

Ella was loved and will be missed by many...

but especially by her parents, brother, and other family members.

Parents: Kenneth Bandes and Judith Kottick

Brother: Ian Bandes

Grandparents: Seymour and Lucille Bandes; Edward and Gloria Kottick

Aunts and Uncles: Ronald and Marcia Bandes; Susan Bandes and Stephen Siegel; Clarence and Janet Smith

Cousins: Michael Bandes, Steven Bandes, Chloe Cooper, Morgan Cooper, Lauren Saylor, Drew Schiller, Crystal Schiller, Andrew Siegel, Daniel Siegel, Hayden Smith

A reception will follow today's service at the Montclair Women's Club, 82 Union Street, which is one block from the Church.

Thank You

We are so grateful to everyone who has joined us today and appreciate the loving thoughts of those who are unable to attend.

Heartfelt thanks to our many friends for visiting Ella in the hospital, sending notes of support, bringing gifts of delicious food, running errands, housing friends and family from out of town, shoveling our driveway, and helping to make today's service special.

Special thanks to Peri for your loving guidance and compassion, and to Ann and the staff and members of First Congregational Church for your invaluable assistance and kindness.



Ella designed this iconic image of a joyous dancer as her tattoo. We now consider this lovely graphic to be Ella's official logo—an image that perfectly reflects her love of dance, remarkable artistic abilities, and growing independence as an extraordinary young woman.

February 10, 2013

Remembering



Our Ella



“Life is the dancer and you are the dance.”

Our Ella

Ella Kottick Bandes was taken from us on Feb. 4, several days after being struck by a NYC bus. Throughout her 23 years, Ella was a most loyal, loving, dependable, and compassionate daughter, sister, granddaughter, niece, cousin, and friend.

Ella grew up in Montclair and developed many close friendships while attending Edgemont Elementary, Renaissance Middle, and Montclair High School. She was a talented musician, beautiful dancer, and gifted artist and studied dance with Sharron Miller, art with Andrey Tamarchenko, piano with Joan Bujacich, and violin with Rebecca Harris. These teachers and mentors had a huge influence on Ella's life and helped fuel her love of the arts. Ella also developed a passion for social causes. At the age of 13, she and her friends at the Montclair Jewish Workshop shared their graduation ceremony with a group of girls from a local Islamic Center in response to growing post-9/11 anti-Islamic sentiments.

After graduating from high school in 2007, Ella attended Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. She loved Macalester and quickly became immersed in her classes, the arts, and the process of building wonderful friendships. During her four years at Macalester she participated in the school's dance troupe, continued creating magnificent paintings, spent a semester abroad in Aix en Provence, France, traveled to Australia for a month-long course in evolutionary biology, and excelled in the study of psychology and neuroscience. Ella also developed and implemented art therapy projects for troubled youth through Free Arts Minnesota. She graduated from Macalester in 2011 with degrees in psychology and studio art.

Ella's family was delighted when she moved back to New York after graduating. Ella and Ian traveled together to Israel through the Birthright program early in 2012. They had a wonderful experience meeting new friends who shared their Jewish heritage and love of travel.

At the time of her death, Ella was a valued intern at the Columbia Psychiatric Institute, contributing to research on the psychology of mother-infant relationships. She was also working at the Weight Watchers corporate office, where her statistical skills and attention to detail were highly sought after.

Ella planned to attend graduate school in clinical psychology, and her dream was to provide mental health services to under-served populations. She also wanted to offer art therapy to those suffering from trauma, including women whose husbands died on 9/11 and their children.

Ella's enthusiasm for life continues to touch others. Following the accident the family learned that she had registered online as an organ donor, and through her death, eight lives were saved. Her kind heart, gentle soul, and generous spirit brightened and enriched everyone she touched. She was loved and adored by her immediate and extended family, as well as by her many friends and co-workers.

Program

Led by Peri Smilow, Cantorial Soloist, Temple Ner Tamid, Bloomfield

Ozi v'Zimrat Yah, by Rabbi Shefa Gold, from Psalm 118

Welcome

Reverend Ann Ralosky, Senior Minister, First Congregational Church, Montclair

Peri Smilow

Remembrance

Judith Kottick

All My Life's a Circle, Music and Lyrics by Harry Chapin

Remembrance

Carol Weeg, Parker Williams, Carol Stoddard

Lilah Leopold, Gabrielle D'Angelo, Sarah Pearlstein, Alyson Gorun,
Julia Conti, Jessi Lalomia

Sharron Miller, Faith Kwon

A Video — Ella dancing at Macalester

Remembrance

Claire Jaffe, Jan Veliko

Susan Bandes, Lucille Bandes, Janet Smith

Oseh Shalom, Music by Debbie Friedman, Lyrics from liturgy

Remembrance

Ian Bandes

Favorite photos of Ella, her family, and her friends

Remembrance

Ken Bandes

Eil Malei Rachamim, Traditional Prayer

Mourner's Kaddish