



Gina Lee Gilbreath Holdar

October 12, 1968 - December 12, 2023

Gina Lee Gilbreath Holdar, 55, of Sigtuna, Sweden died peacefully on December 12, 2023, with her husband Sven by her side. Gina fought a lengthy battle with Multiple System Atrophy (MSA), a neurological disease. She was born October 12, 1968, to Margaret and Earl Gilbreath.

Gina is survived by her devoted husband, Sven Holdar; her sons Leif and Torsten Holdar; parents, Earl and Margaret Gilbreath; sister Karen Clarkson (Allen); nephew Kyle Clarkson (Jennifer); niece Ashlan Clarkson (Morgan). Upon graduation from Gordon Lee High School in Chickamauga, Ga in 1986, she continued her education at the University of Georgia where she received her Ph.D. in sociology in 1994.

She joined the Civic Education Project that year and moved to Yekaterinburg, Russia where she taught sociology at the Urals State University. She later also taught one year at the Nizhny Novgorod State University in Russia before taking up a position as sociology professor at Queens University, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

It was in Yekaterinburg that she met her husband Sven. They always felt they were meant to be together, they stood by each other in thick and thin and were each other's best friends. Gina and Sven got married in Chickamauga in 1998.

Gina lived an extraordinary life living in, and traveling to, many countries. She and Sven lived and worked for five years in Kyiv, Ukraine, four years in the Republic of Georgia and four years in Armenia and travelled in Europe, to

Africa and Asia.

When it was time for their boys Leif (born in 2004) and Torsten (2006) to start school they moved to Sweden in 2010. Here, based on Gina's interest in design and clothes, they started a business selling American vintage clothes in Stockholm and importing American glass and enamel which they wholesaled to Scandinavia and Europe.

Gina was bright, beautiful and determined even at the end of her life. She was able to cross cultural barriers and her positive and cheerful personality made her many close friends from all walks of life and all over the world who loved her fun nature.

She will be deeply missed by her family who loves her dearly. She was the best wife, mother, daughter and sister to us all.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday the 20th of January, with visitation at 1 pm at the Wilson Funeral Home, Chickamauga Chapel, 215 Lee Avenue withensuing memorial service at 2 pm. A reception will then immediately follow at Droop Scoops, 120 Gordon Street in Chickamauga. The family asks that guests wear a favorite piece of clothing or color to celebrate Gina.

Donations in memory of Gina can be given to the Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research at michaeljfox.org .

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

JAN 20. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Wilson Funeral Homes - Chickamauga Chapel

215 Lee Ave.

P.O. Box 370

Chickamauga, GA 30707

(706) 375-2161

bo@wilsonfuneralhome.com

<https://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com/>

Celebration of Life

JAN 20. 2:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

TD

“ I want to share a memory with the Holdar family, especially to Leif and to Torsten, whom I have had the pleasure of teaching and mentoring both. How proud Gina was of you boys, and oh. won't you know about this as you move through your life. Won't you feel her presence through your own laughter and giggles! Of course you will! Your mother continues to be a bright, shining star. Parent consultation weekends, she was brimming with pride in that Stetson hat and cowboy boots - I will never forget the first time I met her.

Big, big smile, bursting with love and pride for Leif and for Torsten. Both you and Sven were her reasons in life and I am so desperately sad to have heard of the news that she passed. I was so fortunate to be able to visit Gina from school both at the house across the road, and the apartment when you all moved, when she got sick. Thank you to Leif for sharing this with me and allowing me the privilege to bring her cookies and a velvet coat - she loved clothes!

We would talk and we would laugh, she had an infectious giggle when she got going! Sven, I am heartbroken for you and the boys but I know that she will live on through Leif and Torsten, so really she has not gone and she will always be here, through them.

You are a wonderful man, Sven, rock solid - she always said to me that you were her rock, and I am sure you know this. I am blessed to have known Gina, blessed to have seen the photographs of her work as a student of fashion, photos of her travels BUT the naughty giggles and smiles are what I will remember most of all.

