



## Sheila Elyse Roberts Veatch

July 7, 1959 - April 30, 2021

Sheila Elyse Roberts Veatch, age 61, was born July 7, 1959 to William (Billy) Roberts and Jacquelyn (Gunter) Roberts in Bradenton, Florida. She entered eternity April 30, 2021. Sheila grew up in Bradenton and attended Southeast High School, graduating with the class of 1977. After high school she attended FSU, graduating with a BA in Elementary Education and later obtained a Masters Degree in Education from USF. Sheila was a lifelong educator. She started her teaching career at Myakka City School, and went on to teach in Papua New Guinea, Kenya, and Tallahassee, Florida. She moved on from her time in the classroom to work in various levels of education as the Department of Education's teacher liaison, in the assessment field, and as the Literacy Coordinator in St. John's County. In 2020, Sheila retired from her most recent position, the Manager of Educational Partnerships in Florida with Center for the Collaborative Classroom.

Sheila met the love of her life while attending training for Wycliffe Bible Translators in Waxhaw, North Carolina in the summer of 1987. After Devan left for his mission on the Pacific island of Papua New Guinea, the two wrote letters back and forth, and soon after Sheila joined him. They quickly fell in love and married on November 11, 1988. After two years in Papua New Guinea, and a brief stay in Groveland, Florida, Sheila and Devan moved to Nairobi, Kenya, where they both taught at the International School of Kenya. After 13 years in Nairobi, they moved to Tallahassee, Florida, and later to St.

Augustine, Florida. She and Devan were best friends for over 33 years and loved each other dearly throughout life's highs and lows. They loved traveling near and far and enjoyed immersing themselves in the culture wherever they went. Some of their favorite adventures together included trips to Scotland, Egypt, Mexico, Turkey and Amsterdam.

Sheila loved stories. Telling them, listening to them, writing them. Her camera was never far from her reach, as she always documented everything from budding flowers to family get-togethers. Many of her travels and adventures would often be accompanied by a photo album and a short story, telling of someone she met, or a story she learned along the way. She was incredible at seeing beauty all around her and then sharing that with others.

Sheila loved caring for people and would move mountains to be with, listen to, tend to and celebrate those she knew her whole life as well as those she just met. She also was deeply passionate about social justice, and was constantly learning, unlearning and pressing into difficult issues for the betterment of herself and others. She challenged herself and others to constantly seek to be better and she made an impact in so many lives because of that.

Sheila is preceded in death by her mother Jacquelyn, her father William "Bill" Roberts, her stepmother Marjorie, and her brother James "Jimmy" Michael.

Sheila is survived by her husband, Devan of St. Augustine; sons, Sam (Heather) and grandson Noah of Noblesville, Indiana, Nathan, of Indianapolis, Indiana, Jack of Gainesville; sister, Angie (Greg) of Belle, brother Lynn (Lynda) of Tampa; Nephews Jordan (Diwa), and great-nephews Zeke, Jed, Gabe and great-niece Abigail; Cody (Brinkley) and niece Skylar, along with many cousins, aunts and uncles, and treasured friends.

A memorial service will be held at 2 pm on Friday, May 7 at 2pm EST at Trinity

Episcopal Church in St. Augustine, Florida (215 St George Street). Free parking available on site. Masks are required. The service will be streamed live online at <https://youtu.be/z2qkUWDZfWY>.

In lieu of flowers, please give generously to a charity of your choice.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAY 7. 2:00 PM (ET)

Trinity Episcopal Parish  
215 St. George Street  
St. Augustine, FL 32084

# Tribute Wall

BJ

“ I’m another former colleague of Sheila at ISK. It’s a shock to hear of an acquaintance leaving this world so suddenly and unexpectedly, but it’s especially hard to process the news when the person was someone so vibrant, so engaging, so in-the-moment - in sum, so full of life. What sorrow to learn that Sheila’s smile, Sheila’s humor, and Sheila’s profound goodness have been extinguished. But to her family, I hope there is satisfaction in knowing that she touched so many people, made so many lives better and added sparkle to so many days. Sheila contributed so much, in so many ways, to the ISK community and was fondly remembered by all of us after she left Kenya. I had one of Sheila’s recipes with me until a recent move. It was too sweet for my taste but I think I kept it for so many years because it reminded me of Sheila. Now I’m sorry that when I unpack my boxes it won’t be there to put a smile on my face.

