



Dr. Lauren K. Ayers

August 7, 1946 - July 1, 2011

Dr. Lauren K. Ayers, a clinical psychologist, public servant, author, and beloved mother and grandmother, died peacefully at her home in Saratoga Springs, New York, on the night of Friday, July 1, 2011. Born August 7, 1946, in Jamaica, Queens, she was proud of her New York City origins and her Dutch heritage. She was the daughter of the late Wilford and Johanna deHaan Kurz.

She received her B.A., M.A., and certification in school psychology from the State University of New York at Albany. In 1976, she completed a Ph.D. in educational psychology and statistics at SUNY Albany while pregnant with her first child. She set up her own practice in Albany, and for thirty-five years she treated and helped countless people.

Lauren had advanced training from the Critical Incident Stress foundation, which she used to provide support for those traumatized by the terrorist attacks of 9/11. She was a member of the American Psychological Association and the National Register for Health Service Providers in Psychology. She served as a consulting psychologist for To Life! and the Albany County Nursing Home. She served as a staff psychologist at St. Peter's Hospital, at RG Psychological Services, Eleanor Roosevelt Developmental Services, the Child Research and Study Center at Albany Medical Center, and St. Catherine's Child Care Center. She also taught and spoke about psychology

at various schools and institutions, including the College of St. Rose, Albany Medical Center, Channel 13 News, and the cruise ships of Norwegian Cruise Lines.

Lauren was appointed to the Guilderland Town Council in 1996, where she served for several months until she lost a race for re-election. A year later she ran again—surprising no one who knew her—and this time won a four-year term. In 1998, she ran for the United States House of Representatives from New York's 21st district. The centerpiece of the campaign was an enormous Winnebago, which she drove herself.

She wrote many articles and several books, including: *Teenage Girls: A Parent's Survival Manual* (1993); *The Answer Is Within You: Psychology, Women's Friendships & Breast Cancer* (1994); and *How to Protect Kids from Child Molesters* (with Ed Girtler, 2007). At the time of her death, she was working on a novel set in Algeria, where her father fought during World War II.

Lauren is survived by her son Andrew, his wife Emily, and their daughters, Evelyn and Violet; by her son Stephen and his wife Sunitha; by her daughter Elizabeth and her husband Edouard; and by her sister Barbara Stewart. Lauren's father always stressed the importance of education and she was very proud of the various doctoral and professional degrees earned by her children and their spouses.

Funeral services Friday, July 8, 2011, at 11:30am at First United Methodist Church, Delmar.

Relatives and friends are invited and may call Thursday, July 7, 2011, 4:00 to 7:00 pm in the McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen Street, Albany.

Interment will immediately follow the service at Albany Rural Cemetery.

To leave the family a special message on their guest book, obtain directions or a memory card, or share a photo or E-card with them, please visit www.McveighFuneralHome.com

Donations in her memory can be made to To Life!, a breast cancer support and education organization, 410 Kenwood Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054, www.tolife.org

Previous Events

Service

JUL 8. 11:30 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
428 Kenwood Ave
Delmar, NY

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Lauren K. Ayers*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *I knew Lauren at Albany. We were undergraduates together and participated in student association activities. I admired her dedication and strong sense of responsibility at the time and from reading the beautiful obituary that was written it is not surprising that she was very important in the lives of so many people.##imported-begin##Vincent J. Abramo##imported-end##*

March 28, 2012 at 05:17 PM



“ *I was just 30 when my Mom passed on- With your Mother's support, I dealt with my hardest loss in my life. Her kind words will always be in my heart.##imported-begin##Diane Pruskowski##imported-end##*

July 17, 2011 at 06:04 PM



“ *Dear Lizzie,
I have been out of the country for the past week and only just learned of your mom's passing. I was so sorry to learn of this very sad news. Your mom was an amazing woman and I know that her loss must be enormously painful to you and your family. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you. If there is anything I can do for you please do not hesitate to contact me.
Fondly,
Lois##imported-begin##lois golland##imported-end##*

