



Melissa Harding Phillips

October 2, 1960 - October 21, 2025

Melissa Harding Phillips died on October 21, 2025, from a catastrophic medical event, shattering all those who loved her. Melissa was born on October 2nd, 1960, in Beirut, Lebanon.

Her parents, Ralph L. and Jeanne T. Phillips, were stationed there for Ralph's work with the U.S. State Department. Melissa and her family travelled and lived in North Africa, Central Africa, and the Middle East before moving to Princeton, NJ, in the early 1970s. Melissa attended Cornell University and NYU Law School. After being named a Fulbright Scholar, Melissa worked with an Israeli-Palestinian Peace group in the West Bank for several years before returning to the States.

Melissa devoted her life to fighting for the underrepresented, the abused, and disenfranchised everywhere in the world. Tirelessly. Fearlessly. She was a one-of-a-kind human being and will be dearly missed.

She is survived by her sisters, Shelby and Samantha, a niece, Victoria, a nephew, James, and her dearly beloved sister-friends, Alice, Erika, Deborah, and Mary.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to Human Rights Watch or your local battered women's shelter.

Tribute Wall

AB

“ *Condolences to Shelby , Samantha and family /friends Adam Bierman Princeton next door neighbor*

Adam Bierman - November 26, 2025 at 11:27 AM

LF

Condolences to Samantha, Shelby, and to the family and friends. Rest in peace & power Melissa, Leslie Fields (college housemate).

Leslie Fields - December 20, 2025 at 07:20 PM