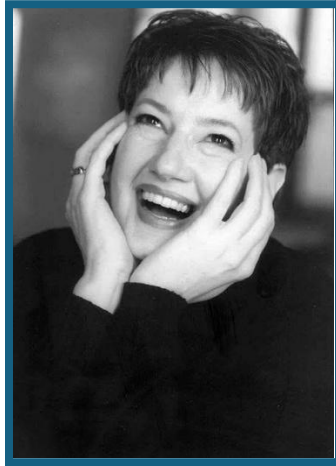


**REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING
KATRINA DIANE HALL “KATWOMAN” KELLEY
AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**



Anyone lucky enough to have met Katrina Kelley will remember her sparkling dark eyes, warm smile, deep voice, and melodious laugh. You knew at once that you were in the presence of a dynamic and vibrant human being. Full of a joyous lust for life, Katrina wanted to experience every moment fully. She appreciated the unique beauty in everyone and everything. When she was deeply enjoying something—be it a delicious piece of chocolate or the recollection of a place she held dear—her next sentence would invariably begin with a passionate sigh melding into a long “Ohhhhh...” “Ohhhh this is so delicious!” “Ohhhh I just love the beautiful lakeshore of Chicago in late May!” Her joie de vivre was infectious, reminding those around her to be present to each precious moment. Katrina didn’t just gobble down a meal while multi-tasking, she experienced it with all her senses. Katrina loved to see, smell, taste, and savor every bite.

And she would always conclude with “Ohhhh my, is that good!”

Empathy came naturally to Katrina. Even when she was in the middle of a tough or frustrating time she would always check in with YOU; she wanted to see how YOU were doing and if she could help YOU in any way. If you were fortunate enough to have Katrina as a friend, colleague, or neighbor, she was there for you 100%!

**REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING
KATRINA DIANE HALL “KATWOMAN” KELLEY
AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**

Endlessly loyal, Katrina could be counted on to help you solve any problem. She might say in her warm voice, “Well now, let's LOOK at this....” Or with a mischievous twinkle in her eye she might muse, “Well ...why CAN'T we do that? By gum, by golly!”



Katrina Diane Hall was born *on* August 29,1951 in San Antonio, Texas; The first of four children to loving parents Samuel Pettus Hall Jr. and Diane Spurlock Hall. The family moved to Alabama: first to Decatur and finally, to Florence, where they were blessed and raised their wonderful family: Katrina, Samuel Pettus Hall III, Barron Hall, & Bridgett Hall Vines.

**REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING
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AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**

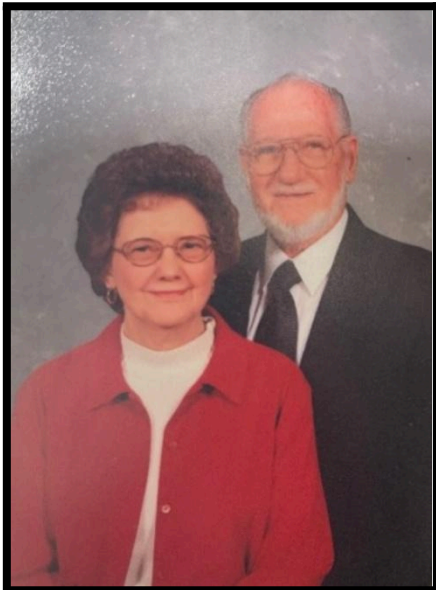


Bridgett recalls their dad Sam as a “softie” and a true Christian, and their mom Diane as a “force of nature,” a trait she passed down to both her daughters. Katrina and Bridgett, though ten years apart, bonded powerfully while their beloved mother fought a valiant battle with cancer. They attended concerts, plays and musicals together, and when Katrina enrolled at Florence State University (now the University of North Alabama) as a Drama major, Bridgett loved helping backstage with her makeup and costume changes. Katrina even gave her teenage sister a thrill by allowing her to stay overnight in the girls’ dorm.

**REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING
KATRINA DIANE HALL “KATWOMAN” KELLEY
AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**



Katrina was twenty-six when her mother passed. She had met Tim Kelley while they were both students at Florence State, and after graduating the two married. Katrina then coaxed her father into joining the singles group at Highland Baptist Church where he had been a teacher and deacon for many years. There, Sam met and married Laverne Kelley, and the family gained their “bonus Mom” and a sister, Pam Kelley Quillen.



**REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING
KATRINA DIANE HALL “KATWOMAN” KELLEY
AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**

Katrina made her professional acting debut in neighboring Tuscumbia, where William Gibson’s play THE MIRACLE WORKER was performed yearly on the grounds of Helen Keller’s childhood home. Over two summers Katrina played both Annie Sullivan, Helen’s incredible teacher, as well as Kate Keller, Helen’s valiant mother. Katrina loved bringing the story of such courageous and inspiring women to life.



Katrina and Tim loved each other deeply but soon realized they had very different goals for their lives. Tim wanted to settle down and have a family. Katrina longed to travel and perform, spreading her joy and talent to the world beyond Alabama. Tim respected her passion and supported Katrina in making her dream a reality. While he continued building their nest in Florence, Katrina expanded her reach first to Memphis, where she played Rosalie in CARNIVAL at the Playhouse on the Square. After ten years of being apart more than together, the couple agreed to an amicable, but permanent separation.

Katrina could now follow her artistic ambitions wherever they led her. She relished moving to a new city to do a show or to be near a colleague who inspired her. When asked how she was going to manage such a nomadic and spontaneous lifestyle, she responded “I’ll make it work” and then packed up to go on her next adventure.

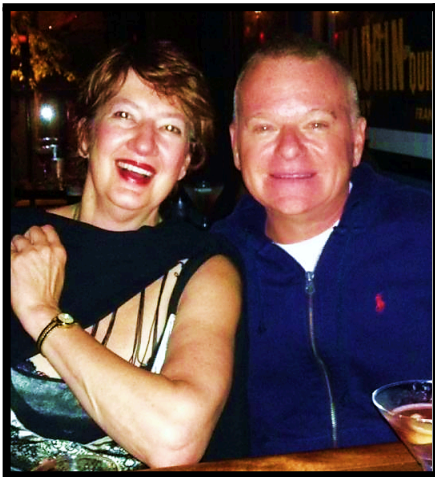
**REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING
KATRINA DIANE HALL “KATWOMAN” KELLEY
AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**



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AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**

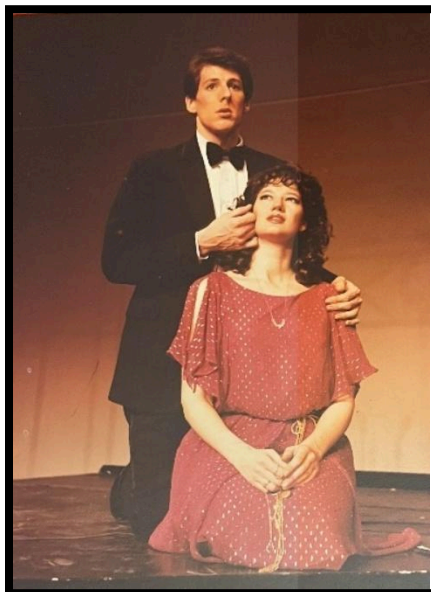


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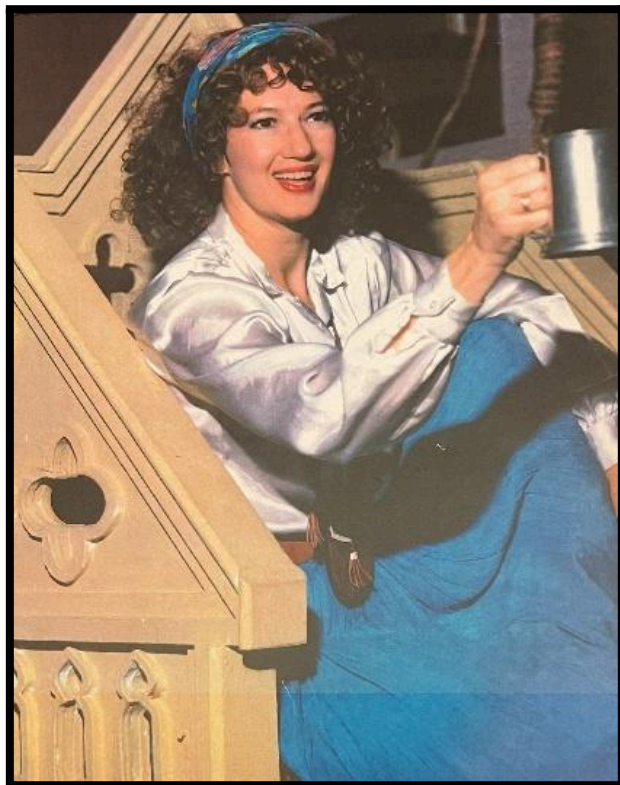


In the Fall of 1983 Katrina joined The Nebraska Theater Caravan for a nine-month touring season of plays, musicals and workshops across the Midwest. Being a full-time professional actor/teacher was Heaven for Katrina; her roles with the Caravan included Ophelia in HAMLET, Emma Goldman in TINTYPES, and Mrs. Cratchit in A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

**REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING
KATRINA DIANE HALL “KATWOMAN” KELLEY
AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**

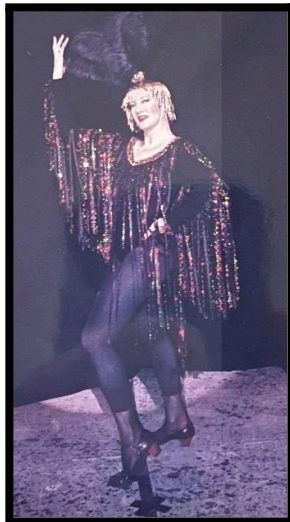
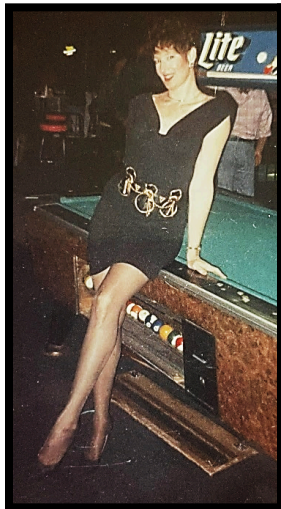


**REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING
KATRINA DIANE HALL “KATWOMAN” KELLEY
AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**



**REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING
KATRINA DIANE HALL “KATWOMAN” KELLEY
AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**

Between acting gigs, she created and ran her own singing telegram company, Kelleygrams, providing customized performances for clients. She might arrive glamorously dressed in satin or sparkles, and sing her own jazz / scat version of “Happy Birthday” with incredible energy and joy. Or she might appear as one of her own unique characters, such as Space Roach, which she played in a silver body suit with a giant “Hershey’s Kiss” headpiece, including antennae. Space Roach would “travel light years” to deliver an unforgettable custom routine of “coded messages and songs from a galaxy far, far away.” Kelleygrams accompanied Katrina to Seattle, California, Michigan, Milwaukee, and Chicago to name a few of the places she called home. Wherever she was, she “made it work, by gum by golly!”



**REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING
KATRINA DIANE HALL “KATWOMAN’ KELLEY
AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**

Katrina was accepted into the prestigious Drama Studio of London in 1986, and spent a year honing her acting craft at their Berkeley, California campus. Bridgett took her first-ever plane ride to visit her there.

**REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING
KATRINA DIANE HALL “KATWOMAN” KELLEY
AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**



Summers found her dazzling summer stock audiences in western Michigan, where she played leading roles such as Pegeen in MAME, Elvira

**REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING
KATRINA DIANE HALL “KATWOMAN” KELLEY
AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**

in BLITHE SPIRIT, Ginger in the 1940’s RADIO HOUR, Doris in SAME TIME NEXT YEAR and Lorraine Sheldon in THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER among others. She was never happier than when she was working on multiple challenging projects at one time.



Katrina also collaborated with her fellow artists to create exciting solo shows and cabarets, which she performed in festivals across the country.

**REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING
KATRINA DIANE HALL “KATWOMAN” KELLEY
AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**

She created and taught classes for the Educational Theatre Conference, sharing her experience and technique with hundreds of students nationwide.

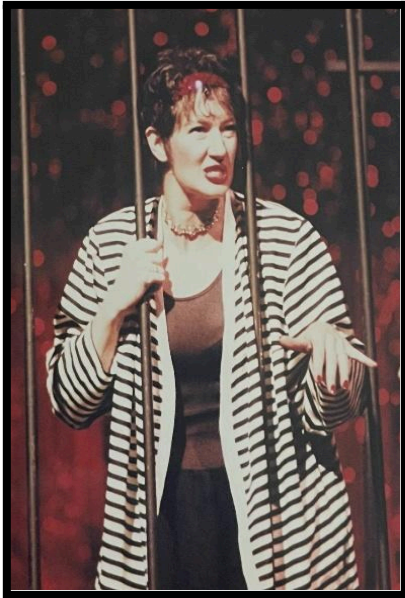


One of her signature songs was “Le Jazz Hot” from “Victor Victoria,” which she ended with a thrilling two-octave vocal slide and a high kick. At one audition her heeled sandal flew off her foot, sailed high into the air, and got stuck in the ceiling! A happy accident became legendary, and Katrina replicated it at subsequent performances. She even considered opening her own nightclub, to be called The Flying Sandal.



