



## Karen Taha

January 10, 1942 - November 20, 2017

Karen Taha, 75, passed on November 20, 2017, in Springdale, AR. She was born on Jan. 10, 1942, in Mena, AR and grew up in Scottsdale, AZ. Her lifelong love of language, books, and education led her to complete two masters degrees, in Spanish and Library Science. She was the Library Media Specialist at Elmdale Elementary School (Springdale) for many years before devoting herself to writing. She authored three books for children and young adults, including *Hotdog on TV*, *Marshmallow Muscles Banana Brainstorms*, and *A Gift for Tía Rosa*, which was featured in the PBS series “Reading Rainbow.”

Karen was a passionate traveler who introduced her family to the wonder of new places and cultures. Her energy and compassionate determination inspired her advocacy for young people as a volunteer with CASA in Northwest Arkansas, Owl and Panther, a refugee arts organization in Tucson, AZ and Save the Children in Sonora, Mexico.

She is survived by her husband, Hamdy; son, Tarek, his wife, Susanna, and their daughter, Sarah; son, Sharif, his wife, Korey, and their son Elio; daughter, Maisa, and her husband, Keith; and her sister, Patricia.

The family will receive friends at Sisco Funeral Chapel of Springdale from 5:00 to 7:00pm on Wednesday, November 22.

A memorial gathering will be held in Karen’s honor at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making donations to Hamdy and Karen Taha Scholarship, Industrial Engineering Department, University of Arkansas,

4207 Bell Engineering, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

To sign the online guestbook please visit [www.siscofuneral.com](http://www.siscofuneral.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

NOV **22**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sisco Funeral Chapel  
705 West Meadow  
Springdale, AR 72764  
(479) 751-4577  
siscofuneralchapel@gmail.com  
<https://www.siscofuneral.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Karen Taha*

January 21, 2023 at 02:29 PM



“ *Karen and I shared a love of library service and of children's literature. Karen encouraged new writers to become better writers. Her children's books still resonate today, and, in fact, I recently ordered her easy reader, Hot Dog on TV, for my two granddaughters, who both entered kindergarten this fall and are already reading. Karen's kind, generous, and creative presence will be sorely missed. My sincere condolences to the Taha family.*

**Jan M. VanSchuyver** - November 23, 2017 at 11:23 AM



“ *Karen was one of the few elementary librarians when I started teaching in Springdale. Her son Sharif was one of my students at Lee Elementary . She helped push for the library program for the school district to expand. She was very helpful to all the library media specialist.*

**Juliana Price** - November 22, 2017 at 10:18 PM



“ *A sweet lady with a joyful spirit and beautiful smile! Our sincere condolences to Hamdy Tarek and Susanna. Praying God's peace and comfort for the family!*

*Alvin and Dorothy Rhodes*

**Dorothy Rhodes** - November 22, 2017 at 06:03 PM

GL

“ *This picture is a perfect memory of Karen's fabulous smile. Always positive, always looking to learn and teach. You were a remarkable soul and I consider it an honor to have known such a kind and sweet friend.*

*Glenda Tolbert*

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**Glenda** - November 22, 2017 at 05:45 PM

ER

“ *Karen and I were friends for many years. Our children played together at a younger age, Karen and I baby-sat each other's children from time to time, and our families shared in many ways. We are saddened by Karen's death, and our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Edna and John Rothwell, Johnny, Sharon, and Chris.*

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**Edna and John Rothwell** - November 22, 2017 at 03:23 PM

TF

“ I first met Karen Taha around the age of 10. She was the mediator of a reading competition called *Battle of the Books* for elementary school children. She left a lasting impression on me because she treated me, a child, as a person with thoughts and valuable opinions. She was kind, sincere and had quite a sense of humor. Later, I found myself reintroduced to her as a teenager through friendships with her children. In adulthood, I came to realize her contributions to her community and her creativeness and dedication to the advancement of reading in children.

*She always had a smile and a kind word whenever we saw each other, even in passing.*

*My sincere condolences to the Taha family.*

*Tina Johnson Flippo*

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**Tina Johnson Flippo** - November 22, 2017 at 01:11 PM

LL

“ Karen made my PhD in Industrial Engineering possible . Her sons and my sons, David & Alan Lane, were similar in ages. She helped my boys go to Boys Club, take basketball lessons etc. while I worked to complete my degree under her husband Hamby Taha's guidance. I and my boys are forever grateful. God Bless her family during this difficult time. Lee Lane

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**Lee Lane** - November 21, 2017 at 08:30 PM

CK

“ So sorry to hear about the passing of this beautiful lady--a writer, teacher, servant, and amazing example to anyone who knew her. Love and prayers to the entire family at this difficult time.

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**Chuck King** - November 21, 2017 at 05:48 PM

LR

“ I met Katen when we were roommates at the hospital when Maisa was born. I had birthed my preemie daughter two days before. We discovered we lived only a mile or so apart & had boys starting kindergarten together in the fall. We became friends & have stayed in touch for 40+ years. I will miss her dearly as she is irreplaceable! She was one of the most loving, giving, full of grace & intelligent souls I have ever known. May she Rest In Peace.

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**Louise Ryan** - November 21, 2017 at 05:21 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Karen Taha.



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November 21, 2017 at 02:54 PM

HS

“ We traveled in Sonora for Save the Children with Karen and Hamdy. They both became favorites of mine and my then-young son. She was a brilliant light. We will miss her, and wish her well on this final voyage.

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**Hank Saunders** - November 21, 2017 at 01:20 PM

LH

“ So sorry to hear this sad news. Remembering a life that was well lived and the legacy she leaves behind. My special love to Tarek, Susanna, Sarah, and to the others in her dear family. May many sweet memories and the love of friends who care soften your grief and sustain you in the difficult days ahead.

*Lou Ella Humphrey*

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**Lou Ella Humphrey** - November 21, 2017 at 01:06 PM

LR

“ My deepest condolences for the Taha family. I met Karen through 3 of her wonderful children: Tarek, Sharif and Maisa as a Spanish teacher at Springdale High School. We shared a love of Spanish and books. She was a very special, vibrant woman. I will miss her. Blessings, Lynn Rogers

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**Lynn Rogers** - November 21, 2017 at 12:06 PM

VC

“ Although I never met Karen, I know from her family that she was a great woman and highly regarded as a mother and wife. My prayers and condolences go out to the entire Taha family, including my friend Tarek.

*Vance Clement*

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**Vance Clement** - November 21, 2017 at 10:37 AM

AM

“ So sorry for the loss of such an intelligent, kind and generous human being. These qualities are in such short supply these days that Karen's departure will be felt far beyond her immediate circle of family and friends.

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**Alex & Hana Mironoff** - November 21, 2017 at 10:31 AM

MB

“ Karen was a beautiful, caring, intelligent person and we will miss her very much.

*Marty and Frank Burggraf*

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**marty burggraf** - November 21, 2017 at 09:57 AM

TE

“ Such a dear sweet lady...she will be truly missed. My prayers are for the family as they mourn her loss. May you be upheld by the love of family and friends at this difficulty time.

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**Tamara Ellenbecker** - November 21, 2017 at 08:31 AM

KM

“ I admired Karen so much. I had the opportunity to travel with the Taha's. She and I had many adventures in Mexico while our husbands taught. I will always cherish that time.

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**Kathy Malstrom** - November 21, 2017 at 08:16 AM