

Karmen Lael Holley Smith

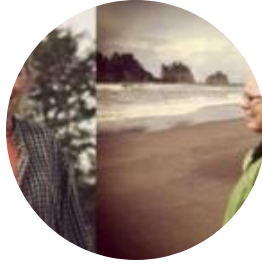
SEP 6, 1952 - SEP 22, 2014



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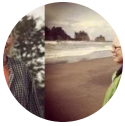
Karmen Lael Holley Smith

SEP 6, 1952 - SEP 22, 2014

Karmen Lael Holley Smith (born September 6, 1952) passed away on September 22 from metastatic breast cancer. She was a spontaneous traveler and adventurer who made friends everywhere she went. She will be missed by many. As her wild garden attests, Karmen was a true hippie. Her lifelong love of nature began in Bryce Valley, where she grew up exploring the red rocks and canyons. She obtained a master's degree in geography and directed BYU's International Cinema program, which was her passion.

Karmen loved film, music, gardening, traveling, and hiking. Her favorite places ranged from Zion National Park to the beaches and rainforests at La Push, Washington.

She is survived by her mother, Laurie Holley Coon (Theron); her four children, Michael (Heidi), Jennifer (Shelly), Jonathan (Kylie), and Tiffany; and her three grandchildren, Marcus, Ian, and Zoë.



Tribute Wall

Karmen Lael Holley Smith

SEP 6, 1952 - SEP 22, 2014



Amy Staiger posted:

I worked with Karmen for many years in the Geography Department. What a special light she was to all who knew her!

October 8 at 11:47 AM



Sue Taylor posted:

Dear Laurie and family, I just heard today about Karmen's passing. I was one of Karmen's original BYU roommates and we had some fun crazy times. I was even able to stay in Cannonville with you and Grammy for a few days. Please know my love and prayers are with you. My thoughts are also of Karmen being with her dad at this time!

October 22 at 4:43 PM



Doug Bowen posted:

Dear Aunt Laurie, and Karmen's children. I find I have no contact information (phone number, e-mail address) for you guys, and would like to get in touch. Please email or call (435-673-8963), Thanks, Doug

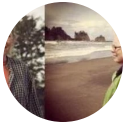
October 7 at 11:11 AM



Bob And Ginny Higbee posted:

We remember when she used to play her accordion at Bryce. She was always such a bright spirit. Best Wished to all of you as you go through this.

October 3 at 5:28 AM



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JB

Joan Higbee Bean posted:

Karmen was an intrepid traveler from toddlerhood. She, Grammy, Laurie, Mom & I drove our 1950's Chevy up through the northwest to Banff & Lake Louise. Can't recall our exact ages. Karmen was walking, but not far nor fast. Along the way, she serenaded us with her very own composition: "My bottle is empty, the milk is all gone...." As we walked together through the shopping district of one small town en route, she caught sight of something in a store window and raced towards it crying, "WOOGIE, WOOGIE, WOOGIE!" (That would be "looky", for the uninitiated.) She had spotted the green stuffed frog that would become her constant companion on the trip and for some time afterwards. Yes, I think she evidenced a love of creations animate and inanimate from the first. Few have turned that love into action as successfully. Such a good example to me.

October 2 at 12:58 PM

LS

Lori Stevens posted:

So sorry to hear about your mom, Mike. She sounds like a terrific and way fun person. Probably why you turned out so awesomely cool. Hugs, Lori

October 2 at 8:33 AM

KM

Kristine Chynoweth Milne posted:

Dear Smith Family and Mother Laurie, It is difficult saying farewell to a dear friend and a beautiful human being that has left us way too soon. As she roamed the beautiful red rocks of southern Utah I think she took the red dust and sprinkled in her hair . She had the most beautiful red hair! She left you a great legacy in this I hope you find peace in the plan of salvation. God bless you her dear children, grandchildren and her dear mother Laurie, too. With much love and sympathy.

