



# Kristina Massie Swain

MAR 13, 1933 - DEC 23, 2012



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## **Kristina Massie Swain**

MAR 13, 1933 - DEC 23, 2012

**K**ristina Massie Swain, 79, of Seaford succumbed to complications of Alzheimer's Disease at the home of her daughter in Laurel, Delaware, on December 22, 2012, after a long illness.

Born March 13, 1933, in Hampstead, Maryland to Judson and Alice Howell Massie, she grew up primarily in Newport News, Virginia. A graduate of Warwick High School, she continued her education at Mary Washington College and East Carolina University, earning a BS in Biology in 1957. Her student teaching was completed in Bridgeville, Delaware; her career at Seaford High School from 1969 – 1992. A co-sponsor of American Field Service, she also hosted foreign exchange students Toril Lilian Heide from Norway and Kay Penkethman of England. As the faculty sponsor of the Keyette Club, Seaford High School's service club was recognized at convention year after year for outstanding achievement in service and scholarship. Mrs. Swain will be remembered for her dedication to Seaford High School's musical productions, sewing costumes and teaching many young people to use a sewing machine and their imagination and creative talents to authenticate period costumes. Much of the preparation for these costumes took place in her basement, affectionately known as "The Dungeon". As faculty sponsor of Seaford's Academic Decathlon team, this small city's high school took top honors in a national arena for many years.

Respected by colleagues, Kristina was active in the Seaford chapter of Delaware State Education Association throughout her career. She enjoyed reading, sewing, baking, cooking, hiking, music, gardening, and exploration. One of her favorite applications of her major in college, botany, was taking her children, then grandchildren, on seasonal hunts through the woods for endangered species, rare blossoms, and exploration of the habitat of the world of nature we shared. She taught her children and her students the importance of being good stewards of the earth's beauty and bounty.

Encouraging her children to participate in school activities and sports, she was an avid fan of Duke Basketball. A member of Atlanta Road Alliance Church, she thoroughly enjoyed the choir's



## Obituary

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annual ministries through their Christmas and Easter cantatas.

Kristina is survived by her children: Tommy Lynn Layton (Gary) of Ashburn, Virginia; Danna Lou Palmer (Charles), Montine Carey Willin (JC), Kristopher Ryan Swain (Kim) all of Seaford, DE; Valerie Kristina Kerns (Randy) of Martinsburg, WV; and Alison Marie Venables (Blair) of Laurel, DE. She is also survived by eighteen grandchildren: Bryan Vincent Layton (Jennifer), Kristin Michelle Aguas (Rod), Thad Edward Palmer, Kyle Thomas Palmer, Christie Lynn Herndon (Randy), Brent Thomas Willin, Courtney Ruth Swain, Taylor Kristina Swain, Jamie Elizabeth Swain, Morgan Carey Swain, Maggie Marie Kerns, Drew Thomas Venables, Paige Marie Venables, Dustin Blair Venables, Gray Robert Venables, Hannah Kate Venables, Amy Alicia Venables, and Nathan Ryan Venables. In addition, Kristina has nine beautiful great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Kristina was predeceased by her husband, Thomas Ryan Swain, daughter, Murray Alicia Swain, grandson, CPL Cory Leonard Palmer, USMC, and brothers, Jack Livingston Massie and Gordon Carey Massie.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday December 29, 2012 at 12 Noon at the Atlanta Road Alliance Church, 22625 Atlanta Road, Seaford, DE with Ed Laremore officiating, where viewing will begin at 10:30 AM at the church. A reception will immediately follow the services at the church. A viewing will also be held on Friday evening from 6-9 PM at the Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium, Hardesty Chapel, 202 Laws Street, Bridgeville, DE.

Interment will be on Monday December 31, 2012 at 11:00 AM at Peninsula Memorial Park, 12750 Warwick Boulevard, Newport News, VA.

Contributions may be made to Atlanta Road Alliance Church, 22625 Atlanta Rd, Seaford, De, 19973; Seaford Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 87, Seaford, DE 19973; or Nanticoke Memorial Hospital Benevolence Fund, 801 Middleford Rd., Seaford, DE 19973.

Please sign the online guest registry on this page.

