



Kay Helen Wolfe

June 11, 1946 - April 23, 2025

In Loving Memory of Kay Wolfe

A Beautiful Soul Who Shared Her Art with the World

Sharing beauty with the world was Kay's mission. Kay created beautiful spaces to fill people's lives. Her art took many forms. She was a gardener, she was an artist, and she was expert at the sacrament of afternoon tea.

Kay had a great love for gardening. She was a member of the Minneapolis Garden Club, formerly the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, for 32 years. She served as a director on the board and as the club president. Her skill and passion for gardening was manifested when she served as the committee chair and lead designer for the renovation of the Mixed Border Garden at Lyndale Park. Her committee worked, over more than 20 years, to create a showcase garden in the park. While working in the garden the team would frequently hear, from passersby, uplifting stories of how this space had touched individual lives. The garden is a legacy that the Minneapolis Garden Club continues to share with the community.

Kay was an artist. Her love of painting evolved over the years from Bavarian folk art painting, Bauernmalerei, to murals and faux finishes in clients' homes, to fine, still life oil paintings. To create paintings with depth, she studied the techniques of painting used by the old masters. The resulting still lives provide spaces that people can enter Kay's beautiful world. Her art was her ministry. Kay's art was a passion that provided inspiration and solace for her up until the final days of her journey here.

The clink of silver spoons in porcelain teacups, the aroma of freshly brewed tea, beautifully prepared tea sandwiches, conversation with friends about books, art, life - these are the images of a tea with friends. If one is going to collect fine porcelain and silver, it must be used. Kay, with her friends, enjoyed escaping to another era through the ceremony of afternoon tea. Hats are required. If you don't have a hat, one might be provided.

Kay collected so many loving friends throughout her life. There were her medical technology classmates from college, friends she met during her years as a research scientist, artist friends, tea friends, and Jane Austen loving friends. They all reveled in the beauty that she brought to their lives and she in the beauty they brought into her life.

Kay was born on June 11, 1946, and passed from this life on April 23, 2025. She is survived by her husband, Gary Opperman and brother, Ron Wolfe (Gail).

A celebration of Kay's life will be held on Tuesday, June 17 at Lakewood Memorial Chapel at 1:00. There will be tea following the ceremony at the Lakewood Garden Mausoleum. Please direct memorial gifts to Grace Hospice. They were a blessing at the end of Kay's Journey.

Kay, you are loved, you are loved, you are loved.

Tribute Wall

RU

“ Rest well, dear cousin. I know your many friends and family members will hold your memory dear.

Robert Uebel - May 04, 2025 at 01:41 PM

BA

“ What a beautiful, creative and intelligent soul. I am so thankful to have been her friend and to have learned so much from her about art, tea, china and Jane Austen. Chip loved talking to Kay about gardening- she was so knowledgeable, and she had the artist's eye for color and texture. We will greatly miss her.

Barbara Allen - May 02, 2025 at 05:28 PM

SD

What a beautiful tribute to Kay! She was a uniquely creative woman who shared her passions with others. We met because of our shared interest in Jane Austen but found many other topics of conversation when we got together. Kay was a wealth of information which she eagerly shared with those who were interested. She will be missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers are with Gary at this difficult time. Sue & Bill

sue drehmel - May 02, 2025 at 07:33 PM

PH

Although it has been 57 years since I last was with Kay, I still remember her big smile and laugh. She always had so much energy! I have been inspired by her, just reading the yearly COSEN. Even her last words to us, written in 2025 COSEN, were comforting and again inspirational. Although I have lived so far away all these years, I still feel close. Thank you!!

Patt Hess - May 03, 2025 at 01:53 PM

KY

Kay was my muse to help me figure out my gardening and even though I have a great crop of weeds, they are the best looking weeds in our neighborhood. Kay and I organized many reunion and gathering events for our college class (we call ourselves COSEN - Class of Seventy Eight Newsletter) and we have all remained such close friends due to Kay's efforts at finding the perfect spots around Minnesota for a reunion. Oh, Kay!! We will miss you so much!! Love forever!

Kay Young - May 08, 2025 at 11:44 AM

JB

Oh dear, such a beautiful soul who left us. I was her "Mistress of Tea" when she married Gary at a beautiful mansion in Stillwater, a very memorable and fun event. Gary, I'm sorry for your loss, Kay will always be with you
Jennifer Bailey

Jennifer Bailey - June 04, 2025 at 12:48 AM