



Leslie Ann Bohlin Freeland

October 15, 1945 - June 15, 2014

Mineral Point - Leslie A. Bohlin, born October 15, 1945, died peacefully June 15, 2014 at University Hospital, Madison, WI.

An excerpt from a letter to her Theta sisters best describes her life:

"After getting my BSMI at Purdue I went back to Cleveland and took a job with AT&T Long Lines in their IM group. After my boss pinched my butt one day, I turned around and told him that I quit. Drove home having no idea what to do next. I followed my parents to Chicago and lived in their basement for two months until I found a job with CNA Insurance. When you see movies that show the Chicago skyline look for the big red buildings. I lived in the heart of the city for eight years and loved it. I married Carl Freeland in 1978. I "retired" from CNA in 1985 to pursue my childhood passion...weaving. I studied weaving for the next four years at the fine Line Creative Arts Center in St. Charles, IL, then Carl was transferred to Princeton, NJ and we moved and lived in Solebury, Bucks County, PA above New Hope on the Delaware River – a beautiful place. In 1998 we came to live in WI to be closer to family. On the Friday after 9/11 Carl announced that he was "trading me in for a younger model". So...I bought a great old building in Mineral Point built in 1876... originally a warehouse, then a feed and gran mill, then a restaurant, then a bar. An old friend from my days at the Fine Line became my business partner. Together we opened the Bohlin Gallery and sold arts and crafts, with my studio and looms in the back. I lived upstairs. Now, with that moron in the

White House and the dive in the economy the art world has taken a dive as well...it's something about "disposable income"...I closed the gallery and gave up that dream. And so, I enter the next phase of my life having no idea where to go...I feel like a Purdue Senior again! About six years ago I acquired a strange disease called Charcot Marie Tooth. It kills the nerves in your legs and arms. The nerves control the muscles so weird things happen to your body. I am now classified as "handicapped"... and I have a sticker to prove it! I have braces on my legs to hold me up and big horrible clunky braced-up shoes. YUK. This is the reason I won't be with you today, nothing else could keep me away"

Tribute Wall



“ *Leslie Ann Bohlin Freeland*

November 15, 2022 at 06:49 AM



“ *I never met Leslie or her husband Carl but my life has been enriched by their art for many years. I have fond memories of Leslie's mother and father and their shop in Mineral Point, Needlewood. I purchased a couple of Leslie's Nantucket baskets, various tatting shuttles, and other sewing items from the shop over the years. They were always accompanied with warm conversation from her mom about Leslie and her baskets. I use the shuttles and baskets on a regular basis to this day and recognize that my life has been enriched by Leslie's endeavors. Oddly enough, I found an old business card of her's in the bottom of one of my baskets just today and after a brief search, I found this obituary. My thoughts are with her friends a family. Please know that her work lives on and continues to bring joy.*

Wayne Fyffe - April 28, 2018 at 02:06 AM



“ *Les was such a good friend in high school and college. I loved her great sense of humor and the fun we had growing up and experiencing the world. We had many adventures in Cleveland and at Purdue and a memory filled trip to New York City to see the 64 World Fair and send our friend Joe off on his own adventures. She was a wonderful creative artist and friend. So glad Guy was able to be with her during her last day.*

*RIP Les,
Katie*

Kathleen (Katie) Sweeney Smith - April 28, 2018 at 02:06 AM

MD

“ Les was a wonderful college friend. I was a town girl living at home and often felt apart from the other girls in the sorority. Les was the one who always made sure I felt included and didn't miss out on any of the fun and good times we all had together. She was such a good sport and willing to help whenever needed. One semester I ended up with multiple term papers due on the same day. Les offered to type the one on the History of the Christian Church for me. I was very appreciative, but neglected to tell her I'd written Xianity for Christianity throughout the paper. Since I couldn't turn it in with Xianity everywhere, Les typed my paper not once but twice! She was so much fun and I loved her laugh. I know I will never forget her.

Marilynn Bottomley Dammon - April 28, 2018 at 02:06 AM

LV

“ Les was such a dear sister at Theta. Caring, fun and giving to everyone. I think that she was among the first to carry those computer cards all over campus. I spent a few days with "Lester" at her home in Cleveland and felt so welcome by her family. My sincerest sadness at her passing. I regret the I didn't take the time I promised to visit her in Wisconsin. Louise

Louise Cummins Volpp - April 28, 2018 at 02:06 AM

JE

“ We Theta sisters all truly loved Les and have so many fond memories of our shared days at Purdue. Les was such a wonderful, substantive and caring person. How wonderful that she was able to pursue her artistic passion for weaving. She was such a special person and will be greatly missed.

Jerri Engelbrecht - April 28, 2018 at 02:06 AM

MS

“ Guy, I am so sorry to hear about your sister, Les. I knew her in our Theta House as a very strong, funny "upperclassman" . You could always count on Les to be there if you needed a friend. Hope time and fun memories will help you heal.

Marnie Klingeman Stelzer - April 28, 2018 at 02:06 AM

MP

“ Les was my "daughter" in Theta. We had many happy times together. She called me "mudder" and I still have the charm she gave me with that on it. I love that she was a weaver as I am now pursuing the arts as well as a metalsmith. I send you strength and love in your loss.

Marilyn Kurtz Parker - April 28, 2018 at 02:06 AM

RC

“ It was a cold day when I first met Les. We wandered into her gallery to see if she'd be interested in offering the photo cards my partner and I had created. She looked me up and down and told me to go and get them, and believe me, I scurried- there was something about her that scared me a little bit. She was so encouraging and bought several of them. I felt like I had finally "made it" having my art in a gallery. We stopped several times at the gallery to see her and to eat the M&M's that were ever present on her front counter. When she got Lily we began bringing boxes of treats when we stopped. The bond between them was amazing. Economic slumps hit her hard and it hurt that we couldn't be of help to her and the pending loss of her business and home. We tried stopping several times in the last years and rarely would find the gallery open or her responding to phone calls. Her neighbors stated she just wanted to be alone. I hope she knew the impact she made in my life.

Rene Christesen - April 28, 2018 at 02:06 AM

KM

“ I am saddened to have just heard of Les's death in June. We were Theta pledge sisters almost 50 years ago and I still remember her wonderful sense of humor and willingness to help anyone. I'll never forget when she pierced my ears with an ice pick late one evening in the Theta house! She also sewed the most beautiful "going away" outfit for my wedding after graduation. I am sorry for your loss and will treasure my fond memories. Kay Gebhardt Watts McLeod

Kay Gebhardt Watts McLeod - April 28, 2018 at 02:06 AM