



## Melanie Beth Schaffner

February 21, 1969 - July 5, 2024

Melanie Beth Schaffner, aged 55, passed away peacefully at home on July 5, 2024, in Glen Burnie, Maryland. Born on February 21, 1969, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Melanie was known for her vibrant spirit and compassionate nature.

Melanie graduated from Dulaney High School in Timonium, Maryland, in 1987, and later pursued higher education, studying Music Business at the Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts at the New School in New York City, the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, receiving a B.Sc. in Geography and Environmental Systems in 2005 and an M.S in Environmental Sciences and Policy at Johns Hopkins University in 2010. Her academic journey was a lifelong pursuit of knowledge and personal growth.

Melanie began her career in the music industry at Concrete Marketing and then Capitol Records, both in New York City. She wrote numerous articles profiling musicians and rock bands, both in New York City and later for ROX magazine in Baltimore. Her next marketing venture was with Absolute Entertainment in Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, a video game publishing company. She returned to her home in Baltimore in the mid-1990s and has worked for the Johns Hopkins University Press: Project MUSE for over 27 years, culminating as the Director of Communication, Marketing and Engagement. Melanie Schaffner ([jhu.edu](http://jhu.edu))

Throughout her life, Melanie was deeply passionate about music, pet rescue, theatre, and travel. These interests not only brought joy to her life but also to

those around her, as she was always eager to share her experiences and discoveries. Melanie's enthusiasm for life was infectious, and her presence at any event was a guarantee of warmth, laughter and good food. Melanie experienced an incredibly rich, satisfying life, full of love and adventure. Melanie met Marc while both were serving as skating officials for regional roller derby. She believed that whenever time and means allowed, she should not "wait for later" but rather take the trip/see the concert/eat the fancy meal/go on the adventure/try the new hobby/buy the expensive tickets/get the degrees/travel to exotic destinations and so much more. One of her most recent expeditions was a cruise from Vancouver, British Columbia to Seward, Alaska with Marc, also visiting Denali, and staying in a yurt with Alaskan Iditarod sled dogs. Melanie had so many wonderful friends and family willing to join her in these experiences. She had very little left on her "bucket list" - the bucket was overflowing, and she was grateful. She would not want those left behind to experience sorrow, pain, and grief, but rather take joy in the life she lived and the memories they shared with her. Her friends and family kept her smiling and reminded her in recent months that she was more than just a sick person, but rather still our Melanie that we all treasured, valued and loved.

She is survived by her partner, Marc E. Rollins, his son, Connor F. Rollins, her mother, Dorothy R. Cross and stepfather, Howard E. Cross, and her sister, Melissa A. Schaffner. Melanie's sweet cats, Louis, Mama Cass, Denny and Teddy, will miss her tremendously. Melanie was preceded in death by her father, Robert Thomas Schaffner, Jr., maternal grandparents, Lloyd and Ruth Gingrich and paternal grandparents, Robert and Sarah Schaffner.

A Celebration of Life service will be planned at a later date, where friends and family will gather to honor Melanie's memory and the incredible impact she had on their lives.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Melanie's memory to Anne Arundel SaveCats: Front Page - SAVECats ([aacsavecats.org](http://aacsavecats.org)), Gentle Giants Draft Horse Rescue: Gentle Giants ([gentlegiantsdraffthorserescue.org](http://gentlegiantsdraffthorserescue.org)), or the

Kerrville Folk Festival Foundation: Donate | [kerrvillefolkfest](https://kerrvillefolkfest.org)  
([kerrvillefolkfestival.org](https://kerrvillefolkfestival.org)). These organizations reflect her love for animals and the arts, and contributions will help continue the work that was her passion.

# Tribute Wall

DB

“ I worked with Melanie at JHUP for almost 12 years. Although we worked in separate buildings, I got to know Melanie through the JHUP Diversity Committee Book Club. We had meaningful discussions of a number of books, and I felt very grateful to have Melanie as a friend and colleague. She was a positive, good-humored, smart woman. Being with her was always a gift to me. I miss her.

