



Dr. Melanie Ann Higgins

MAR 4, 1949 - JUN 28, 2023



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Dr. Melanie Ann Higgins

MAR 4, 1949 - JUN 28, 2023

Dr. Melanie Ann Higgins (nee McKernan), age 74, of Rocky River, passed away with her family by her side, on Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at Southwest Hospice in Strongsville after a lengthy illness.

She was born on March 4, 1949 in Lakewood, Ohio and has been a resident of Rocky River for the past 7 years, moving from Heidelberg, Germany, where she had resided for nearly 30 years. Melanie completed her undergraduate studies at Cleveland State University before earning her Doctorate in Psychology at Heidelberg University in Heidelberg, Germany. She went on to become certified Jungian Analyst and operated her own psychology practice both here in the United States and Germany. Perhaps it was her job, or just in her nature, but Melanie was very inquisitive. She possessed a genuine love for people, and a special relationship with her beloved cat Sophia. She enjoyed music and singing, was fluent in German and had a passion for traveling. Her free time would find her taking long walks or tending to her flowers. She is survived by her son Chris (Betty) Higgins of Grafton, grandchildren Jake, Samantha and Emily Higgins and Zack, Nicholas and Britney Antoniewicz; siblings David (Nancy) McKernan, Scott (Jan) McKernan, Gerianne Kody, Veronica (Mark) Brooke, Julie (Mike) Katona and Lucy (Charles) McKernan; many nieces and nephews; her beloved cat Sophia.

She was preceded in death by her parents Thomas and Doris (nee Crooks) McKernan; sister Donna Clendenan.

Family will receive friends in the Bogner Family Funeral Home, 36625 Center Ridge Road, North Ridgeville, on Thursday, July 6, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Funeral service will take place at 5:30 p.m. in the funeral home. Interment will be private.



Events


Dr. Melanie Ann Higgins

MAR 4, 1949 - JUN 28, 2023

Visitation

 **Thursday**, July 6, 2023

 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET


 **Bogner Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services**

36625 Center Ridge Road, North Ridgeville OH
44039



Funeral Service

 **Thursday**, July 6, 2023

 5:30 PM ET

 **Bogner Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services**

36625 Center Ridge Road, North Ridgeville OH
44039





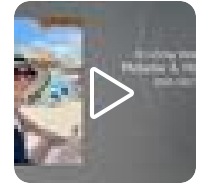
Tribute Wall

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Bogner Family Funeral Home And Cremationservices shared a **Video**.



June 30 at 10:39 AM

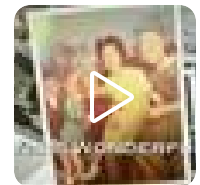


Chris Wilkens October 16 at 12:06 PM

I fondly remember Melanie as the "big sister" of my childhood friends Veronica and Gerianne on Westlake Ave. Sending heartfelt condolences and prayers to all of her family.
Chris (Terrell) Wilkens



Bogner Family Funeral Home And Cremationservices shared a **Webcast Video**.



July 5 at 12:07 PM



Samantha Paglialunga posted:

I was a patient of hers for roughly 3 years. She saved my life. I don't know where I would be today if she didn't answer that email. She was the only one who responded back and accepted me as her patient. She planted seeds of healing that bloomed year after year. I get to live a life farther than I had planned because she didn't give up on me. Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to meet someone who held my hand and walked me toward a brighter future and prevented me from an early grave 🙏 I reached out to thank her and that was when I learned about her passing. As devastating as it was to hear the news, I know she is at peace now. I am praying for her family and that the Good Lord hugs her in heaven ❤️ I send my deepest condolences.

July 17 at 10:17 PM



Roseanne Mcconville posted:

I only just learned of Dr. Higgin's death. My heartfelt condolences. She was a great woman who helped me so much. A great loss. I will remember her always :-)

November 16 at 9:25 AM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous posted:

I was a client for about a year. She helped me. I'm sorry for the loss experienced by those closest to her.

September 28 at 3:45 PM



Nancy Tait posted:

Most of us have set difficult goals and accomplished them. Melanie upped the game by setting several challenging goals at the same time and invariably accomplishing them all. We became friends in Heidelberg and I will miss her in my life.

July 6 at 3:42 PM



Anonymous sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Higgins family.



July 6 at 7:07 AM



Darlene Korkan posted:

I only knew Melanie for a short while, but it didn't take long to see what an amazing woman she was! I will cherish our conversations. Her bravery and acceptance was overwhelming to me. I couldn't imagine being faced with the challenges she had and the decisions she made so bravely with such strength and dignity. I will carry that with me always. Rest in peace now Melanie. My deepest and heartfelt condolences to your family. May your memories of better times carry you through the inevitable difficult days ahead.

