

Benjamin Masland Keating

February 28, 2025

Benjamin Masland Keating, age 39, died on February 28, 2025, in Longmont, Colorado, where he had lived for eight years after moving there to pursue a degree in counseling at Naropa University in Boulder.

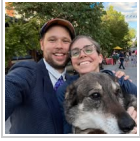
Ben was a gifted storyteller and a brilliant man. His undergraduate degree was in philosophy, and he relished thinking of the world through that lens but, as his father said, “The philosophy companies weren’t hiring” so he prepared himself to share his philosophical viewpoint with clients who benefitted from his tender heart and capacity for empathy as did all who knew him. He loved his family, was very sentimental about them, and was adored by them. He loved the outdoors and enjoyed the mountains of Colorado where he often spent time backpacking. He loved swimming and boating on Damariscotta Lake in Maine where his family spent time each summer in their cottage. However, he always slept in his tent so that he could be in the piney woods. He was an artist at heart; noted for his gifted writing of both poetry and prose and his love of music spanning 50’s classic rock to underground artists.

Ben is survived by his mother, Jan Masland, and his sisters, Bridget Keating (Lancaster) and Elizabeth Keating (Philadelphia). His father, Larry Keating, predeceased him in September.

Service details at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Ben's name may be made to Boulder Valley & Longmont Conservation Districts, 9595 Nelson Road, Suite D, Longmont, CO 80501, or Lancaster County Conservancy, 117 S. West End Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603.

Tribute Wall



“ Remembering the great Benjamin Keating today on their birthday, as I do every day — a beautiful genius with an extra-celestial soul. I'm counting my blessings to have shared the same timeline with a singular and genuine friend. One of the photos I'm sharing here shows Ben moving a large Ikea shelf. Many years ago before my wife and I were married, Ben and close friends helped my wife move into our very first apartment together. Ben, of course, volunteered to be first person to meet us in the early hours of the morning to pick up and transport a large portion of our belongings to the new apartment. He stayed and helped throughout the entire day, building and moving furniture, and by nightfall he was outside helping friends to repair someone's car. Though Ben lives one floor above us now in the metaphysical sense, I sense that he's not far away, still watching over us all, and selflessly guiding us on our journeys ahead. We continue to hold all of Ben's friends and family in the light each day. We love Ben, we love his family, and may his memory be a blessing, always. 💙



Keith Adams - March 18 at 09:20 AM

LE

“ RIP Ben. 💔 It had been a while, but I can still hear his voice and especially his laugh so clearly in my head. He was kind, pensive, hilarious, genuine, intelligent, fun, wise, creative, warm and so much more. Ben had it all and he was the only him.

When I learned of Ben's passing, I cried while reliving old memories and realizing there won't be new ones. I reactivated accounts and dusted off ancient technology to find some of these moments. Our Facebook wall posts back and forth were full of forgotten inside jokes, miss yous, love yous, valley girl talk, calling each other bff, and these lyrics to The Shining by Badly Drawn Boy made an appearance: "soleil all over you, warm sun pours over me..." I listened to that song on repeat for a while.

I feel so incredibly grateful to have known Ben and consider him a formative and foundational friend in my life. I worry he didn't know that... Hopefully I expressed it enough somewhere along the way. Hold your loved ones close, reach out to that friend you haven't talked to in too long. I am holding Ben's family and friends in my heart and hoping they find peace and comfort in memories.

Wherever Ben is now, I hope he's able to feel our collective reminiscing and love for him. I hope warm sun is pouring all over him. ☐



Liz Eiler - May 17, 2025 at 08:43 AM

RH

“ Dear Jan, Elizabeth, and Bridget,

I hardly know where to begin. Don and I were shocked to hear of Ben's passing and we are feeling the sorrow of losing two excellent Keating men within a year. No words can adequately capture our sadness.

On the evening of Christmas Eve 2024, I so clearly remember speaking with Ben in the balcony of First Presbyterian after the service. Although I didn't know him nearly as well as his wonderful parents, I remember being so struck by his wisdom and sensitivity, his ability to articulate the beauty and significance of life's moments in ways that few of us can. Even in our brief conversation, he said something so profound that has shaped the way I think and move through life. He is a gem and I am so grateful for our interchange.

