



Judy Kay Simpson

April 28, 1949 - November 19, 2016

TORONTO, CANADA – Judy Kay Simpson (aka Kay Lynne) died November 19, 2016 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. She was born April 28, 1949 in Beckley, West Virginia, the daughter of the late John Harrison Simpson and Margie Opal Winfrey Simpson.

Upon graduation from Mullens High School, she moved to Athens and attended Concord University, obtaining degrees in Art, French and Education. After teaching at Pleasants County High School, she obtained a PhD in Medieval French Literature at Florida State University. As part of her French training at FSU, Kay Lynne spent time at Laval University in Quebec. There, she fell in love with the county of Canada and the Canadians. She taught for the Canadian government in First Nation villages in the far north. From there, she managed to get in on the ground floor of the computer in field of education in Ontario and Quebec. She spent her last years in Ontario pursuing her hobbies of writing fan fiction and science fiction, knitting, drawing and painting. The self- portrait featured here is of Kay during her days at Concord. Her movie conventions led to long and close relationships with friends in Toronto.

She is survived by many cousins, including Dorcas and Dan Winfrey with whom she wintered often in Florida and Georgia. Her Simpson relatives include Charles Chandler and Samantha Craig, with whom she spent many

holidays and countless hours chatting on the internet. After the death of her mother, Kay was given the gift of a step-mother (Opal, now deceased) and step-brother, Tom Kirk of Roanoke, Virginia.

Remembrance gifts can be given to one of her favorite causes which included cats, the environment and human rights.

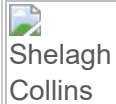
She is buried in West Virginia next to her parents in Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Princeton. Information provided by Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.bailey-kirk.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Judy Kay Simpson*

December 27, 2022 at 03:07 PM



Shelagh
Collins

“*Kay Lynne was one of my oldest friends in fandom - and possibly one of the friends I've known longest continuously.*

We hadn't seen each other for awhile, both being pretty financially fragile, along with her living in Canada and me without a passport. But we kept in touch through Kay's regular emails with updates and silly pictures and occasional phone calls.

I met her through Sentinel fandom. Visiting her in Toronto for a Relaxicon was my first time traveling up that way. We had a couple of adventures in camping and she organized some trips out to Vancouver with groups as well.

Kay Lynne had a talent for pulling people together and encouraging them to explore their own creative sides. She loved writing fanfic (the one and only zine I ever published included a story by Kay from her Burnaby universe), knitting (I still have a pair of slippers and an angel key-ring she made), and finding new odd fandoms to indulge in.

While I hadn't been able to visit regularly for a long time, she and I still got together every year when she and the TorFen made their journey to Media West con in Michigan. And she would always bring some of my favorite British strength tea and other Canadian munchies. Sadly several years ago the group had to make the decision that the long trip was getting too much for cranky bodies and Canadian wallets.

The last time I saw her was at least six years or so ago when another friend and I made the trip to TO and hung out for a weekend. Kay was one of those friends who you might not see for a long time. But when you finally got together again it was just like old times.

I still miss her silly emails and the hope that I would be able to visit her once again.

Thanks for the memories Kay Lynne.

Sleep well.



Shelagh Collins - April 09, 2018 at 11:19 AM

 Gina
Storm
Grant

“ *I didn't realize what a profound influence Kay Lynne Simpson had on my life until suddenly, she wasn't there anymore. She introduced me to fandom and got me writing. She gave me so many little gifts that every time I turn around, I see some picture she brought me from a convention or an item she knitted in her later years.*

She came over every Thursday for several years to watch our shared favourite TV show, Supernatural. She could knit in the dark without even looking. I don't think I've ever been quite so impressed.

She was always kind and patient. I can't say I was always the same. I'm glad I got to take her to dinner and a library lecture last month. Little did I know that would be the last time I'd see her other than a final goodbye at the hospital.

Twenty years is a long time to be friends. Thank you, Kay, for being mine all this time.

Gina Storm Grant - December 09, 2016 at 01:49 PM

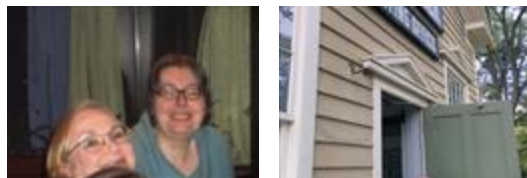
KM

“ I met Kay at a media convention in the 1990s and we hit it off right away. She was fun, funny, intelligent, compassionate and had a great sense of humor. We corresponded about fanfiction and movies, cooking and cats, anything and everything. When I visited Toronto I stayed at her house several times, though the time that comes to mind most is when we and other TorFen were extras in the movie, 'Men With Brooms', sitting on metal risers over the ice of a curling rink for long hours, talking and enjoying being there. I think she brought her knitting for between shots. When 'our team' wins, we are at the left of the screen in a spontaneous hug. Kay was so much a part of Toronto for me that I think I will see her everywhere I look, the next time I come up. She is irreplaceable.

Kit Mason - December 08, 2016 at 10:31 AM

TG

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Trudy Goold - December 08, 2016 at 12:43 AM

TG

“ Here is a message I wrote to be read to Kay before she died - I'd like to share it with all of you.