See you Gina, fly high my friend and take care! /Tania Demetriades

Tania Demetriades - January 23, 2024 at 11:17 AM

KA

Thank you Tania. Gina told me about your visits and how she enjoyed them! You were a good friend to her and a good influence on Leif and Torsten. We all appreciate your kind, loving heart. We will miss Gina but you are correct, she will always live through those precious boys of hers and Sven's.

Karen - February 07, 2024 at 07:28 AM

CL

“ *Cheryl Lowery lit a candle in memory of Gina Lee Gilbreath Holdar*



Cheryl Lowery - January 20, 2024 at 11:10 AM

KA

Thank you Cheryl. ❤️

Karen - February 07, 2024 at 07:37 AM

JL

“ *Jason Campbell, Christi and Lindsey purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Gina Lee Gilbreath Holdar.*



Jason Campbell, Christi and Lindsey - January 19, 2024 at 03:48 PM

CP

“ *Christy Terry Phillips planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gina Lee Gilbreath Holdar.*

Christy Terry Phillips - January 19, 2024 at 11:20 AM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Gina Lee Gilbreath Holdar.*



January 19, 2024 at 11:20 AM



“ *The 3 trees are from Tony, Lydia & I. We are so sad for Gina's lengthy illness & recent passing, & the loss of a wife to Sven & mother to Leif & Torsten. Although we are far away, I will wear bright pink on Saturday & think of Gina.*

Kate F - January 16, 2024 at 12:34 PM



Thank you for the trees Kate. Gina loved visiting you, Tony & Lydia. She loved your visits with them as well! She spoke of you guys often. Our family appreciates your friendship, support and love for Gina. Thank you.

Karen - February 07, 2024 at 07:35 AM



“ *Mary K. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gina Lee Gilbreath Holdar.*

Mary K. - January 16, 2024 at 12:27 PM



“ When I think of Gina, I think of color, and lots of it! There are few memories my last 2 years at GLHS and the summers between that don't have her in them. We were BFFs. A couple out of hundreds of memories: She sent me the best Athens bands mixtape when I was at BYU and she went to UGA the year after. The request to wear a color or clothing that reminds us of her is spot on! If I could still fit in them-haha-I'd wear one her wrap skirts from her Athens direct order biz or the shorts we hand-batiked (is that a word?) and sewed one summer. She wrote the most uplifting and kind full-page messages in my senior book and my yearbooks that meant so much to me then and especially now. How I would've loved to meet up with her again. In the next life, I suppose. I still feel sad I couldn't make it to Gina and Sven's spectacular wedding week 25 years ago, and we never saw each other in-person again after August 1985 on my Clebourne Ave. lawn. Miss you, my bright and colorful friend! :(God bless you Gilbreaths, Clarksons, and Holdars, love and hugs and deepest condolences from all of us Boyds in Utah-Bronwyn Boyd Evans, Ashley Boyd Hesterman, Holly Boyd, John Boyd, and Sandy Boyd

Bronwyn Evans - January 04, 2024 at 05:50 PM

KA

Oh Bronwyn! Thank you so much for these memories shared by you and Gina. It was wonderful to be a child growing up in a small town. You were two peas in a pod. Thank you for always being a friend to Gina, near and far.

Karen - February 07, 2024 at 07:48 AM

JW

“ One of my longest friends. We literally grew up together. When she was about 8 I was riding my bike around her in a pretty little dress, with Darren, and she was laughing at us, and begging us to “please don’t mess up my pantyhose!” We played hide and seek with Sally at my grandmother’s while they waited on Karen to finish her piano lesson. She was a friend and always had a kind word of encouragement. I will miss my friend, Gina, for the rest of this life. Rest In Peace, Sweet Friend!

Jay Westmoreland - December 29, 2023 at 08:04 PM

KA

Thank you for the sweet words Jay. Gina was always so fond of you. You were always one of her best friends. Thank you and Mandy for joining us at her celebration. It means a lot to our family to have had so many family and friends there.

Karen - February 07, 2024 at 07:43 AM

KW

“ Sending love and prayers. Gina always had a smile.

Kathy Walker - December 29, 2023 at 06:00 PM

TB

“ To all of the family, my prayers are with you.



Tammy Simerley Barnett - December 29, 2023 at 03:08 PM