



Kelly Anne Berretta

September 28, 1971 - October 28, 2023

Kelly Anne Berretta was born September 28, 1971, in Houston, Texas. She passed peacefully on Saturday, October 28, 2023. She had been living with her devoted mother, Marcia Berretta, ever since Kelly was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 2020.

Kelly and Marcia enjoyed watching “Jeopardy” in the evenings and had recently traveled to Israel to visit family.

Kelly was a joyful soul with an infectious laugh that lit up the room. She was loved by everyone she met, and by the many young people she helped through her vocation as a social worker.

Kelly earned her undergraduate degree from Trinity University in San Antonio, which she attended on an academic scholarship. She received her master’s degree in social work from the University of Houston.

Kelly loved to travel and make new friends. She lived and worked in Washington state, Guatemala, and Israel.

She collected art and loved to dance and listen to music of all kinds. Her friends and family were most impressed by her intelligence and by her guiding principle in life; “There is no room for hate.”

Kelly is survived by her mother, Marcia, her brother, Gregg Berretta, his wife Maya, and five nieces and nephews. Her dad Ken Berretta predeceased her. Close family members included her Aunt Stella and her husband Keith Ryder, and her cousin, Shery Donders.

The world has lost a bright, shining star in Kelly Anne Berretta who lives on in our hearts, and in our loving memories.

A funeral service will be held on Monday, October 30, 2023, at 2:30 PM in the Kagan-Rudy Chapel at Emanu El Memorial Park, 8341 Bissonnet St., Houston, TX 77074.

Cemetery Details

Emanu El Memorial Park

8341 Bissonnet St
Houston, TX 77074

Previous Events

Cemetery Chapel Service

OCT 30. 2:30 PM (CT)

Emanu El Memorial Park
8341 Bissonnet St
Houston, TX 77074

Kagan-Rudy Chapel

Tribute Wall

JS

“ I am just now hearing of her passing. She was light in our world. I remember her from Jewish singles. She was so full of life and laughter. It was as if she had never met a stranger. I ran into her within the last year at Houston Jewelry. I am so sorry for your loss. May her memory forever be a blessing.

JoEllen Schuleman - May 28, 2024 at 09:41 PM

JN

“ So sorry to hear about Kelly She was absolutely hilarious.I still remember that boisterous laugh. Sending Love to the entire family.

Jeff Norris - December 02, 2023 at 05:10 PM



“ Dear Barretta Family,

I knew Kelly through my brother, Howard Sherman. We both moved back to Houston around the same time. I would see her at his art openings and she was the sweetest to me and my mother, Florence. May her memory be a blessing.

--Florence and Debbie Sherman

Debbie Sherman - November 06, 2023 at 05:32 PM

MH

“ Sunday, Nov. 5. I only heard of Kelly's passing today. Marcia and family--I send my deepest condolences. I loved her. Our time working together many years ago, and then renewing contact upon her move back to Houston were most special. I loved her intelligence, her laugh, and her generous spirit. Beyond words for now. Marilyn Hassid

Marilyn Levitch Hassid - November 05, 2023 at 10:58 PM

DO

“ My deepest condolences to Gregg, Maya, Marcia and all of Kelly's family. Sending love and hugs at this sad, dark time. - Doron

doron - November 02, 2023 at 11:45 AM

EO

“ Deepest condolences to Marcia and family on the loss of dear Kelly, taken too soon. She was an inspiring spirit with enthusiasm, joy, wit and love. Our hearts are broken. Much love, Ellie and Paul Orseck

Ellen Orseck - October 31, 2023 at 02:59 PM

SB

“ Dear Berretta Family...

I had the blessing to know Kelly since grade school. She had an infectious smile and larger than life personality. I am sending prayers of comfort to you all. She will always be young, healthy, and beautiful. Respectfully, Sabrina Bertrand

Sabrina Bertrand - October 31, 2023 at 02:12 PM

HO

“ *Total shock. I've known Kelly since 1988. We always seemed to stay in touch. She has been there to support me - always showing up. At the funeral today, there were repeated comments about her amazing smile and infectious laugh. Her brother gave the most profound speech about their lives. She radiated light. She will be missed.*

howard - October 30, 2023 at 10:52 PM

AL

“ *I've known Kelly since 1984. I was fortunate enough to be her older brother's debate partner and had the opportunity to spend MANY days at their house. Almost a second family. Fast forward 20 years and Kelly is in NYC and we had a wonderful dinner and an amazing time together, My thoughts are with my buddy Gregg and family.*

Alan - October 30, 2023 at 08:16 PM

AR

“ Kelly was filled with light, laughter and a great sense of humor. She was ever-brave and full of wild, passionate spirit! As I slowly got to know her, I found that she had a heart of gold. Truly one of the kindest, most caring people I have ever met. She devoted so much of her life to helping children in need, and it was not an easy job. She was all heart but at the same time strong and tough to work with children who had been through much trauma. No doubt she made a difference in many childrens’ lives. She was always the life of the party, just so so much fun! But at the same time you could sit and have the most earnest, deep-felt conversations with Kelly, and she always listened with undivided attention and deeply felt compassion. I loved talking with you in person, felt strongly connected and loved spending time with you. I am so so sad that we won’t have another chance to do that. I have missed you so much Kelly since I got married and moved away! And then when I returned to Seattle, you had moved to Texas. I didn’t know about your diagnosis and wish I had been in better touch; I would love to have spoken with you about it and have been there to help support you. You were and will always remain a beautiful, shining soul. May your memory be for a blessing. 💕 My sincere condolences to your family. Love always, Ariel