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**Barbara Jones** - May 18, 2021 at 02:15 AM

YU

“ I am always saddened by the passing of a good person. It is from this sadness that a feeling of gratitude emerges. I feel honoured to have known Sheila and blessed that her passing serves as a reminder to me that my time on this beautiful earth is limited and that I should seize the opportunity I have to forgive, share, explore, and love, just like she did. I can think of no greater way to honour Sheila than to live this way.



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**Yuni** - May 11, 2021 at 12:55 AM

RS

“ Dear Devan,  
Nigel and I were so shocked to hear of the passing of Sheila. It has been such a long time since our paths crossed but I remember you were always so very kind and gentle, with a twinkle in your eye and so much dedication to your chemistry teaching. We never really knew Sheila well as we were all in HS. She was evidently an amazing person and your dearest friend. We know this time will be very hard for you, but we send you our loving thoughts and prayers.  
Ruth and Nigel Stenning

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Ruth Stenning - May 09, 2021 at 12:02 PM

CB

“ There are so many beautiful stories and times to remember about time with Sheila. I loved trips to the bush in Kenya, watching her share her joy over her boys ( now men). We all watched and learned about faith as you went through Nathan's surgery and the absolute joy when Jack was finally a Veatch. I remember the beautiful conversations about a middle school Sam who was working on being the beautiful human who shared his mom's compassion and his dad's calm. Through it all, she also shared her love for Devan that made it all possible.

The thing that always stood out with Sheila and will stay with all who knew her was her giving and loving soul. She wore her joys, love, fears, and sorrows out so we all could celebrate, support, and grieve with her. I learned so much about life, love, uncertainty, and loss from her stories, writing, and her living example. Her faith was strong and she shared her thoughts and prayers openly. She used her own grief and loss to help others who experienced those same losses walk the path of pain. She showed us all you don't get over losses but can still celebrate the moments that were.

After leaving Kenya, I only had a few special times to see Sheila, but each time felt like visiting with a dear sister. Following her on Facebook helped it feel like you still knew where her heart and mind were. I do not know many people who could share so well and in the process spread, hope, love, and gratitude.

So, as I learned from Sheila, I weep with you Devan, Sam, Heather, Nathan, Jack, and little Noah. I weep with her whole family, friends, and the countless people she impacted. She is gone far too soon. But I celebrate the blessing we all received because we knew her. Surely heaven is celebrating a life well lived and shared with heart.  
- Cathy Berghahn

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Cathy Berghahn - May 07, 2021 at 01:24 PM

IG

“ Sheila was the one that welcomed me to ISK, I worked with her for 4 years which were a turning turning point to my teaching career, she was more than a supervisor, she was a friend who influenced my life in all aspect, I will miss her. My condolence to Devon, Sam, Heather, Nathan, Jack and little grandchild. She was indeed a beautiful soul.

Irene Gitau

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Irene Gitau - May 07, 2021 at 06:50 AM



“ When Sheila lived and worked in Nairobi, Kenya, she demonstrated great love for this country. It was evident that she fell in love with the people, and all that Kenya has to give. More than anything else, she interacted with everyone and shared her life with all of us. I remember when she became Mom to her 2nd born son Nathan, and she did was talk about him all day long, then before we knew it, Jack came in with his charm. Thank you for all you have taught me in this life, and for your love of God.

Devon, Sam, Heather, Nathan, Jack, and your entire family, may you find peace in knowing we continue thinking of you in your faraway home in Nrb, Kenya.