Kay, this is a message from Trudy. There are a few things I need to tell you, so I've asked the others to please relay this to you. First of all, I'm really glad I showed up at Chapters early that first Tuesday I was in town two months ago; and I'm also really glad that we had the chance to go to Black Creek, just the two of us. It gave me a chance to spend time with you before this happened, and I know from experience that that's a valuable gift. And I'm really sorry that I won't see the "Street Art of Toronto" website you were planning. It would no doubt be wonderful and colourful.

Secondly, I really want to thank you for being the driving force behind the formation of the TorFen. Yes, we all contributed, but you were the one who started it with your Relax-A-Cons. I also think that you saved my parents a fair amount of stress through that. Do you remember the girl who spent her entire first and most of the second Relax-A-Con hiding with the TV and VCRs to do the dubbing? I do, and I'm sure my parents do as well. All of you helped change that girl into the one who - while I'm never going to be wholly comfortable in social situations - is willing to go out and spend time with friends. You got me really going to cons for a while, rather than just hiding as staff in 10-Fwd. Gina is the one who first got me in trying NaNoWriMo, and that's been huge for me and my social development as well. And you were the one who first got us together.

I've always said that there are only three things I miss from Toronto. The TTC, which is really the least important; my family; and my friends. You are an important component of those friends. I have never even considered removing myself from the TorFen list, even if I was seriously inactive.



I just wanted you to know that you've played a huge, important role in my life, and that the woman I am today, who is getting involved in advocacy and intends to publish my writing, is at least in part due to you. And I can't remember if I told you - told any of you, really - back in September; but I really like who I am.

So, thank you, Kay. Thank you for your friendship, and for helping me become friends with the rest of our group.

And know you will be missed.

Kay was a very good friend for 18 years - I met her at one of those fan get-togethers she ran that Eileen mentioned below. I moved away from Toronto 5 years ago, but got a chance to visit in September of this year, and as I mentioned above, I'm very glad I did, because I got to spend some valuable time with her shortly before this happened.

She will be greatly missed.

Trudy Goold - December 08, 2016 at 12:40 AM

NB

“ From Nancy Brown, Montreal

I knew Judy Kay/Kay Lynne as Kay. We met and became friends in 1983 when we were both teachers at Kitigan Zibi School on an Algonquin reserve in Maniwaki, Quebec. We were quite different in many ways, as I am a very left-wing big-city girl. Yet we shared a profession, a love for cats and bunnies, an interest in the environment and human rights, and a strong interest in current issues, both Canadian and global. I was delighted at her success over the years in writing short stories, her original well-done knitting, her occasional travels, and it was always a pleasure to visit her.

We knew each other- and our cats !- from Maniwaki to her little house in Hull to her ever-smaller apartments in Toronto. (Once her health became problematic, she never made it back to Montreal to visit at my place, no matter how hard I tried to tempt her.) Both of us had worked in other First Nations communities besides Maniwaki, and always enjoyed sharing our stories about that and passing on news about our mutual friends.

I almost always stayed at Kay's place for my annual Toronto visits once she was living there. Her intelligence, creativity, humour, and interest in the world never flagged. She was game to try some vegetarian food when I became vegetarian about 4 years ago. I knew she loved to dance, as do I. Even when she was at times using a cane, we would find a nearby little club with some good rock music and get up and dance, no matter who was watching. On my last visit in June 2016, we went out to the Toronto Islands and had a lovely time, although her energy was flagging a bit. On other visits we would go to art galleries, outdoor music events, theatre productions, or to dinner and a film with her good friends on their regular Tuesday nights, which she really loved.

I have attached a few photos from Toronto, in 2013 with her cat, and from 2015 in the giant chair at City Hall downtown. The lit-up colourful Toronto sign which is I think still the opening screen on her

computer was taken the fun evening we spent listening to outdoor music there in 2015.

I will certainly miss her, and will keep her in my heart for the rest of my life.

Nancy Brown - December 07, 2016 at 11:15 PM

NB

“ 2 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Nancy Brown - December 07, 2016 at 10:10 PM

ES

“ I first met Kay Lynne in 1998 at a fan convention for a TV show called *The Sentinel* in Vancouver and discovered that she had already held a fan get-together in Toronto where we both lived. I joined her crew of Toronto fans who held viewings and eventually ran mini-conventions in BC and in Toronto. We went as a group to other types of media conventions around North America and over time settled into a socializing group who met nearly every week for movies.

Celebrating Christmas and birthdays was very important to Kay, especially as she had no family in Canada. She diligently kept in touch with her States-side kin, people she had met teaching in Quebec and working at System House/EDS, and media fans she had met over the years... and sent them all birthday wishes. She never lost her love for French and maintained her bilingualism. These past few years she was a knitting fiend and had also joined the Adult Colouring craze, rediscovering her early artistic passions. Kay Lynne was the force which kept our Toronto fan social circle together with her love of science fiction and friendship. We miss her keenly and have all realized how much of an impact she had on our lives over the past 18 years.

*Eileen Scidmore
Toronto Dec 7, 2016*

Eileen Scidmore - December 07, 2016 at 07:39 PM

DW

“ 5 files added to the album New Album Name



Dorcas M Winfrey - December 07, 2016 at 02:52 PM