



Ann Cummings

August 14, 1940 - June 3, 2016

Ann (Furlong) Searles Cummings died peacefully on Friday, June 3, 2016. She was born in Mt. Lebanon, PA, the fourth child of the late Norman Furlong and Viola Vitzthum. Her late grandparents James W. and Mary (Payne) Furlong were also important to Ann as a child. As the youngest, she looked up to, depended on, and dearly loved her brother and sisters.

Ann was a devoted Christian Scientist, dedicating considerable time and energy to church activities and her work as a C.S. Practitioner and Teacher. She also enjoyed spending time outdoors, and creative endeavors such as writing and photography.

Ann was predeceased by her husband of 23 years, Richard Cummings and by her sisters, Mary Payne Goodenough and Arden Christie.

Her daughter Barbara Searles and son-in-law Cris Graffa of Lancaster, PA, their children and grandchildren, her brother James W. Furlong, of Northridge, CA and Portland, OR as well as many nieces and nephews survive Ann.

At Ann's request, no memorial service will be held.

Tribute Wall



“ *Ann Cummings*

January 25, 2023 at 07:44 PM



“ *One of the things I loved most about Ann was her unpredictability. She thought so far outside the box that the box ceased to exist! Who would have thought that a proud mother, loving wife and consecrated church worker would have gotten a colorful parrot tattoo later on in life...and wear it on her hand where it could easily be seen?! Not only that but she loved to show people how she could shake that tail feather :) Then there was this motorcycle she had...but I won't go into that now. Ann was, as we all are, one of a kind. She was my friend, my mentor, and a wonderful example of limitless womanhood. I will miss her company, but I know that, as she demonstrated while she was here with us, her true life is boundless. And she will continue forever as a cherished idea of our Father-Mother God.*

Bianca Ko - June 17, 2016 at 12:20 PM



She was my teacher. She was great! Thankyou Ann so much.

Marilyn Davis - March 09 at 11:05 AM

JS

“ *My condolence to Ann's Family and friends. As a student of Ann's class, I know she will be dearly missed by all. Her love for Christian Science was apparent in class by her beautiful readings and care for her students. She was loving, caring, joyous, and so full of fun. I know that she will continue on as God's perfect idea and reflection, embraced in His unlimited love for His children.*

Jeanne Swenson - June 10, 2016 at 01:57 PM

MJ

“ I think I met Aunt Ann at the reunion Arden put together in the late 90's, but I "met" her long before that via email and on the phone. She and Rich had a website that sold supplies for bible study, amongst other things. She and Chuck would have long email conversations about web site construction and maintenance and promotion, how to optimize product shots and SEO. Ann was SO enthusiastic about technology and marketing! I couldn't believe that someone of my mom's generation could embrace the edge so enthusiastically. Knowing I owned a printing company Ann asked about producing items, in essence becoming a publisher, and it seemed right up her alley.

When our baby was born at 28 weeks Ann prayed for her health and survival, and it worked! Her faith was inspiring and her devotion to her work equally so. She sent us xmas gifts that were hilarious... one was a VHS tape of a fireplace with a crackling fire and a not so subtle loop every 5 minutes or so. Our house did not have a fireplace and we used to set Alexandra in her carrier seat in front of the TV, close enough to irradiate her I am sure, and she would be mesmerized by that fire for hours.

I don't think I've ever met anyone that actually had a twinkle in their eye, except for Ann. Her smile was beautiful and genuine and contagious, and she got the lion's share of the Furlong sense of humor. Back when Jamie would throw out "flamers" in the family email conversations there were heated debates on many topics, mostly politics, sometimes about God and belief and atheism. Lord did he and Ann go at it sometimes. She was an eloquent writer, building arguments worthy of a Supreme Court hearing. I remember one of those heated discussions going on while we were visiting Don and MaryPayne in New Jersey. Mary Payne actually asked Jamie to "back off for Christ's sake!", MP was protective of Ann even though she could dish it out as well as take it. Chris Graffa's kids were in these email conversations too, one big raucous family conversation that went on for years.

Barbara, she lives on in you; in your service to others and spiritual nature, your beauty and inspiring messages, particularly about family. Many times a Facebook post by you, about the true meaning of family, buoyed my spirit. A big, squeezey hug to you Barbara, and all those that will miss her. xoxo

Marina Joyce - June 07, 2016 at 04:21 PM

LD

“*My sincere condolences to all of Ann's family. I will remember Ann as boldly intentional, fascinated with technology, ever researching, clever of wit, in love with vocabulary and literary clarity. She was at the same time a demanding teacher and a patient friend and guide. I already miss the thoughtful conversations we shared over the years and her gentle reminder when I tended to over think things, "Keep It Simple Sweetheart", a rule she repeated with a motherly smile and a gracious pause usually followed by a hearty chuckle. She expected the best from everyone she met and gave her best in return. I imagine if we could all live up to her expectations the world would be a most extraordinary place, a thought she would dismiss with that hearty chuckle then lean forward and say with a grin, "So what are you waiting for?"*

Lewis Dixon - June 07, 2016 at 05:25 AM

JF

“ *An Ode to Ann Searles Cummings*

*A-lways turning to God, Ann
N-ever missed an opportunity to prove God's
N-earnness.*

*S-he loved Truth above all
E-lse,
A-nd dedicated her life to serving Him.
R-egarding Ann's commitment to community, she
L-oved the practice of spiritual healing.
E-very day, she prayed for others,
S-elflessly serving the Christian Science*