I am deeply moved by reading Ben's tribute wall. I regret that Don and I didn't get to experience the fullness of his tender heart in the ways that others have so, all the more, I treasure the gift of my conversation with Ben that Christmas Eve night.

We marvel at your family and the ways you have shaped each other to be a bright, life-giving light wherever God calls you. We are praying for you with groans and sighs too deep for words.

*With love,
Rila (for Don, too)*

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Rila Hackett - March 17, 2025 at 10:43 AM

FM

“ Ben and I were close childhood friends growing up in Lancaster. When I was about 9, my mother told me we were moving out of state. She recalls I “cried like an adult” for moving away from my best friend Ben. Then, we moved back to Lancaster 3 years later! First order of business, was neighborhood missions, expeditions through the treacherous Brickyards, and backyard action movies. Now, 25 years later, again I cry. This time, like a child. Over the last few years, Ben and I have reconnected and I got to know the man he became. A compassionate, thoughtful, viciously smart, guy dedicated to helping others in darkness. I am profoundly grateful and fortunate to have been Ben’s friend. Mrs Masland, Elizabeth & Bridget, my heart breaks for you. Your home and family was always a safe haven in my turbulent youth. I will never forget that. Please know I am a phone call and stone’s throw away. ❤️

Fletcher MacDonald - March 13, 2025 at 07:47 AM

MH

“ Among the best of friends one could have. Beemer was always there, always SO insightful, always SO funny. There are too many memories to share--the good and bad--I will cherish all of them for his presence in them. Ben is a unique, brilliantly articulate animal. That is what he will always be.

Meeeeatt Heinle - March 12, 2025 at 01:19 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Benjamin Masland Keating.

March 12, 2025 at 01:09 PM



“ *Green Leaf Japanese Maple Gift Tree was purchased for the family of Benjamin Masland Keating.*



March 12, 2025 at 01:09 PM



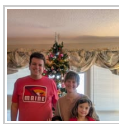
“ *Jesse and I thought the world of Ben. I remember the obvious love between you the time we visited you in New Jersey. I feel so grateful that we got to walk the earth at the same time as him.*

Kati McCarthy - March 11, 2025 at 10:16 PM



“ *Jan, Elizabeth and Brigett! I am SO sad to read about the loss of Ben! ...especially so soon after your husband, (Jan) & your Dad. What a nice kid I remember him as...always so polite and respectful when I would come teach flute lessons at your home. My heart goes out to you. Sending much love to you all! ❤️*

Amy McLane Young - March 11, 2025 at 01:52 AM



Jesse and I thought the world of Ben. I remember the obvious love between you the time we visited you in New Jersey. I feel so grateful that we got to walk the earth at the same time as him.

Kati McCarthy - March 11, 2025 at 10:14 PM



So sorry to hear of this terrible loss for your sweet family and the world as a whole.

Ann Johnston - March 16, 2025 at 07:33 PM

LG

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Laura Garrison - March 10, 2025 at 10:11 PM

LG

“ *Ben was my first serious relationship, and I his. He was truly one of a kind. I have so many funny memories. We laughed together a lot, and had all kinds of interesting conversations. He introduced me to many ideas that influenced the person I grew into. He always made me feel like my views and ideas mattered and had value. That had a really positive impact on me. I grew a great deal through my time with him in my life. He and his family - all some of the most genuine people out there. I have such fond memories of all of them, the kindness they always showed me, how welcoming and open hearted, and wonderfully good humored they all were. Wow. I am so very, very sad for their loss. I pray for their peace. I pray they find comfort knowing that Ben shared a lot of light and goodness and love to those who knew him. He was a really special human being and I am thankful for the time he was in my life.*