July 5 at 9:54 AM



Gerianne Kody July 18 at 10:27 AM

Amazing sister and woman!!! ❤️ 👤



Alissa B July 7 at 11:55 AM

Dr. H. (as I always called her) was my therapist and guide for 3 years. She helped me immensely in finding healing and building an authentic life. I am forever grateful for her compassion and wisdom. I will carry her with me always. ❤️ 🌻



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent an Arrive in Style to the Higgins family.



July 5 at 2:31 AM



Scott Mckernan posted:

Mel, you suffered so long, now it's time for you to rest in peace. Family and friends will miss you, but know you are in Loving Arms. Brother Scott

July 4 at 4:41 PM



Susan Sills posted:

Melanie was one of my first true friends in Heidelberg, Germany. Together we relished and enjoyed all that Germany had to offer - and we grew closer and closer as the years passed. The concerts and the operas. The art exhibitions. Our holidays in France. The many walks through our local forests (she lived across the river from me and we would meet at the middle of the bridge). The many hours of German lessons, I the teacher, Mel the ambitious student. Her beauty tips and clothing advice (I learned a lot). Wonderful dinners in her apartment, always followed by brownies and dancing. Always the music. And always the laughter. And then there were the many heartfelt discussions. Mel's unstinting support. Her great capacity to listen and to respectfully advise. Her honesty. Melanie will always epitomize many things for me: love, wisdom, compassion, great humor and wit, astounding resiliency, admirable fortitude, insights, and a constant desire for inner growth. Generosity of self and spirit. Determination in the face of challenges that may have broken others but somehow made her stronger. I don't know how she managed. When I was sad, I would ask her to sing Danny Boy for me so that I could be comforted by her beautiful voice. And then somehow she could make me laugh again. One day we will meet on that bridge again. Until then, auf Wiedersehen, my dear friend. Susan Sills

July 4 at 5:53 AM



Pam Baron posted:

I will miss you Melanie. My favorite neighbor would walk by and she would yell at the curb "when is your garage sale". I smile thinking about us sharing clothes and trinkets. I talked to her recently and she fought a tough battle and I admired how positive she remained. Always asked about my Son a psychology major and took the time to talk and guide him through his studies. I wish her son and family peace. See you on the other side Mel.

July 2 at 2:06 PM



PR

Penelope Roberts posted:

Part II In the 1980s, somebody asked me if I wanted to type a dissertation for an American woman who was living in Heidelberg. I agreed, and I met Melanie. After months of work, typing and retyping, the document was finished but the bond between us was strong and clear. I was raising a critically ill child (he was 2 or 3 when he met Mel, or Dr. Mel as he has always called her), and she lived at the foot of the mountain in Ziegelhausen where we had a flat. She began teaching at the University of Maryland, where I worked from 1980 to 1999, and we started hanging out. When I say hanging out, we were running partners, dinner party buddies, movie actors, travel pals, and we rented hundreds of movies to watch at each other's houses. We had some arguments, we even broke up for a couple of years, but we were magnets for each other. At one point, Melanie gave me the name of her therapist and told me to go see him, even though she had a rule not to share her work therapist with anyone...that's how close we were. She saved my life with that and gave Adriano a better mother. Melania (my pet name for her), first and foremost, was just plain interesting. She was funny, smart, and insightful. And she was a 1000% caretaker. Her relationship with my son, Adriano, was one of respect and care. I have photos of Mel and Adriano taken all over Europe: my favorite being of the two of them at the turn out before the San Gottardo Tunnel in Switzerland around 1988. She is hugging him from behind and they are beaming as if they just discovered gold in them thar hills! But I actually have photos of her and various friends and family at border crossings, ferry docks, and even airport terminals. Better than photographs was driving somewhere with her. On our first visit to Adriano's granny in Italy she taught us to play a travel game she called Stink Pink, or Stinky Pinky. I can't remember anything about the game but we laughed hysterically for miles and miles trying to figure out how to play it. Once, when we had gone to Taormina she found a giant flower pot that looked exactly like my boyfriend of the time. We didn't have a way to purchase and get it back to Heidelberg so she took a photo of it and I still have that photo to laugh about. She sketched a lot of the places we visited and I have those sketches too. We laughed our butts off at the chaos at Al Italia Airlines and it took us months to get rid of the \$3000 Hertz Italy charges for a 5 day car rental! She was the absolute best companion one could ask for.

