ones who got to have fun while we did our jobs.

I was lucky enough to know her outside of work and become friends with her. We had dinner dates, crafting days and movie nights. I truly enjoyed all the time I spent with her. Not only was she fun to be around but we could have deep conversations about life, family, ghost and aliens. She was always so insightful and brought another view to the table about topics, which I loved. I’ll never hear Christopher Walkens name or see a picture of him without thinking of Karen, I knew how much she loved him.

*I miss her. She will never be forgotten.*



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**Kelsey Cardenas** - December 16, 2021 at 06:28 PM

LN

“ Growing up Karen was such a huge part of my life. I LOVED going to visit her with my mom at her little apartment in Greenville because she would let me play with all of her games and give me coloring books. She also made the BEST coffee and would let me have some which made me feel so special! She also always gave me pink bubblegum. Listening to her tell stories and laugh with my mom will always be a fond memory for me. I will never ever forget Karen!

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Lily Nielson - December 15, 2021 at 08:35 PM

DV

“ Karen was the most gifted of teachers. As a later-in-life juggler, I was the gracious recipient of her patient teaching — never frustrated, always ready for another try, and always responding to apologies for my clumsy progress with a, “that’s what I do, let’s try again.”

Beyond her teaching gifts I will forever remember her tenacious defense of a liberal arts education. In the current rush to tech and career readiness, Karen decried the disregard for the rigor and joy of a liberal arts curriculum...exploring and enjoying new perspectives and experiences and life possibilities.

I’ll miss you Karen, but I’m looking forward to seeing you again — I need work on my 4-4-8-4-4!

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Doug VanderLaan - December 14, 2021 at 11:18 AM

AW

“ Karen was a good friend. She was full of life, interested in the smallest things in nature. She would notice a special mushroom or an interesting moss. She was always looking things up to see more information. She always had a new joke. She loved music. We especially enjoyed playing flute duets together in the very old styles of the 17th and 18th centuries. She loved to dress up. She won the Halloween costume contest at work for her squirrel outfit. She had some awesome masks too. She loved good concerts, the Heritage Village festival, and good food. She wasn't much of a meat eater though. One time we went to a pizza place, and she got her pizza covered with green peppers. She loved to go see the art at Art Prize. Once she went with me to Michigan Adventure and rode all the rides by herself, since those rides make me sick. She had a wonderful time. I will always remember you, Karen, with your sparkling eyes and sense of wonder. -Anne Wiggers

Anne Wiggers - December 14, 2021 at 09:28 AM

LH

“ 5 files added to the album Juggling



Lori Hostetler - December 14, 2021 at 07:26 AM

RG

“ Karen is my niece,, I did babysit her and Mikey for a lil bit, I remember her spunk and fire when my cat was sick , I was preggo with Liz, the cat crapped in the car, Karen said , I can take care of this, and her and Mike took care of the mess.. OMG I didn't force them to, but, asked nicely,, they took care of the deed I truly couldn't do! I will miss you Karen,, Love you!

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**Rebecca Godfrey** - December 14, 2021 at 02:03 AM

LH

“ Karen was my best friend. She volunteered her time running the juggling club with me. She and I ate out together after most practices. We attended plays and performances together, we did all kinds of crafts together, she taught me how to paper quill and I tried to teach her how to ride a ripstick. I have a huge hole left by her passing.

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**Lori Hostetler** - December 13, 2021 at 08:10 PM

BJ

“ I worked with Karen at Hansen's she was a very good worker and a lot of fun to work with . I was honored to call her friend. We did a few craft nights and we ate great food and had fun laughing and crafting. I was decorating our Christmas tree and I came across one of her pistachio men that she made me so I was definitely think of her and our fun times together. And I found out later of the very sad news . But I will always have my wonderful memories and my pistachio man. My deepest sympathy to her family and wonderful friends. Thoughts and prayers Barb

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**Barb Jones** - December 13, 2021 at 07:46 PM

JW

*In reading through these comments I keep thinking about how well she did SO many things, but would never accept any praise or compliments. I got motivated to play different types of music with Karen, and she was always very patient while I was learning the music. I also learned quilling and my pistachio elves are still hanging around here. Karen, you will be missed.*

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**Jan Witbrodt** - December 15, 2021 at 07:25 AM

BC

*It was with a heavy heart that I read of Karen's passing. She indeed was an extremely bright and talented person. She was always trying thing new and seemed determined in everything she did. I have not seen Karne in 25 years, but I am not surprised to see how much she has accomplished since then. I am proud of how she did so much! The world needs so many more like her. I valued our times together. My heart goes out to her family and loved ones.*

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**Bruce Carson** - December 15, 2021 at 12:46 PM