



Dr Rebecca R Fiske

February 1, 1956 - January 3, 2018

Richmond –

Dr. Rebecca R. Fiske, of Richmond, Massachusetts, died on Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital after a long illness. At the time of her death, she was surrounded by family and her children.

Rebecca was born in Rutland, VT on February 1, 1956, the daughter of Robert and Louise Fiske. She graduated from Bennington College in 1978 with a degree in English. After graduation, she worked for a time at Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield, MA, but soon transitioned to Simon's Rock College in Great Barrington where she served in human resources, as dean of students, and finally, as a professor. Simon's Rock became her primary professional focus as well as a bastion of friends and devoted students.

Rebecca earned a Master Degree from Smith College and a doctorate in English from SUNY Albany. In time, she became a full professor of English and Critical Theory at Simon's Rock. She had many academic interests but her main teaching focus was the critical interpretation of the Old Testament and the works of Walter Benjamin. She has published in a number of journals and was working on a book in the months before her death. She was a mentor to a great number of students, many who continued correspondence with her long after graduation. Rebecca loved her students and they loved her in turn. Rebecca had many interests outside of her work. She had a desire to help underserved children and adults with reading and writing skills and was active in that regard as a volunteer. She loved to travel, had visited many European

cities – preferring Rome – and had backpacked for six weeks through Greece. She loved Jethro Tull and Neil Young, and loved taking walks with her Dachshund on the trails above Olivia's outlook. She was a wonderful person and will be greatly missed.

Rebecca is survived by her husband, Dr. Deane Zarvis; her children, Jim, Alex, Nick, and Rachael Zarvis; her grandchildren, Kostis and Lucas Zarvis; her sisters, Dr. Roberta Rusciano of New Jersey and Melissa Brackett of California, and her brother, Peter Fiske of Vermont.

The funeral service for Dr. Rebecca R. Fiske will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2018 at 3:00pm at the Roche Funeral Home, 120 Main Street, Lenox, MA 01240. Calling hours will be from 1:00pm until the time of the service. In lieu of flowers, donations in Rebecca's memory may be made in care of Win Commons at Simon's Rock College in Great Barrington.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **21**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Roche Funeral Home
120 Main Street
P.O. Box 152
Lenox, MA 01240
(413) 637-0699
eroche120fh@gmail.com

Service

JAN **21**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

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120 Main Street
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Tribute Wall

DH

“ *Dear Family*

I would like to express my condolences for your loss. My son Alex had difficulties getting through high school in traditional settings. My wife and I did not know what to do! Upon advice we took him out of school and thought home schooling would work. It didn't really. At this time Rebecca came into our lives and consented to tutor Alex. In our minds she was a God send. Alex began to respond to her tutelage and received a 98% on his GED exam. After attending Berkshire Community College, he graduated from Marymount Manhattan. He is now a sound engineer at the Baryshnikov theater at age 30.

For us Rebecca turned turned Alex in the right direction. We will always be grateful for her love and ability to inspire people.

sincerely yours,

David Hurst

Rev. David F. Hurst

17 Tucker Street

Lenox, Ma.

413-426-6031

David Hurst - February 28, 2018 at 01:55 PM

ES

“ Dear Fiske / Zarvis & Families.:

I want to express my sincere sympathy at the passing of you Rebecca...Rebecca are very special and the sadness at their loss, leaves a deep hole in ones heart. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. My sincere condolences to you and your family. I know you have many special memories and those will keep him alive in your heart.

God Bless

Elie El Saddik

Elie El Saddik - January 20, 2018 at 02:23 PM

SG

“ *I became acquainted with Becky when I took a couple of classes at BCC. I lost touch with her after that, but was aware of her professional accomplishments and never forgot what a nice person she was. My sincere condolences to her family.*

Steve Giroux - January 19, 2018 at 05:21 PM

MB

“ As sisters , growing up ,
we did everything together.
Shopped , played , cried ,and laughed.
At the end of life we spent time laughing ,crying ,and talking of your
wishes,The after life and your children.
Until we are together again the hole in my heart remains as a
reminder of our
Unbroken bond.
All my love
Your sister , Mickey



melissa brackett - January 19, 2018 at 03:21 AM