Debby Bors - July 21, 2024 at 10:56 AM

FC

“ I found that Melanie Schaffner was always helpful and willing to share her knowledge with people all over. I will miss her advise.  
Flor Cubero, Escazu Costa Rica

Flor Cubero - July 14, 2024 at 10:42 PM

D(

“ I always enjoyed working with Melanie -- she was not just bright and thoroughly professional, but kind and multifaceted! The last time I saw her was at ER&L several years ago and, while our intentions were good to talk shop, my memory is that we never got past chatting about our personal interests. :-) Sending much sympathy to her family and all who hold Melanie dear.

Donna LaFollette (SCELC) - July 10, 2024 at 07:32 PM

LN

“ My deepest condolences to Melanie's family. I always appreciated Melanie's generosity as we discussed the changing environment of publishing and met at conferences. Her absence is deeply felt.  
Lisa Nachtigall, OUP

Lisa Nachtigall - July 10, 2024 at 01:51 PM

JB

“ I was shocked and saddened to hear of Melanie's passing. I'm one of the hundreds of people she worked with in the Academic Library world. Melanie was always so kind, helpful, flexible and funny. My deepest condolences to her friends and family.

Jeff Brunner - July 10, 2024 at 12:51 PM

DC

“ Melanie Beth Schaffner

Dorothy R Cross - July 09, 2024 at 06:28 PM

LY

“ Melanie there are just no words to express how I feel and I will try to start living by your precious words you left to us on CCC. We all need to live each day like it's our last so when it's our time we can be at peace knowing we lived to compete our bucket list my you rest in peace beautiful woman 🥹🙏❤️

Lynn - July 09, 2024 at 05:01 PM

LL

“ I am so saddened to hear of Melanie's passing. We presented a paper together 16 years ago, and Melanie was always a friend to the library community. Melanie was always fun to be around, and when I think of our times together, it makes me smile. (We had a terrific dinner together at SSP in 2012! I won't forget). I will miss seeing you at the JHU Press booth. Your smile was infectious. Thank you for being part of my work life; I will miss seeing you. Yet, I know you're always in our hearts in spirit—my condolences. Liz Lorbeer

Liz Lorbeer - July 09, 2024 at 12:50 PM

HM

“ I was fortunate to work with Melanie at Project MUSE since 2019. She was always helpful when I had questions. She was cheerful, upbeat, and loved music. We talked about the Beatles once, and she said she had gotten Marc tickets for his 50th birthday to see Paul McCartney at Camden Yards. Then she told me about the Fab Faux and the individual New York session musicians who make up the band. She was a lovely person who had music in her heart. My condolences to her family.

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**Helen MacDiarmid** - July 09, 2024 at 12:32 PM

DK

“ Sorry to hear of Melanie’s passing. What a wonderful person . She always had a smile. Know that you are all in my prayers.

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**Diane Keefer** - July 09, 2024 at 12:17 PM

TC

“ I am so shocked and saddened to hear of Melanie's passing. She was such a lovely person. Years ago, we worked together at JHUPress helping to get Project Muse onto its feet and into libraries, back when online journals were still new in the world. She was full of life, insight and had a zeal for exploring the world. We would often joke that we were more likely to see each other in London, Frankfurt, or Chicago than we would be to see each other in our hometown of Baltimore. I will miss seeing her, enjoying a wonderful dinner on the road, and sharing stories about the interesting things we might see on our business travels about the world. RIP Mel, you had a terrific impact on those you interacted with and we will miss you!

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**Todd Carpenter** - July 09, 2024 at 11:46 AM

KB

“ I am so sorry to hear of Melanie's passing. She was a pleasure to work with, embodying everything good in the vendor piece of scholarly communications. I've known her for the last 24 years as the smart, warm, ever engaged face and voice of Project Muse. Very sincere condolences to her family and friends.

Katie Brady - July 09, 2024 at 11:33 AM

JR

“ What tough news to learn of a sweet HS marching band friend's passing on this beautiful summer day. Melanie was always kind and ready for fun. When thinking of her I recall her laughter, happy eyes, and her beautiful auburn hair. I'm sure God welcomed her home immediately and am sorry to learn that this sweet woman left us after an illness. Looks like after HS she continued to be the amazing fun woman I knew her as- continuing to be that kind, caring girl who enjoyed and seized the ordinary days as magical moments when they presented themselves. Carpe Diem well done Melanie!🌸

Jocelyn Reinke-Lowe - July 07, 2024 at 05:30 PM

DB

“ I am so very sorry for Mel's family, partner, and friends. Melanie and I were friends for almost thirty years. I shall miss her more than I know right now, but every time I hear Stevie, EWF, P-Funk ... I'll think of her dancing...everyone dancing and just enjoying friends. That was our last communication... \"always keep dancing.\"

Dana Battaglia - July 07, 2024 at 05:02 PM

PA

“ Your heart and soul were too big for this world, so now you have all of Heaven to inspire.