June 30 at 8:25 AM



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Penelope Roberts posted:

Part II
Melanie loved to sing. We went to churches to hear choirs practice, and she tried to get me to join the choir in the church at the end of her street. But I wasn't as good as she was and I was still trying to finish my degree, so I settled for listening to her. One time we got in a cab to go to dinner before a concert and she knew the driver because she knew his dog! Dinner was with a bunch of University professors, but she knew the cab driver's dog. That is eternally Melanie!
Mel was an artist practicing the art of loving people and trying to lift them up. She loved life and her family and she refused to let the slings and arrows change her except for the better. Like all of us, she made mistakes. She tried to fix the hurts and make her mistakes count as opportunities rather than as sins. She wasn't capable of behaving badly or hurting even strangers. At the end of her father's life, every week she watched the Lawrence Welk show with him over Zoom! That's love on a massive scale!
It is so hard to try to sum up a long and beautiful friendship when you are grieving the loss of that person. But I know that Melanie is always with me and with Adriano and I refuse to see her passing as a loss but as a transition to the future. I could carry on for another 100 pages and not capture her essence, her intelligence, her heart. But I know, when I think of her, all that floods back to me on a wave of memories and mementos. These are the things that will be in my future and in Adriano's future as we travel our lives the rest of the way without her. She can still make me laugh. She can now make me cry. Love and friendship endure, as my very much loved Melasia will.cont in Part I

July 2 at 10:23 AM



Anonymous sent a sympathy card to the Higgins family.



July 1 at 12:16 PM



Marty Kennedy posted:

I have very fond memories of sitting, sipping, and singing with Melanie on my deck by the river on a lovely summer day. We would have wine and treats. I want to express my deepest sympathy to her family. She was wonderful neighbor and I will greatly miss her. Marty Kennedy, Melanie's river front neighbor.

July 1 at 12:02 PM



Chris Higgins July 2 at 8:32 AM

Thank you Marty, she was so fond of you



Tribute Wall

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Vern Lamb posted:

A very engaging lady. Such a loss.

June 30 at 3:19 PM



Scott Heisel posted:

I was a patient of Dr. Higgins for the past seven years. I cannot truly express how much she affected my life in a positive way. I am so deeply sorry for everyone's loss. She was a very special woman who did everything she could to help me, and I am forever grateful for her presence in my life.

June 30 at 3:04 PM



Kathleen O'Brien posted:

What a strong, smart wonderful woman. Kind and enjoyed a laugh. Hard worker. So fortunate to have met Melanie last spring. She hired me to do plantings of so many flowers. She'd drive and get the plants, stones, mulch, mud and helped to lift them from her vehicle. It was fun. This very skinny woman sat on the bed of her vehicle and helped me to lift all to work and do. She was a perfectionist and wanted everything just right for her friend from Germany's visit. Just a dear lady. I will think of her often as I learned much from the dear person Melanie. God's prayers, Kathleen

June 30 at 11:13 AM



Veronica Brooke shared 5 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

My sweet lovely sister. There are no words to express the sorrow and how much you will be missed. Love you so much.

June 30 at 8:25 AM



Aaron Kody shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I'll miss you Aunt Mel! Loved drinking Bordeaux wine and eating brie with you

June 30 at 9:51 AM



PR Penelope Roberts June 30 at 3:02 PM
She had a heck of an appetite, our Mel!



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Pink Tribute Spray to the Higgins family.

June 30 at 9:15 AM



Anonymous sent a Red Rose Reverence Casket Spray to the Higgins family.

June 30 at 8:54 AM



Gerianne Kody posted:

Still feel so near; can't believe you are gone sis. You were so brave: and now thankfully no more suffering!!! Love you

June 30 at 8:44 AM



Chris Higgins posted:

Miss you so much Mom....

June 30 at 8:25 AM



Media

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Bogner Family Funeral Home And Cremationservices shared a **Video**. June 30 at 10:39 AM



Chris Wilkens October 16 at 12:06 PM

I fondly remember Melanie as the "big sister" of my childhood friends Veronica and Gerianne on Westlake Ave. Sending heartfelt condolences and prayers to all of her family.
Chris (Terrell) Wilkens



Media

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Bogner Family Funeral Home And Cremationservices shared a **Webcast** July 5 at 12:07 PM
Video.





Media

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Veronica Brooke shared 5 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

June 30 at 10:02 AM





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John Hodgson July 24 at 4:54 PM

I think it is my late wife, Meredith Oenning-Hodgson with Melanie. She loved Melanie greatly, as I did. John Hodgson.



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Aaron Kody shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

June 30 at 9:51 AM



Penelope Roberts June 30 at 3:02 PM

She had a heck of an appetite, our Mel!



Memories only last if you share them

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



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