



Leslyn L. Keil

March 11, 1954 - October 6, 2023

Leslyn L. Keil, 69, of Palmyra passed away Friday, October 6, 2023 at her home surrounded by her loved ones. She was the loving wife of Ralph L. Keil to whom she was married for 47 years. Born in Bay Village, Ohio, she was the daughter of the late John and Bobette “Bobbi” (Gazley) Gouch. In addition to her husband Ralph, Leslyn is survived by her three children Lauren, wife of Hareth Madhoun, Jason Keil and wife Christie, and Natalie, wife of Joseph DeSantis; five grandchildren Tala, Jad, and Zaid Madhoun, and Nora and Autumn DeSantis; and two brothers John “Buzz” Gouch and wife Donna, and Jeff Gouch and wife Nancy.

Leslyn graduated from The Ohio State University and then worked in art museums at Cornell University and Yale University. After moving to central Pennsylvania, she entered nursing school to pursue her passion of caring for children with medical issues. She received her RN from Harrisburg Area Community College and then her BSN from Penn State. While working as a bedside nurse in pediatrics she became passionate about teaching the next generation of nurses and earned her MSN in nurse education from Penn State. She retired from the Penn State Hershey Children’s Hospital after more than 25 years. Additionally, she volunteered for a variety of medical activities for underserved populations, including international trips to care for children following heart surgery and at PA Vent Camp, a summer camp for ventilator-dependent children.

Outside of work, Leslyn immersed herself in her family. She was always

involved in the many academic, musical, athletic, and theatrical undertakings of her children and grandchildren. She was a magnificent “Grammaw” and loved to help her grandchildren learn and flourish. She particularly enjoyed designing and working with them on artistic projects as well as baking and cooking endeavors. She was a creative seamstress who made Halloween costumes, clothing, and adorable backpacks for her grandchildren. Leslyn was a gentle and caring soul who loved animals as well as people, leading to many adopted and rescued cats, dogs, hamsters, and others becoming part of the family. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

A Celebration of Leslyn’s Life will be held on Saturday, November 4th at the Hershey Gardens; 170 Hotel Rd.; Hershey, PA 17033 from 4-7 pm. We welcome guests to enjoy the beauty of the gardens beginning at 4 pm. The celebration service will be held at 5 pm. Please wear joyful colors to celebrate her vibrant life and spirit.

In lieu of flowers, please make a contribution in Leslyn’s honor to your charity of choice.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV 4. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Hershey Gardens
170 Hotel Road
Hershey, PA 17033

Tribute Wall

JS

“ I have many memories of my cousin Leslyn -one of my very first girlfriends- visiting Grandma and Grandpa’s house for dinners and holidays. We played on their Jenny Lind style bed, on the big, brick porch steps, and running around in the basement. At my house (Andy and Nellie’s), we played dolls and Ouija board! I so wish we hadn’t lost touch, but glad that we chatted on Facebook Messenger several months ago. My husband Jeff and I are so very sorry for your loss. May God be with your family as you grieve her loss. We will be making a donation in her name to our church.

Joanne Sadlon - November 03, 2023 at 03:42 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Leslyn L. Keil.



November 01, 2023 at 07:42 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Leslyn L. Keil.

November 01, 2023 at 07:42 PM

DE

“ I can't tell you how much I enjoyed working with Leslyn in the PIMCU. She always had a smile on her face, a positive attitude, and truly enjoyed her job. I missed working with her after her retirement! My heart is breaking for all of you. I hope that the memories you have will help to lessen the pain of your loss. Deb Evans

Deb Evans - October 26, 2023 at 03:39 PM

DL

“ Dennis L. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leslyn L. Keil.

Dennis L. - October 22, 2023 at 07:02 PM

RP

“ Natalie and family, sending my heartfelt sympathy and condolences to you. May your memories bring you comfort and strength. With love, Rachiele Peters

Rachiele Peters - October 20, 2023 at 08:09 AM

ND

Thank you for your kindness Mrs. Peters.

Natalie DeSantis - October 20, 2023 at 01:26 PM

ND

“ *The world was a better place because of you Momma. We are missing you every day. I am remembering wonderful trips to the spa, giggling over shopping finds, how you play with my girls, making plans to rearrange furniture, and so many phone calls. I know you're with us still. Love you forever.*



Natalie DeSantis - October 19, 2023 at 08:06 AM