



Kristin Penny Bates Obituary

Posted by her family on Facebook

Kristin Anne (Penny) Bates unexpectedly passed away on Monday, May 26th, 2025. Born to Judith Penny and Gerald Penny in Toledo, Ohio on March 12, 1968, Kristin was raised in Lambertville, Michigan, with her two younger siblings (Lisa and Jon). Kristin was known for her passion for cross country running. Part of the 1982 State champion 'Kicking Mules', she excelled on the cross country course, racing across southern Michigan with her beloved teammates as an all-state runner.

Kristin attended Grand Valley State University, where she met a group of lifelong friends in her roommates and sorority sisters. During this time she met her husband and love, Nathan Bates, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The two proceeded to have many adventures across the US, living in both Washington and Montana as avid backpackers and dog lovers. Her orchids, sewing, and candles saw every inch of the country, and Kristin left her mark on so many in her time with us.

In 2002, Kristin and Nathan moved here with Madison, and later were joined by Miles. Kristin grew a community full of love and support. Wearing many hats as an antique dealer, bookseller, journalist, and gardener, Kristin loved all who she met. Her passion for running was present through all of her life, as she coached dozens of girls through the program she created Girls Get Fit. Be it through sewing masks, creating coat drives, or her Americorps work, Kristin was committed to helping others, leaving a mark on her community. She will be remembered through the plants, books and smiles she distributed through friends and family, especially the handpicked non-fiction titles and the tenderly grown dahlias she was so proud of.

She is survived by her children, Madison and Miles, her husband Nathan, sister Lisa,

brother Jon, and mother Judy, as well as a large extended and loving family. The memorial and celebration of life will be held at 5pm, June 6th, at Old City Park in Boyne City. While flowers are always welcome for Kristin, donations in lieu of flowers can be made to Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities. She will be deeply missed, and we know she was deeply loved.