PDF Printable Version



# Events


**Kristina Massie Swain**

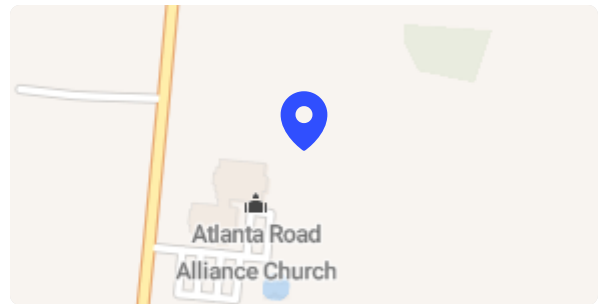
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## Funeral Service

 **Saturday**, December 29, 2012

 12:00 PM ET


 **Atlanta Road Alliance Church**  
22625 Atlanta Road, Seaford De

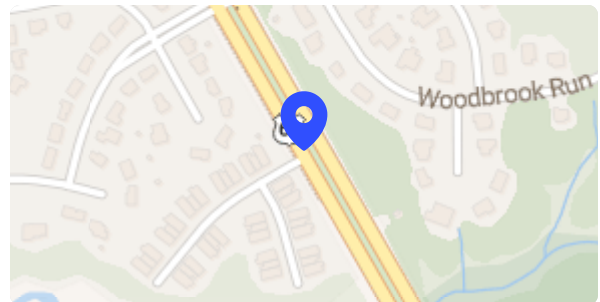


## Interment

 **Monday**, December 31, 2012

 11:00 AM ET

 **Peninsula Memorial Park**  
Warwick Blvd, Newport News VA





## Tribute Wall

**Kristina Massie Swain**

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MW

**Montine Willin** posted:

Karen, Kay and Dorothy Ann; I just re-read your notes. thanks so much for writing. Love to each of you. Still going thru our year of "firsts" without mother...first spring, very hard for us, first summer...still in that one.

August 19 at 8:00 PM

DA

**Dorothy Ann** posted:

So strange that Aunt Kristina is not here with us anymore. But Uncle Tommy has waited long enough! And so has she!! Oh I will be so overjoyed to see them again! Thank-you, God, for caring for them not only while they were with us, but also even now! And thank-you too, God, for blessing us with them here.

March 25 at 8:00 PM

KP

**Kay Penkethman** posted:

I was very blessed to be welcomed into the Swain family as their host student in 1981/82. I was only 16 on my first trip abroad and my first trip away from my family. Mom made me so very welcome and I quickly became one of the family. Mom was a remarkable lady with an amazing inner strength. I have so many memories there was Mom the seamstress she made all the costumes for the My Fair Lady school play that year and clothes for all of us. The was Mom the cook there was beautiful aromas from the kitchen and we had many many wonderful family meals around the big dining table, where we were all encouraged to discuss our day. There was Mom the host to ever expanding family dinners. There was Mom the teacher and guide to so many and Mom the home maker and what a beautiful warm and inviting home she made. Mom was so hard working often taking on so many extras duties to help others and was always up early to fit it all into her day. She was a wonderfully kind and generous lady. She touched so many lives including mine my memories of my American Mom will live with me for ever. Good night and God bless Mom love Kay x

March 24 at 8:00 PM

KT

**Karen (Moore) Tice** posted:

I am so very sorry to hear about the loss of your mom. As every other student that she taught knows, she was amazing. I know how hard it is to be separated from your mom. You will miss her daily but always talk about her and laugh at the wonderful things that remind you of how special she was. God bless.

March 22 at 8:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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MW

**Montine Willin** posted:

Thank you Gayle, Susan, Sally and Wayne for your messages. We appreciate your thoughts and you sharing them with us here. I have printed them to make sure all my siblings see them, and will remind them to visit this page if they have not yet done so. Mother was an amazing woman and touched so many young lives at school. She especially touched the 7 lives she and daddy brought into this world! What a blessing she was and in memories still is to us all!

March 22 at 8:00 PM

WR

**Wayne Rigby** posted:

A friend and fellow science department member. Always a ready smile and helping hand.

December 28 at 8:00 PM

SE

**Susan Mason/Sally Evans** posted:

Dear Swain Family, So sorry to read about your Mom's passing especially during the Christmas Season, Our thoughts and Prayers are with you. Life changes now that you have lost both parents, I know that she will be celebrating with Jesus this year. I know that your strong faith will sustain you all through this season of grief. We share your loss. Your Mom was a wonderful and dedicated teacher in the Seaford School district. Love, Susan Mason and Sally Mason Evans, Smithfield, Virginia formally of Seaford, Delaware

December 23 at 8:00 PM

GZ

**Gayle Swain Zimmerman** posted:

My heart is full of sympathy for all of you in the grief you are experiencing now -- and truly have felt for some time. The hope of our reunion in heaven is some comfort, but we also can rest knowing of the many ways He holds and comforts us. He even weeps with us. We will see you soon, and we will laugh and cry and hug and thank our Glorious God that he loved Kristina enough to take her home.

December 22 at 8:00 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Kristina by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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