A candle in our hearts you remain forever Sheila.

Upendo, Eunice Ngugi( ISK Family)



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Eunice Ngugi - May 07, 2021 at 06:49 AM

AT

“ I was lucky enough to know Devon and Sheila when they were working and living in Nairobi Kenya. They were there when my daughter was born and we even have a photo of Sheila holding Ezell in the hospital. It was great to catch up with her and Nathan when they journeyed back to visit when Nathan graduated high school.

Sheila was such a positive person - I enjoyed her uplifting posts on Instagram and catching glimpses of her family as they grew and expanded over the recent years. I will always have fond memories of our time together in Kenya.

My deepest condolences to Devon and the boys - she was taken much too soon, but we are all better for knowing her.

sincerely

Anne Thompson-Wambua

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Anne Thompson-Wambua - May 07, 2021 at 06:36 AM

AW

“ Anne, Paul and Ezell Wambua purchased the Heartfelt Memories for the family of Sheila Elyse Roberts Veatch.



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Anne, Paul and Ezell Wambua - May 07, 2021 at 06:28 AM

MM

“*Sheila Veatch was a beautiful soul inside and out! I will fondly remember her and her love and care for her family. If there is a lesson that Sheila taught without speaking was laughter and that how you loved the boys in your life. May our dear God strengthen your family. May they always cherish those beautiful memories you created together.*

**Miriam Maina** - May 07, 2021 at 05:28 AM

PR

“*I joined ISK the year that Sheila was leaving. However, I loved connecting with her beautiful photos of the beach or flowers on Instagram. My her soul rest in peace. Om Shanti!*



**Priya** - May 07, 2021 at 05:13 AM

AZ

“*Breaks my heart to hear this! Sheila is the reason I am working at ISK. She encouraged me to apply for my first part-time job at the school 15 years ago. She introduced me and spoke on my behalf to the school leaders. 15 years and I am still grateful for that. As a full-time teacher, my boys are attending ISK and getting an education and I was able to embark on a journey of (re)discovering my love for teaching and learning. It was an absolute delight to see her when she visited recently with her son. I will always treasure those years of our small group with you, Devan, and your wife, meeting in your beautiful Manga garden home and getting to know Melodie, Sam, and Tom and Annie. What a gift. My love to you and your boys and my heartfelt condolences on your loss.*

**Alicia Zents** - May 07, 2021 at 04:54 AM

DT

“ *Dennis Hollingsworth and the Driver Education Team purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Sheila Elyse Roberts Veatch.*



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**Dennis Hollingsworth and the Driver Education Team** - May 06, 2021 at 11:20 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sheila Elyse Roberts Veatch.*



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May 06, 2021 at 10:46 AM

CF

“ *Sheila always had one of the sweetest smiles ever. She grew up across the street from my cousin and we attended the same church. Always had a bubbly personality. I know she will be missed. I can smile as I think of her seeing family members who passed before her.....and as she came face-to-face with her Jesus.*

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**Cindie Fischer** - May 06, 2021 at 12:45 AM

AM

“ *Crossing paths with Sheila many years ago in Nairobi, Kenya is something I will always be grateful for. She was full of love, kindness and empathy and truly touched everyone she met in a special way. I loved her sense of humour and her zest for life. I especially loved her endless ability to support those in need, regardless of the situation. Sheila, you are gone way too soon, but your light will continue to shine and guide those who love you. Our deepest sympathies to Devan, Sam, Nathan, Jack, Heather, Noah and family as you find the strength to deal with this profound loss.*

*Much love, Alli, Sean and Ty McGuire*

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**Allison MacDougall** - May 05, 2021 at 01:35 PM

RA

“ *Rita Andreu lit a candle in memory of Sheila Elyse Roberts Veatch*



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**Rita Andreu** - May 05, 2021 at 12:51 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Sheila Elyse Roberts Veatch.*



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May 05, 2021 at 12:08 PM