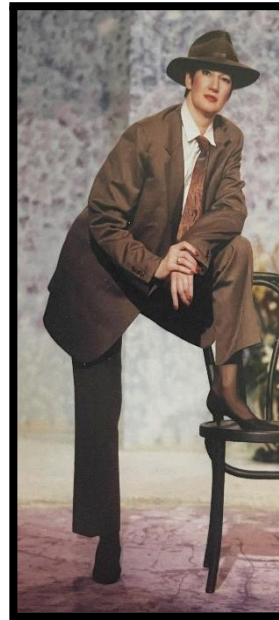
**REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING
KATRINA DIANE HALL “KATWOMAN” KELLEY
AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**

Around this time Katrina settled in Chicago, where she appeared as a glamorous Amazon in the first major revival of Stephen Sondheim’s musical FROGS, performed in the Roosevelt University swimming pool. Katrina thrived in the stimulating Chicago theater and cabaret scene; she also attracted a circle of loving, supportive friends. Bridgett took the train north to visit her numerous times.



Katrina was a committed activist and advocate for all forms of human rights. She loved nothing more than doing a show with a message of racial harmony, sexual freedom and gender equality. One such show was THE CLUB. Set in an exclusive men’s club in the early 1900’s, the show satirized male privilege with an all-female cast playing the misogynistic club members. Katrina played Ted Parker, the chairman of The Club. She often spoke of the amazing effect the show had on audiences, who appreciated its message of liberation and equal rights for all.

**REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING
KATRINA DIANE HALL “KATWOMAN” KELLEY
AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**



Katrina was a spiritual seeker, and though she loved the “old time religion” of her youth, she also sought inspiration outside the traditional church. She found like-minded metaphysical explorers at Unity of Chicago, a New Thought community that became her spiritual home for a number of years.

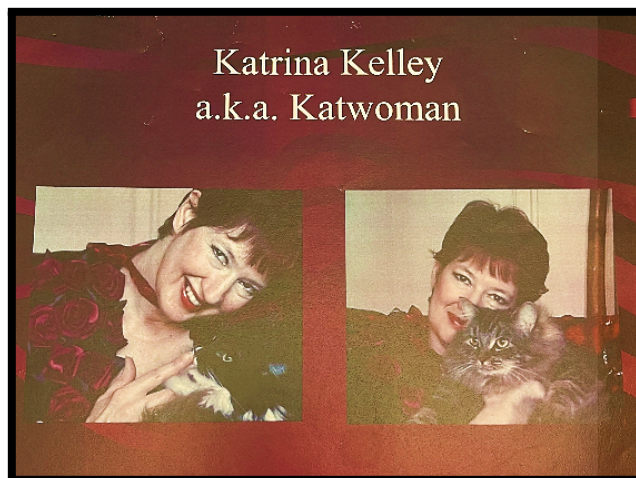


**REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING
KATRINA DIANE HALL “KATWOMAN” KELLEY
AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**

Eventually the brutal Chicago winters—and a diagnosis of Parkinson’s Disease—began to take their toll on Katrina’s body and even on her resilient spirit. She decided to move home to Florence.

Her beloved parents had passed, but much of the Hall family, including Bridgett and Sam 3, lived in the area. Katrina loved being part of their lives as sister, aunt, niece, and cousin.

She achieved local renown as “Katwoman Kelley,” a lifelong nurturer of the feline species.



**REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING
KATRINA DIANE HALL “KATWOMAN” KELLEY
AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**

She also shared her theatrical skills with her Alabama community. From her apartment and at a community center nearby, Katrina led workshops in Psychodrama, using theater games and exercises to help participants work through emotional issues and find joy, happiness, and connection.

As Parkinson’s began to affect her physical condition, Katrina reached deep inside for the humor to cope, the strength to persevere, and the will to live fully. If she was feeling frustrated, she would quote her beloved father Sam: “Dad gum it!” or “Dag nabbit!” Then she’d chuckle softly and keep searching for a solution. When the use of a walker became necessary, she was determined to remain confident in her stride.

She asked her trusted friend, theater director Joshua Finkel, to recommend songs that she could hum or sing to keep herself moving. Observers would often smile and sing along to “Mame” or. “New York, New York” with this magnetic Pied Piper.

**REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING
KATRINA DIANE HALL “KATWOMAN” KELLEY
AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**



Katrina’s personal style expressed her distinctive personality. She often chose bold colors and patterns with an element of “bling” that sparkled in the light. In response to the seemingly endless gray of a Midwestern winter, she would pull out a hot pink scarf and magenta wool winter coat. She was the epitome of “glass half full” optimism, shared through her “brighten the corner where you are” philosophy. When recovering from an exhausting medical procedure, Katrina would wrap herself in her favorite white faux fur cape, or her glamorous black chiffon rhinestone-studded shawl.