Laura Garrison - March 10, 2025 at 09:32 PM

JC

Ben Keating was among the most unique and authentic students I taught in the Master's Program at Naropa University. He was a committed meditation student and gifted therapist. I will miss the ways he graced this planet. Janneli Chapin Retired Assistant Professor

janneli chapin - March 11, 2025 at 03:28 PM

MR

“*Ben was my senior year roommate at McDaniel College, a truly great friend and one of the formative presences in my life. In my grief, I keep thinking about how lucky I was to know him and how much I'm going to miss talking to him about movies or the X-Files or whatever was on our minds. He always made time for his friends, or anyone who needed him really. There was nobody like Ben and I will hold him in my heart for the rest of my life.*

Max Robinson - March 10, 2025 at 08:21 PM

KA

“*An impromptu picture from a magical January night in Hampden — it makes me smile/laugh/cry — I now know that it was the last photo and photo opportunity I'll ever get to share with my sweet, talented, radiant & larger than life friend — Benjamin Keating (aka Masland X) 💙 a BFF in this life and the next — a tall bottle of wisdom — a healer, a guardian, a shaman, a prayer, a @realkeeper4real ☐☐ We love you, Ben — your light overflows far beyond you and we'll miss you deeply. May the tributes continue on as we honor and remember Ben in our journeys ahead. 🙏*



Keith Adams - March 10, 2025 at 08:12 PM

JL

“ Jonathan L. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Benjamin Masland Keating.

Jonathan L. - March 09, 2025 at 08:29 PM

JS

“ John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Masland Keating



John jacob jingleheimer schmidt - March 09, 2025 at 05:55 PM

JS

My name is John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt and whenever I go out and the people see me they shout there goes John Jacob Jingleheimer schmidt!!!!😂😂😂😂😂😂😂😂😂😂

John jacob jingleheimer schmidt - March 12, 2025 at 07:59 PM

“ To Ben Keating, aka Masland

For an 18-something-year-old, 5'5" kid from Burma, my very first thought when I saw you was how tall you were — an imposing figure with an even more imposing demeanor. But once I got to know you, I realized beneath that towering frame was one of the most caring, generous souls I've ever had the privilege of meeting.

In 2007, when I returned from Burma, the Saffron Revolution broke out. I watched helplessly from afar as monks and laypeople were beaten in the streets. You barely knew me then — but when you heard the news, you sought me out. You asked how I was doing. You came to the rally wearing red, standing in solidarity with a country you'd only just learned about. That was who you were — showing up, quietly but fiercely, for the people around you.

Over the years, I got to know you more — through friends, through late-night conversations, and finally as housemates in my last year of college. What stood out most was how unapologetically yourself you were, no matter what anyone else thought. For someone like me — always unsure, always second-guessing — that confidence was something I admired deeply, and still do.

I remember the chaotic music videos we made in the International House — how you threw yourself into the madness with no judgment, just joy. Now, as a filmmaker, I think back fondly to those first forays into storytelling with you by my side. I remember your love for music, the way you'd tackle philosophy with both humor and insight — breaking down the most complicated ideas and making them feel human.

The last message I received from you was in May 2023. "Hey brother, it's Ben Keating. Just saw the news about the cyclone. I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well. Thinking of you friend."

In the chaos of everything happening in my country, I never replied. I wish I had. But I kept that message — a small, quiet reminder that even after all these years, you were still thinking of me.

Thank you, Ben — for your kindness, your generosity, and the small but unforgettable ways you showed up in my life. From 2 AM conversations to philosophy clubs, from the cigarettes I bummed off you to the music videos we made, you gave me moments I'll carry with me always.

As a Buddhist, I pray you've found your path to nirvana. But if not — I hope we'll meet again, in whatever life comes next.

Rest easy, brother.

Lin Sun Oo - March 09, 2025 at 10:01 AM

FM

“ *Frank M. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Benjamin Masland Keating.*

Frank M. - March 09, 2025 at 07:30 AM

JO

“ *Ben was my counselor. I talked to him almost every week for the last year. During the times that I got emotional in our counseling sessions, I could feel his steady and warm presence. I knew that he was rooting for me - that he believed in me. I'm going to miss him.*

Josh - March 08, 2025 at 11:34 PM