



Debra Yolanda Ballier

May 12, 1960 - October 13, 2021

Debra Yolanda Ballier, fondly known as “Ani” by locals, passed away peacefully in her home in Bowie, AZ, October 13, 2021. Born in 1960 in Barbados, Ani became a well-loved and active member of her community in Bowie. A passionate artist, she loved to paint, write poetry, design jewelry, quilt, and sew. She mentored students and volunteered at the local fire department and library. Her door was always open, and visitors of all backgrounds found friendly companionship with her.

Also known as Lama Ani Pelma by students and the spiritual community, she was one of the first black nuns in Buddhist history. She helped start a leading organization for teaching the ancient Buddhist classics and taught meditation and Buddhist philosophy to students around the world. An extraordinary teacher and practitioner, she completed two three-year silent retreats in the Arizona desert.

In earlier years, Ani had moved from Barbados to New York where she worked in the diamond business as a successful jeweler. She trained at the Fashion Institute of Technology, in Manhattan. During that time, she met her Buddhist teacher Geshe Michael Roach, with whom she studied for thirty years.

Through community engagements and charitable activities throughout the

years, Ani has supported children in India, Tucson, and Bowie; she is known also for her loving care of animals. Ani will be missed by many and remembered for her unfailing generosity.

A graveside service will be held Wednesday, October 27, 2:30 p.m., at the Bowie Desert Rest Cemetery, North Central Ave., Bowie, AZ 85605.

A community POTLUCK will be held directly following the service at the United Methodist Church, 105 E. 5th St., Bowie, AZ 86506.

Ani is survived by her brother Trevor Glasgow, his wife Kaye, nephew Corie Glasgow, his wife Priscilla, their two children Nella and Nathan, and many devoted students.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Ani Pelma Memorial Fund, which will benefit three children's initiatives dear to Ani: <https://www.asianclassicsinstitute.org/donate>

Cemetery Details

Bowie Desert Rest Cemetery

N Central Ave
Bowie, AZ 85605
(520) 847-2448

Previous Events

Graveside Service

OCT **27**. 2:30 PM (MT)

Bowie Desert Rest Cemetery
N Central Ave
Bowie, AZ 85605
(520) 847-2448

Tribute Wall



“ *Debra Yolanda Ballier*

January 30, 2023 at 12:50 AM



“ *I had my lama pray for you and hope to stay with you still in the next lifetime as today you would be reborn may your rebirth be a fortunate one and study together again as teacher and student*

Buddha Maitreya - December 01, 2021 at 06:03 PM



I write to you with a heavy heart ❤️ my Aunt I love you and I will miss talking to you we lost contact because of my phone ...I love you auntie
😭💕

sherry Alleyne - May 01, 2022 at 02:04 PM



“ *Jennifer Thompson lit a candle in memory of Debra Yolanda Ballier*



Jennifer Thompson - October 27, 2021 at 03:37 PM



“ *Jennifer Thompson lit a candle in memory of Debra Yolanda Ballier*



Jennifer Thompson - October 27, 2021 at 03:07 PM

GI

“ *Giselle purchased the Cremation / Memorial Floral Wreath for the family of Debra Yolanda Ballier.*



Giselle - October 26, 2021 at 02:41 AM

JF

“ *Jacqueline Fisher lit a candle in memory of Debra Yolanda Ballier*



Jacqueline Fisher - October 24, 2021 at 07:05 PM

MA

“ *You are the sun on earth, shining bright, giving us warmth, bathing us in light. Remove the shadow that freezes my heart, stay forever with your Angel love.*

Marianne - October 22, 2021 at 04:29 PM

SE

“ *Susan N Kenny Edwards lit a candle in memory of Debra Yolanda Ballier*



Susan N Kenny Edwards - October 22, 2021 at 02:44 AM

RH

“ Rhondamind@gmail.com sent a virtual gift in memory of Debra Yolanda Ballier



rhondamind@gmail.com - October 22, 2021 at 02:22 AM

AS

“ All Your students purchased the Multicolor Bright Standing Wreath for the family of Debra Yolanda Ballier.



All Your students - October 21, 2021 at 09:56 PM

JF

“ Jacqueline Fisher lit a candle in memory of Debra Yolanda Ballier



Jacqueline Fisher - October 21, 2021 at 07:22 PM

FF

“ Floss,Zorie and family purchased the Red & White Standing Open Heart - Red Carnations - White Roses for the family of Debra Yolanda Ballier.



Floss,Zorie and family - October 21, 2021 at 12:56 PM

FL

“ *Floss lit a candle in memory of Debra Yolanda Ballier*



Floss - October 21, 2021 at 11:16 AM



“ *Roses For Sympathy was purchased for the family of Debra Yolanda Ballier.*



October 21, 2021 at 09:48 AM

SG

“ *Sandra Grant lit a candle in memory of Debra Yolanda Ballier*



Sandra Grant - October 21, 2021 at 07:51 AM

BN

“ *Beatriz Nunez lit a candle in memory of Debra Yolanda Ballier*



Beatriz Nunez - October 20, 2021 at 11:03 PM

GL

“ *Always in my heart* ”



Giselle Lamberth - October 20, 2021 at 10:54 PM

GL

“ *Giselle Lamberth lit a candle in memory of Debra Yolanda Ballier* ”



Giselle Lamberth - October 20, 2021 at 10:50 PM

GL

“ *Giselle Lamberth lit a candle in memory of Debra Yolanda Ballier* ”



Giselle Lamberth - October 20, 2021 at 10:31 PM

DD

“ *Della Dumlao lit a candle in memory of Debra Yolanda Ballier* ”



Della Dumlao - October 20, 2021 at 09:03 PM



“ *Rhonda Campbell lit a candle in memory of Debra Yolanda Ballier*



Rhonda Campbell - October 14, 2021 at 11:04 PM