Paula - July 07, 2024 at 03:03 PM

MJ

“ I'm lost... my heart. We are great friends. She was kind and loved. Condolences to our friends and family. ❤️😭❤️

Myra Jackson - July 07, 2024 at 12:13 PM

SM

“ Mel and I met at MTR many years ago and shared a love of horses and helping those who needed extra assistance. Her compassion was only surpassed by her laughter and love of life. Even though we haven't seen each other in a while, I will miss my friend.

Susie McManus - July 07, 2024 at 09:50 AM

BE

“ Giving thanks for all that Melanie shared with us.

Bourbon / Emily - July 06, 2024 at 09:55 PM

MB

“ Dearest, \r\n\r\nWe feel deep sadness upon hearing about the loss of your beloved daughter after her courageous battle. Words cannot express the sorrow we feel for all of you during this incredibly difficult time.\r\n\r\nMelanie's strength and resilience were truly inspiring, and her memory will forever remain in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know her. Please know that we are here for you, offering our love, support, and deepest condolences.\r\n\r\nMay you find comfort in the cherished memories you shared and in the love of family and friends who surround you.\r\n\r\nWith heartfelt sympathy,\r\nMike and Ellen Byrd

Mike and Ellen Byrd - July 06, 2024 at 04:33 PM

LK

“ I will forever cherish our discussions regarding love and relationships. Bux opened my eyes and helped me truly value the love I have.

Leslie Nope Neveleff aka Kitty - July 06, 2024 at 04:20 PM

SM

“ I will never forget the when Melanie, Karyn and I rode to NERFA. Going through PA we noticed the unique towns and made up county of our own. Buxom County. What a fun trip that was. Melanie was a beautiful friend. She made everything special. ❤️

Susie Markland - July 06, 2024 at 03:45 PM

BN

“ Camp NashBill will not be the same without you! :( forever missed, please know you are loved, and will always be missed! <3

Bill Nash - July 06, 2024 at 03:40 PM

SG

“ Mel lit up the room when she walked in and her infectious laugh and joyous spirit could immediately engulf you. I was lucky enough to meet her in 1989 due to the music business and our Baltimore connection sealed our friendship. A consummate professional, she always made ROX Magazine deadlines, and I adored her for that! And I adored her for so much more because she was a genuinely kind and loving friend. My deepest condolences to Marc, her family and all her friends who were touched by her light.

Sue Hodges Grant - July 06, 2024 at 02:34 PM

AM

“ I loved Melanie in any game she officiated, but I especially loved being friends outside Derby the most. We feel so blessed we were a stop on last summer's Vermont road trip. She will always be a bit of joy in our hearts. Our love and peace with Marc and the family.

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**Amy & Mark Moore** - July 06, 2024 at 02:33 PM

SG

“ Shakespeare's quote defined Mel: \"How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a weary world.\" The world is less bright now.\"

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**Sue Hodges Grant** - July 06, 2024 at 02:04 PM

MG

“ I hope you fly on your angel wings to the top of this tree and rejoice in how much beauty you brought to our world.

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**Marci Geller** - July 06, 2024 at 01:32 PM

JG

“ You lived an amazing life sweet cousin. You will be missed but always in our hearts.

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**Joni Giancola** - July 06, 2024 at 01:08 PM

CD

“ Deepest condolences to Marc and all her loved ones. For the almost 40 years I was lucky to know Melanie, nobody exhibited the joie de vivre and living in the moment that she did and she brightened every space she entered. She will always be remembered and missed ❤️❤️❤️🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕🐕

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**Christina DiEdoardo** - July 06, 2024 at 01:00 PM

SM

“ So many memories, but the one that stands out most was driving together to Rochester, NY for a roller derby game. I got to know so much about her and what amazing people Melanie and Marc are.

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**Sarah Maher** - July 06, 2024 at 12:37 PM

AS

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ *Simplicity Cremation & Funeral Services*

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**A Memorial Tree was planted for Melanie Beth Schaffner** - July 06, 2024 at 08:51 AM