



Pamela Ann Michael

October 21, 1946 - May 19, 2020

Pamela Ann Michael, a lifelong musician, teacher, and mentor, died on May 19th, 2020 at the age of 73.

Pam was born in Detroit in 1946. She attended Cooley High School and then Wayne State University. An early foray into social work in Detroit's North End led to teaching music at the Detroit Waldorf School. From there she moved into the Detroit Public School System, first at Emerson Elementary/Middle School, and then Noble Middle School. 'Ms. Michael' guided a number of her students to the Detroit High School for the Performing Arts. Later she taught at MSU Community Music School in Detroit and then returned to where she began, the Detroit Waldorf School. Over the years she instructed hundreds of students, many of whom became her friends.

Pam had a lifelong passion for music and for encouraging her young students to find their own musical connections. She played professionally with the New Horizons Band in Saline and at community churches and venues. She identified with many aspects of Judaism and volunteered at the Holocaust Museum in West Bloomfield where she felt warmly accepted. She also felt a strong connection to Native American thinking. She loved movies, hiking and her cats but most of all she loved people. Pam was always ready to laugh and smile with anyone she met.

During what could have been her retirement years, Pam pursued a healthy lifestyle, sought new ways to help others, advocated for students, and enjoyed taking road trips. Even with her sudden, unexpected illness, she remained optimistic and focused on the needs of those around her. No one was prepared to lose her so soon.

She is survived by her son Miles Michael and many dear friends who considered her family.

A memorial will be planned at a future date to gather the people she held dear in celebration of her life.

In lieu of flowers, donations to The Pam Michael Musical Fund are appreciated: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/9y6ds-the-pam-michael-musical-fund?utm_source=customerandutm_medium=copy_linkandutm_campaign=m_pd+share-sheet>

Share a memory at www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com.

Cemetery Details

Roseland Park Cemetery

29001 Woodward Avenue
(NW corner of 12 Mile and Woodward)
Berkley, MI 48072

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

KA

“ I just found out last week of Ms. Michael's passing and it took me another week to have the strength to write this.

Ms. Michael was the foundation of my career as a music teacher. When I first started teaching string orchestra, I remembered everything that Ms. Michael taught me at Emerson Middle School. I didn't have consistent teachers to continue teaching me strings, since they were more focused on band. But those 3 years at Emerson were enough for me to know how to make my students sound amazing on any level. I owe that to Ms. Michael.

When I started a string orchestra program at a community center in Delaware, we didn't have a lot of funds to purchase new music. Ms. Michael sent me boxes of sheet music, some that I had even used when I was her student at Emerson.

Even just this past school year, I was given a position to revamp an elementary school band and orchestra program. I had confidence in the orchestra program, but I didn't for band. Most of my band career I taught or led groups that already knew how to play their instruments. I reached out to my amazing mentor, Ms. Michael, and she mailed band music to use for beginners that not only were doable, but sounded great. She taught me step by step on how to start a beginning band program from scratch. She told me to have patience when I heard those beginning instrument sounds and to just laugh with them. She knew me well enough to tell me that, because she knew that I didn't have a patient ear when it comes to music, lol. But I took her advice and did quite a bit of laughing the first couple of months especially lol.

That concert was a huge success and the spring concert was going to be even bigger (if we didn't have to close school). I owe it all to Ms. Michael.

Lastly, I will remember the days that she came to my dance recitals when I was in middle school, and she then began to take dance and invited me to a couple of her classes as a guest. I will remember her

smile, her laugh, her text messages for birthdays and holidays, and her gift not only in music, but in caring for all of her students as if they were her very own children.

Thank you Miles for sharing your wonderful mother with all of us.

I will miss her deeply and always.....

Kimberly (Gladney) Alston - June 29, 2020 at 07:37 PM



“ *I am in total shock... Today is my birthday and she would always call me or send a message. She has been heavy on my heart, and to find out today has hit me like a ton of bricks.. She was my music teacher in middle school and we always kept in touch. She had chance to meet my little family and my son who now plays as well.. She will be truly missed...*

Yolanda Weems - June 24, 2020 at 09:51 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Funeral Service*



Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors - June 18, 2020 at 05:49 PM

SA

“ Pam was a colleague of mine who was always giving back. After she retired from DPS, she would come to my schools (DPS) and happily assist me in working with the students. She did that for about 10 years generously giving of her time and not asking for anything in return. The students would look forward to seeing her and were always happy to work with her and learn from her expertise. She had a way of motivating kids. She was a fantastic flute player, too! She always had a smile on her face which would brighten up stressful situations and was willing to lend a helping hand. I will always appreciate her coming down to my schools, what she did for me while I was teaching, and am so fortunate to have known her and to have worked with her. I appreciate you Pam!

Samar Atallah - May 31, 2020 at 09:38 PM

CH

“ I w as so sorry to learn of Pam's passing. Her talent, loyalty to her friends and generosity of spirit were evident to all who were fortunate to know her. This photo was taken on Thanksgiving 2012 at Carol G's house. Sadly, all three of the people sitting at the table have now passed. My deepest condolences to Miles and to all who valued Pam's presence in their lives.



Carol Haddad - May 29, 2020 at 10:23 PM

TA

She was a fabulous lady with the most awesome spirit and energy.. She will be greatly missed. Tari adams

Tari adams - May 31, 2020 at 08:09 AM

JZ

“ Pam and i grew up on the same street in Detroit decads ago as we grew up ,however we lost contact and my husband and i moved to Pleasant Ridge and i missed her friendship,humor ,kindness and ever smiling face, One day i went for a walk around the block and paused to look in someone,s garden and a woman came out the door of her house and it was PAM she had bought the house on the next BLOCK We both were thrilled to be back in touch and love meeting at the Pleasant Rdg pool and swimming and chating with our friends . I love her and will miss her and send my sympathy to all of her friends and family.

Judi Zachary

Judi Zachary - May 29, 2020 at 02:10 PM

IK

“ Ms. Michael,

Wow..we just recently reconnected via text and had planned to see each other after this pandemic to reminisce on the fond memories at Emerson School.

I send my condolences to your family. RIH.

INDIA SHEPHERD (Taylor)

India Shepherd (Taylor) - May 26, 2020 at 06:31 AM

TR

“ I remember the first time I met Ms. Michael's at Noble. She was so nice to all of us. She's the reason I started playing the saxophone and helped me get into D.S.A. Rest well you will truly be missed.

Tamara Ross - May 25, 2020 at 01:17 PM

AM

“ *Mrs. Michael was my band teacher at Noble, she took the time out of her day to show me how to play the instruments until she found the perfect instrument for me to play and it was the Flute that she taught me how to play! My prayers and condolences to you're family! She is truly going to be missed but never forgotten*

Alyssa Montgomery - May 25, 2020 at 09:09 AM

CL

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Chris Lezotte - May 24, 2020 at 11:34 AM