Ariel - October 30, 2023 at 06:36 PM

LC

“ I was so saddened to hear of Kelly’s passing. She and I became friends in 1990 at Trinity as sorority sisters and shared the amazing experience that was Semester at Sea as we explored the world together. Although our paths did not cross too often after college to see each other in person, I am so grateful we did get to spend Alumni weekend together five years ago. As many have expressed, she was full of light with the most infectious, beautiful laugh and always there to help others. My love to her family and all who loved her.

Lisa Coley - October 30, 2023 at 01:52 PM

MB

“ I once met up with Kelly at Alkai beach for a gathering with some of her friends. We just connected instantly and laughed like we've known each other forever. Every time we hung out after that was always a good time! Kelly was a warm & kind soul, a great friend, bubbly, and always fun to be with. When I was helping her pack up before she left Seattle, we found her "Low rider vintage toy car". That song became our tag line and we'd sing it and laugh every time we talked on the phone. We always had great conversations because she was bright, witty, and easy going. Kelly. You will always be in my heart!!!! And when I think about you, it will always make me smile.

Michelle Benisti - October 30, 2023 at 01:05 PM

JC

“ I went to school with Kelly and reconnected with her over the past few years. She has always been such a light and an extremely kind soul. Even with her recent health struggles, she continually made an effort to care for others. She will be dearly missed. Prayers for her family and may her memory be a blessing.

Jennifer Casey - October 30, 2023 at 11:22 AM

JM

“ Kelly and I met at Trinity University, and we reconnected on Facebook. I will regret not making a better effort to meet in person to catch up, but I will appreciate and remember that we at least reconnected and were checking in with one another. May she Rest in Peace and may Perpetual Light shine upon her. May her memory be a blessing.

John G Mendoza - October 30, 2023 at 10:49 AM

TR

“ Kelly and I became close when I moved in as her downstairs neighbor on Mercer Island. I could always count on her for a good laugh, meaningful conversation, and fun. We shared many meals together and I am grateful to have known her. May her memory live on and be a blessing 💕

Tricia - October 30, 2023 at 03:22 AM

JK

BD”E. Even though we were mostly just “Facebook friends” i always felt close to Kelly. We were roommates on Semester at Sea and then, in an amazing coincidence, we traveled together in Israel on a JWRP mission (Atlanta and Seattle shared a bus) When I think of Kelly it’s always with a huge smile on her face, just on the brink of laughter. May her family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

Julie Kaminsky - October 30, 2023 at 05:21 AM

IS

I knew Kelly only slightly through her brother and her friend Michelle Benisti. I recall Kelly being fun and lively when we shared Shabbat meals. She was so loving and doting to her nieces and nephews. Just about 2 weeks ago Kelly was FaceTiming Michelle and I as we were driving. She was so funny and a real ball of fire. I know she’ll always be missed and loved by her family and dear friends.

ilan Strasser - October 30, 2023 at 11:28 AM

BM

“ I remember meeting Kelly for the first time at the first annual Post Oak Holiday lighting, on thanksgiving day 1988. She was beautiful, effervescent, had so much personality and was so full of life. We were supposed to go to lunch at Kenny & Ziggy’s last month to celebrate her birthday but unfortunately the timing didn’t work out.

I am truly saddened to hear about Kelly’s passing. I want to send Marcia and Greg my heartfelt sympathy.

Blake McClendon - October 30, 2023 at 02:57 AM

JH

“ I am shocked and saddened to hear of Kelly's passing. She always made me laugh, and I adored watching her interact with her brother, Greg, when she lived in Seattle, years ago. Baruch Dayan Ha Emet. May Kelly's neshama have an aliyah. Julie Hirsch

Julie Hirsch - October 29, 2023 at 10:15 PM



“ I am beyond thankful Kelly and I picked up right where we left off when she came back to Houston. I will cherish every memory we created (& even recreated) over the past few years. My heart is beyond broken that she is gone, but now Ken & Kelly are disease free and reunited. Kelly...we will always touch roses...

Laura Longpre - October 29, 2023 at 09:16 PM

AP

“ What a dear. Huge heart. Huge laugh. Great friend. Gd mother of my niece Willa. Kelli is gone way too soon.

Aviva Amy Perlo - October 29, 2023 at 03:29 PM

AH

Aviva - I actually met Kelly for the first time in Seattle years ago at a fundraiser for Robin's family!

Amy Hartman - October 30, 2023 at 12:34 PM

AH

She's a wonderful person and will be truly misses!

Amy Hartman - October 30, 2023 at 12:35 PM