Then she would make her way to her building’s lobby to lead a sing along, or start a storytelling circle with the other residents. She took great pleasure in bringing people together and building a sense of community. She might talk to a gardener about having flowers donated to the building

**REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING
KATRINA DIANE HALL “KATWOMAN” KELLEY
AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**

to bring color and joy to an otherwise bland space. Whatever it was, she found a way to make it work, “by gum by golly!”



Katrina loved people, and she loved theater and music for the opportunities they gave people to express themselves boldly and fearlessly. Her own fears and insecurities never stopped her from giving her all. She always demanded the best from herself; if she found it harder to do that on a particular day, she would reach out to a friend and say, ‘Hey, I need to laugh. Tell me a joke.’

Katrina worked hard all her life to overcome adversity and to make a positive difference in the world. Her lifelong commitment to humanity, creativity and love kept her light shining brightly. Her greatest wish was for everyone to open their hearts, minds, and spirits to all the possibilities of

**REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING
KATRINA DIANE HALL “KATWOMAN” KELLEY
AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**

life. We will always remember her when we sing one of her favorite songs:
“This little light of mine...I’m gonna let it shine.”

Katrina, “Katwoman” Kelley, thank you for blazing your dynamic trail here on Earth. We will look for you, our favorite Pied Piper, blazing across the heavens as you journey on your next wonderful adventure.

For now we say, “au revoir,” dear Katrina, the actual French translation being ‘until we see each other again.’

It’s not finite; it’s an invitation for more.

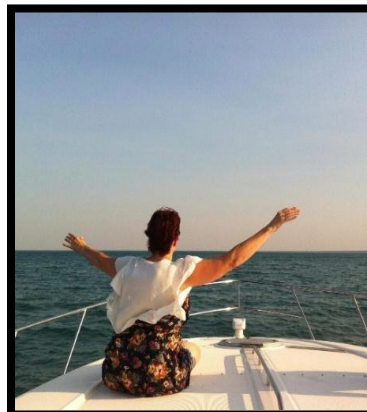
More fun, more work, more love, more life.

“Well, why CAN’T we do that? By gum, by golly!”



Should you wish to honor Katrina’s memory, we ask that you donate to the facility she used, valued and loved dearly.

THE CARING PLACE OF THE SHOALS
<https://www.caringplaceshoals.org/donate>



**REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING
KATRINA DIANE HALL "KATWOMAN" KELLEY
AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**

**Father: Samuel Pettus Hall Jr.
Mother: Diane Spurlock Hall
Bonus mom: Lavern Kelley Hall**

Siblings:

**Sam P. Hall III, Barron Ross Hall,
Pam Kelley Quillen (Darryl), Bridgett Hall Vines (Gerald)**

Nieces/nephews:

**Jessi Vines , Kelli Bassham (Zach and Kalli),
Kay Kay (Dylan) Braxton, Sadi and Kye.
Matthew Hall, Rodney Hall, Diane Celyn Hall, Barroness Hall,
Ben Hall (Jennifer) Dylan and Aiden, Ava Hall, Leah Hall Carney (Garrett),
Conner Potts.**



**MEMORIAL, RECEPTION AND CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR KATRINA
WILL BE HELD AT**

**12:00 P.M.
FRIDAY JUNE 27, 2025**

**REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING
KATRINA DIANE HALL “KATWOMAN” KELLEY
AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
224 E. MOBILE STREET
FLORENCE, ALABAMA, 35630
(256) 764-2081
<https://www.fpcflorence.org>**

VIEWING LINKS ON FOLLOWING PAGE

**LINKS TO THE MEMORIAL AND CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR
KATRINA DIANE HALL “KATWOMAN” KELLEY**

MEMORIAL PROGRAM

ONLINE VIDEO STREAM OF THE SERVICE:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/RKsPwBJUtFw?si=pkOmoZlZgLjuMBbk>

**RECEPTION, STORYTELLING, MUSICAL TRIBUTES FOR KATRINA TO
FOLLOW IN THE DOWNSTAIRS LIBRARY / FELLOWSHIP HALL AT THE
CHURCH FOLLOWING THE MEMORIAL.**

**VIDEO OF THE RECEPTION IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY
FOLLOWING THE SERVICE**

**REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING
KATRINA DIANE HALL “KATWOMAN’ KELLEY
AUGUST 29 ,1951- MARCH 26, 2025**

[VIDEO OF SLIDE SHOW FROM THE RECEPTION](#)

 **Remembering and Celebrating Katrina Diane Hall "Katwoman" Kelley Slid...**