July 12, 2011 at 11:16 AM



“ Dear Andy, Stephen and Lizzie,
You may remember me from years ago when I would take you all to school and run errands for your Mom. Lizzie, I still remember our trip to Boston when I went with you, your Mom and my son Chris . You were pretty young, so I don't know if you remember going to the aquarium. Your Mom was a very special lady and I always thought the world of her. She was very kind, caring and a positive thinker! I was so sorry to get the news when a friend called to tell me. She knew I had worked for your Mom and always thought highly of her. Please know that I am thinking of you all, and know how difficult it is to loose your mother. I remember your Mom coming to my Dad's funeral and how nice it was to see her again, that meant a lot to me, but that's who your Mom always was. My heart goes out to you. Please remember that she is still with all of you, and I'm sure she will "connect" with little signs to let you know she's ok. There's a wonderful book called "Feathers Brush my Heart" that I would recommend reading if you get the chance. It's quite comforting. Hug's to everyone, your friend, Teri###imported-begin###Teri Stark / Bent###imported-end###

July 08, 2011 at 10:29 PM



“ What a great lady and professional. A wonderful mentor and friend to so many. She will be missed.###imported-begin###David Donohue###imported-end###

July 08, 2011 at 09:02 PM



“ I am pleased to recall Lauren as an undergraduate student at the University at Albany. She took one of my regular History courses; what I clearly remember is that she took an independent study course with me. I always enjoyed talking with her, for she was interested and intelligent, as well as being gracious. Later, knowing of my interest in Asia, especially India, she was pleased to tell me that one of her sons had developed an interest in Asia. We also saw each other occasionally as neighbors in McKownville. Moreover, we were pleased to hear her meaningful advice on the radio. I am sorry that we later lost touch with her, but I have nothing but favorable memories of her.###imported-begin###DeWitt Ellinwood, PhD###imported-end###

July 08, 2011 at 03:07 PM



“ I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to you at this most difficult time. I pray that you may find comfort in God's promise found at Revelation 21:4 - "And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away."###imported-begin###Antonia Williams###imported-end###

July 08, 2011 at 08:17 AM



“ to Lauren's Family,
Please accept my condolences on the loss of Your Wonderful Lauren. I knew her through her teens and twenties. I can see from her obituary that she lived a remarkable life. Tragically, too short. Emerse yourselves in the Good Memories.
Sincerely, Doug Stewart###imported-begin###Doug Stewart###imported-end###

July 08, 2011 at 08:07 AM



“ Andrew, Steve and Liz,

I just learned of your Mother's passing, and words cannot express the sorrow that I feel. She was a wonderful woman and I know that of all her accomplishments, the one she must have been most proud of was raising three wonderful children.

Your Mother touched many lives, and her kindness, especially to my Mom and us, will never be forgotten.

You are all in my prayers.

Joy Gudz###imported-begin##Joy Gudz###imported-end##

July 07, 2011 at 11:48 PM



“ Dear Lauren's family,

Our deepest condolences are with you on the loss of your mother/mother-in-law/grandmother in Lauren and for us a great aunt. We have been planning a Lake George trip for a while and feel sad that we could not do it when she was around. We will dearly miss her.

Hope you all recover soon from this tragedy.

May your grief be overcome with joyful memories

From your extended family

Neelima and Nitin Muppalaneni.###imported-begin##Neelima and Nitin###imported-end##

July 07, 2011 at 08:44 PM



“ Dr. Ayers....you saved my life I will forever be grateful for that. I will be so lost without you, you were my inspiration.##imported-begin##Heidi Bazicki##imported-end##

July 07, 2011 at 03:36 PM



“ Andy & Family, my deepest sympathies on the passing of your mom. It's hard to know what to say in these circumstances. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you, and I hope that your heart soon finds peace and comfort in fond and happy memories.
Sincerely,
Kathie Arnold##imported-begin##Kathie Arnold##imported-end##

July 07, 2011 at 12:09 PM



“ Lauren's passion and dedication to her family and community is something I will always admire about her. It was my pleasure to serve with her on the Guilderland Child Protection Task Force. She was truly passionate about keeping our children safe. To her family her passing will leave an emptiness in not only your lives but the lives of all her knew her. Let us take comfort that she walked with us for what seems like such a short time. My prayers are with all of you.

Mary Schmitz
Guilderland##imported-begin##Mary Schmitz##imported-end##

July 06, 2011 at 06:31 PM



“ Dear Andy, Stephen & Lizzie,

*We were deeply saddened by the news of your mother's passing.
She was a sweet and most gracious lady.*

*Please accept our deepest sympathy and know that you are all in
our thoughts and prayers.*

*Bob & Madonna Muller##imported-begin##Robert & Madonna
Muller##imported-end##*

July 06, 2011 at 05:15 PM