

Kay (Katherine) G. Pfeiffer
(July 23, 1957 – May 1, 2008)

Kay Pfeiffer joined the Center for International Education community in 1987. Prior to returning to academia, she served in the Peace Corps in Botswana and with a youth program in Boston. It was clear from the beginning that Kay would bring humor, intellectual curiosity, and a talent of critique. She won the hearts of **Anna Donovan** and **Barbara Gravin Wilbur** through her kindness and



willingness to always pitch in where she was needed adding her own special brand of humor. Cleverly, she endeared herself to David Evans through her great editing skills and her ability to do publication layout better than he could. Fellow students admired her for her wit, caring and her genuine interest in their stories. She was a good friend who cultivated good friends.

Kay's dissertation, *Using Historical Narrative as a Tool for Organizational Analysis: a Twenty-five Year History of the Center for International Education* is a historical narrative of the Center's development, contributions and struggles through the eyes and voices of its students and faculty. There is a legacy captured in the 300 plus pages unavailable to most longstanding

institutions and for which the Center is grateful. While in Amherst she worked for the Workplace Education program at the University of Massachusetts and the National Priorities Project in Northampton. Additionally, Kay was a key player in the development of the Center for Community Education and Action (CCEA), a nonprofit organization founded by Dr. Peter Park from UMASS to promote the practice of participatory research in Western Massachusetts. She took the lead in establishing CCEA as a nonprofit; writing proposals, staffing the office, and designing and facilitating training throughout Western Mass. CCEA organized conferences, hosted visits and seminars by Paul Freire, and provided training services to human service organizations on community-based training and Freirean methodologies. She also volunteered to support homeless people in Northampton.

After graduation, Kay worked for CARE, USA in Atlanta for 5 years before moving to Florida to be near her family, particularly her nephew who held such a special place in her heart. Prior her illness, she worked with local NGOs serving disadvantaged youth. Kay never lost her spark or her sense of humor. During her final stay in the hospital, she remarked that David Evans must be jealous, because the CIE reunion was happening around her bedside!



[Memorial service](#) at Skinner Mountain for Kay Pfeiffer during CIE's 40th anniversary Celebratory Conference.

Messages from friends of Kay Pfeiffer

Kay died early this morning after sleeping peacefully through the night. She had recently been move to a very nice hospice and she felt at piece there. She spent a good weekend with her old friend **Sue Thrasher**. Sue, Kay and I lived together in Amherst for years. Her friend Penny Rust from CARE also stop by over the weekend, and every faithful **Eugenie Ballering** also a friend from Amherst spent many hours by her side in the last few weeks of her life. Hours that I wish I could have also spent.

Please write me if you have any questions. If I have wrong emails and/or there is someone you can forward this to, please do. We are hoping to plan a memorial service for her in Amherst sometime in mid June.

All my best

Jane Benbow - Cairo jbenbow@air.org

I deeply regret that I am unable to attend. However, with surgery on Tuesday, June 17th, I need to take things slowly! Hopefully, you understand.

Please give my fondest regards to Jane and to Mark Lynd (who both visited in my name) and also to Mary Jeannot. I hope that someday each of you will come visit, call me or whatever.

I hope that Carol will share with me whatever you send her. A check for the Center in Kay's memory is enclosed as well as what I would like you to read. I hope it's not too long. The other

two things are what I read to Cliff's friends who visited me at home. You may use them if you choose-in addition to what I've written about Kay.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks for planning this closure in memory of Kay.

Fondly,

Marguerite Pfeiffer (Kay's mother).

Kay was a dear friend and though we were out of touch for years (except for a recent visit), I still have many fond memories of her, poking fun at David Evans in "Development Theories" class, drinking me under the table at The Pub, dancing to Youssou Ndour at the Iron Horse, sharing Thanksgiving with her family in Boston, and mostly, being a good, loyal friend.

I will miss her,

Mark Lynd - California markrobertlynd@yahoo.com

I too had many memorable times with Kay--Friday nights at MHC immediately come to mind. I am very sorry to have lost touch with her after our road trip to the West coast. She did, after all, set me up with Jeff Hazen, my current husband on 32 Fruit Street, Northampton. She was a dear friend who helped me through some tough times. Thank you Kay.

Mary Jeannot - USA