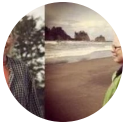
October 2 at 7:49 AM

MB

Matt Bekker posted:

Deepest condolences. I have fond memories of Karmen as an instructor in the BYU Geography Department while I was a student in the early 90s. Lots of energy and enthusiasm for teaching, for geography, and for the incredible world we live in. She will be missed.

October 1 at 8:09 AM



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JS

Joyce Partner Sorensen posted:

So sorry for the loss of someone so young and talented.

September 30 at 5:51 PM

VG

Van Gessel posted:

One of the best decisions I made as dean of Humanities at BYU was hiring Karmen as my...let's see: assistant; adviser; counselor; cheerleader; office manager; organizer; and so much else. She had so many capabilities and everything she did was done so well. Her passion for the earth, for integrity and genuineness, for family--that fierce, redheaded enthusiasm infused every moment of her life. I love her and miss her greatly. Deepest sympathy to all who mourn her passing to the perfect La Push up in the sky.

September 30 at 4:54 PM

CC

Chris Crowe posted:

What a loss! Karmen was an essential part of the College of Humanities, a wonderful, kind, and friendly colleague. It's a huge understatement to say that she will be missed by many.

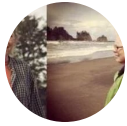
September 30 at 11:11 AM

JM

Jan Myers posted:

I have you all in my prayers. Having just said goodbye to my mom, I know that death is a vital part of the Lord's great plan of happiness. Without it we couldn't move on to the Third Act, where everything can finally turn out happy ever after:) Hang in there!

September 30 at 9:41 AM



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JB

Joan Higbee Bean posted:

When you were hardly more than a toddler, you, me, Grammy and your mom jumped into a car and trekked off to the great northwest--four intrepid female travelers--all the way to Banff & Lake Louise. You were a happy wanderer even then...did you ever tell your kids about singing "My bottle is empty, the milk is all gone," as we drove along? Maybe not. We were walking past some stores in a town along the way when you saw a big green stuffed frog in the window. Your reaction grew to mythical proportions among family legends. You lit up like a rocket and toddled over to the window crying, "WOOGIE, WOOGIE, WOOGIE!" The frog soon became the 5th sojourner for that trip, and others thereafter. As an adult you led the way in loving and protecting all God's creations animate and inanimate--an example to us all. So thankful you came to our family. Onward, ever onward....

September 30 at 7:53 AM

IK

Ilona Klein posted:

Dear Karmen, well done, you lived a great life! My hat's off to you! Intelligently outspoken, kind, understanding, helpful, supportive, and with great analytical skills ... I learned a lot from you, thanks for being around. Know that you left a lasting footprint in my heart. I have missed our hugs and smiles in the hallway. Hey, in the meanwhile keep walking those beaches; I know we will meet again! Cancer sucks, there's no way around it. My most sincere condolences to Karmen's extended family. Love, Ilona

September 29 at 2:31 PM

RS

Rick And Nathalie Shorten posted:

We are sorry for the loss of your mother, Mike. She sounds like she was a grand lady, mother and grandmother.

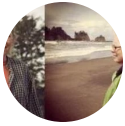
September 29 at 2:11 PM

RS

Randy & Cathy Shumway posted:

Karmen was an extraordinary person. who was loved by so many people. Her desire to make the world a better place for everyone was a driving force in her life. She was a kindred spirit and we loved and admired her so very much. Her passing is a great loss to us all. She leaves a wonderful legacy to her children. Whenever you see the beauty of the national parks or the red rocks of Bryce Canyon, you can't help but think of her. God Bless Karmen's children, the knowledge they will see her again will give them strength to travel their own roads of life wherever that may take them. Our Love always. Randy & Cathy

September 29 at 11:03 AM



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Elayne J Brough posted:

Karmen is a distant cousin and who touched my life with her remarkable talents. Please share my love for her dear mother and her family.

September 27 at 9:27 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Karmen by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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