*C-ause.
U-ndeniably effective, her prayer
M-ade a difference every day.
M-any people were healed,
I-ncluding me...more times than I can count.
N-aturally, I am
G-rateful to Ann for all good she shared, so willingly, with so many
other, her entire life.*

Jill Ferrie - June 06, 2016 at 10:07 AM

DD

“ *We loved following Aunt Ann on FaceBook. Her joy was infectious and her wisdom astounding. We wish her family and friends much love. So sorry for all of our loss.*

Debbie and Brenda Dixon-Smith - June 05, 2016 at 05:10 AM

OC

“ *Ann married my stepfather, Rich Cummings, and moved into his home in West Palm Beach, FL.*

Our family, my sister and brother's family all set into a lovely routine for many years of holiday celebrations, gift exchanges, weddings, graduations. Ann was known for her delicious spaghetti and meatballs at Christmas time. When Rich and I were elected to lead our church's services for three years, Ann invited me over each week for practice time. My habit was to share my Bible research with both of them. With Ann's encouragement I offered to do the same for patients at a care facility in Ft. Lauderdale. This led to several years of Bible talks around the country, which led to 20 years of leading Bible tours to Israel, Jordan, Turkey and Greece. Ann was behind me all the way, for which I am so grateful.

Olene and Paul Carroll

OLENE E CARROLL - June 05, 2016 at 02:08 AM

JH

“ *I treasure my friendship with Ann. She was an uniquely spiritual thinker and a healer. She was brave and courageous and always had a wicked sense of humor. Godspeed dear ANN, you go with God. You are loved and will be missed.*

Joy Heinlein - June 04, 2016 at 08:47 PM

BM

“ Dearest Barbara and family,

I am so sorry that Aunt Ann has passed away, but I am so glad that she is running free! As I think about her, I first remember my mother saying that she was so smart and such an intellect. She had a quick wit and loved to engage in deep and thoughtful conversations. After my mother died, she and I talked on the phone and she told me that God would fill the void with someone or something after such a loss. I have many times thought of her wonderful words because she was so right!

Barbara, I hope those very same words of your mother's will bring you peace as you struggle with the void that she has left.

Betsy Kraemer McPherson

Betsy Mcpherson - June 04, 2016 at 07:25 PM

CR

“ Barb and Cris, I send my deepest condolences. My mother sure loved her baby sister. My mother always told stories about how my parents brought Ann on fishing vacations with them so Ann could babysit for me and my brother Chuck while they went fishing. I'm sure Mary Payne and Arden welcomed Ann with open arms and they are all together now. My heart goes out to you.

Christine Roberts - June 04, 2016 at 07:05 PM

“ To Barbara, Ann's family and all of her friends.

Ann became special to me back in late 2012 just after the passing of my father at Tenacre in Princeton, New Jersey.

It was almost as if some director of a stage play had cued Ann to step on the stage of my life because in the months and years before, my father had raved about her writing in the various Christian Science periodicals. He'd go on about various details within them--and among the other things he'd read to my mother, Barbara Holliday, who was also staying at Tenacre, dad would read Ann's articles.

When he cornered me, he'd go on and on about her writing as well. Little did he or I know Ann would soon cross our family's path.

Through half of 2012 and most of 2013, Ann was a favorite Sunday afternoon companion of my mother and me. She would join us for a long afternoon of laughter and conversation about anything and everything from politics to writing to whatever.

Ann, like my mother, was a teacher in Christian Science, and Ann made it a point to tell me that she had been inspired by my mother blazing the trail for the "troublemakers" like her--as she put it.

From that statement evolved our traditional Sunday evening goodbye dialogue. As I left, I'd pass by Ann's room and say, "See you later Ann. Try to stay out of trouble." to which she'd always respond "I'll try my best but no promises." I'm smiling even as I write this.

I am already missing my favorite "troublemaker" as I so often called Ann "to her face and behind her back"--something I always told to her as we joked on.

I last got to visit Ann while on an epic year-long road-trip in early

2015. She had since moved to Florida, and as I passed through, she and I got to hang out one last afternoon, reminiscent of those Sunday's back in New Jersey.

Godspeed Ann! Try and stay out of trouble!

Yeah, right.

Geoffrey Alan Holliday - June 04, 2016 at 06:46 PM

CR

“ *Barb and Cris, I send my deepest condolences. My mother sure loved her baby sister. My mother always told stories about how my parents brought Ann on fishing vacations with them so Ann could babysit for me and my brother Chuck while they went fishing. I'm sure Mary Payne and Arden welcomed Ann with open arms and they are all together now. My heart goes out to you.*

Christine Roberts - June 04, 2016 at 04:56 PM

LY

“ *Barb and Cris, I am so sorry for losing your Mom. My condolences to your whole family. I didn't know her but I do know that she is part of a very special family and she will be missed by all of you.*

Lynn - June 04, 2016 at 02:32 PM

BC

“ I met Ann many years ago in South Florida. I was living there when I was introduced to Christian Science. I remember Ann as always having an elegant look to her. But one day, as an experiment, she added a red ball clown nose to her outfit and when out into the world to see how people would respond. Most pretended not to notice.

I believe it was that same year that her Association address focused on joy. I was not her pupil but she told me about it. She gave out red clown noses for everyone to wear there and she gave the address wearing a clown suit.

I remember too that she was ahead of us all in using the new technologies in CS practice. When people began to have home fax machines, long before e-mail, she was the first I knew to fax assignments and citations to her patients that were in CS nursing facilities.

I know she is dancing on and I will always remember her as brave, generous and joyous.

Barbara Whitewater, CS

Barbara Whitewater CS - June 04, 2016 at 01:00 PM