



Linda Sue Willen

August 11, 1955 - November 19, 2025

Linda Sue Willen, 70, of Indianapolis, passed away peacefully on November 19, 2025. Born on August 11, 1955 in Brazil, Indiana, she attended grade school in Centerton, Indiana before completing her education in Warren Township schools, graduating from Warren Central High School in 1973. She obtained a teaching degree from Hanover College in 1977, having survived a horrific tornado at the campus the previous year. Linda later received a Master's Degree from Indiana University. Her first teaching job was for the first graders in Carrollton, Kentucky. After one year she returned to Indianapolis and taught in the Mt. Vernon School District. She then taught special education in Warren Township where she finished her education career as a Counselor at Raymond Park Middle School. In 2017, Linda was named teacher of the year at Raymond Park.

Linda was an avid sports fan and spent many hours with her family watching Purdue basketball, Colts football, and Blues hockey. In 2018, Linda met Leslie Leyland Fields while attending a writing seminar. After retiring from teaching, Linda became Leslie's personal assistant and one of 15 Story Leaders in Leslie's online ministry, the Memoir Masterclass, that serves 1,000 writers around the world. Their mission is to foster hope, healing and faith as people write into and through their difficult life stories. With Linda's heart and her skills, she soon became the "Mama Bear" of the group, serving as counselor and pastor of the other Story Leaders as well as engaging deeply with

hundreds of writers, encouraging them onward in their stories and healing. Linda leaves behind ample funds to initiate the Linda Willen Scholarship Fund for Writers. These scholarships will go toward selected writers desiring to join the Memoir Masterclass or the Writing Retreats in Alaska who need financial support to do so.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents, Merl and Gayle Willen. She is survived by her brothers, Stan (Deb) Willen and Mark Willen.

A Memorial Service will be held Monday, December 1, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at Meridian Street United Methodist Church, 5500 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, followed by visitation until 12 noon.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Linda Willen Scholarship for Writers Fund via either check made out to that fund or through electronic payments through Paypal (to Leslieleylandfields@gmail.com).

Cemetery Details

Washington Park East

10612 E. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46229

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 1. 9:00 AM (ET)

Meridian Street United Methodist Church
5500 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208

Visitation

DEC 1. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Meridian Street United Methodist Church
5500 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208

Tribute Wall

YD

“ I did not realize that Linda had passed, until I just read it in “Write Your Story, Change Your Life” by Leslie Leyland Fields. Linda was so helpful and encouraging, and we met even before the Memoir Masterclass started. Her support will be felt forever.

Yvette Duloherly - May 10 at 01:10 PM

KB

“ We slept in the creepy upstairs of grandma and Sam’s house in southern Indiana. Linda kept me calm and kept the monsters away

karen Burton - December 08, 2025 at 08:49 PM

JN

“ Linda was one of the best friends I've ever had, and this only came about in the last five years! She always considered others first, encouraged us, made us laugh, shared life lessons, and generously loved and served in our writing group. She loved her role as Mama Bear and mentor to all of us. Whenever I wanted someone to talk and pray with late night, she was available. I enjoyed visiting her lovely home and helping her a little over the last few years. Words can never express how much I and the other members of our writing group will miss her. My tears are tears of both grief and thankfulness for her life.

Jen N. - December 02, 2025 at 03:52 PM

HV

“ Linda was one of those people who could make you feel like you were the most important person in the world. She had an "Others Heart" and blessed so many with her love and compassion. I am forever changed by her love and care to me and our family. Heidi V.

Heidi V. - December 01, 2025 at 06:11 AM

NH

“ I have such fond memories of when Linda and I taught together at Mt. Comfort Elementary! She was such a fun and a caring person. I was so sad to hear of her passing.

Nancy Holzhausen - November 29, 2025 at 03:34 PM

LM

“ I am so glad to have known Linda. What a bright soul. Rest well, Linda.

Lisa Marchal - November 29, 2025 at 02:13 PM

AN

“ Linda was a kind, caring soul ... always willing to help anyone in need.

Anne - November 29, 2025 at 11:34 AM

AN

“ Anne lit a candle in memory of Linda Sue Willen



Anne - November 29, 2025 at 11:33 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Linda Sue Willen.



November 28, 2025 at 04:27 PM

JL

“ Jeff and Paula Lewis purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Linda Sue Willen.



Jeff and Paula Lewis - November 23, 2025 at 11:59 AM

CT

“ Linda and I became friends while attending Old Bethel United Methodist Church. We helped develop a singles ministry there. Eventually Linda and I shared an apartment for a couple of years until I got married. She was a thoughtful, fun loving friend with whom many laughs were shared! Rest in peace Linda in the arms of God.

Chris Thomas - November 23, 2025 at 11:41 AM

SM

“ Linda was such a positive spirit. At Moorhead, she helped me numerous times in a particularly challenging year of teaching. She was a super listener. The kids loved her. She was a light in my life for sure.

scarlett murphy - November 22, 2025 at 12:05 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Linda Sue Willen.



November 22, 2025 at 09:39 AM

LW

“ The first time I met Linda she said "To remember my name think, Willing to Help!"
And she always made herself available!
She made a lasting impact on my Grandson's life. Pushed him out of his comfort zone & we watched him thrive starting at Raymond Park.
We are forever grateful for her support & guidance. Thank you for the love, lessons & laughter. 🙏 Rest peacefully among the stars sweet lady! Lisa West

Lisa West - November 22, 2025 at 09:22 AM

SH

“ Linda truly cared about others! While working at Lowell Elementary School, she formed many friendships with staff, students, parents, and grandparents. She had a positive attitude and was a willing volunteer. She was a friend to all.

Susan Howard - November 22, 2025 at 09:02 AM

AP

“ Linda was loved by all in the Memoir Masterclass. There are endless stories of our beautiful Mama Bear. She offered so much support and wisdom to all. She will be greatly missed but will reign with us in spirit and in stories. Rest in peace Mama Bear, we love you!

Amy Patterson - November 21, 2025 at 05:51 PM

DS

“ I had the privilege to teach with Linda for a few years at Lowell Elementary School. Always had a smile on her face. She cared deeply for her students and her fellow teachers. She loved to talk her students, her family, and sports! She helped make Lowell a better place for kids! RIP

Dave Stroud - November 21, 2025 at 03:58 PM