



Dr. Anne Rowley Breneman

October 1, 1943 - April 18, 2019

Dr. Anne Rowley Breneman ascended to the next world on April 18, 2019, at the age of 75. She was born in Champaign-Urbana, IL. She lived her life as a spiritually dedicated member of the Baha'i Faith, striving always to exemplify these beliefs through practice. She is a mother to four children and two step-children, and grandmother to ten grandchildren. She has been a resident of West Point with her husband Bret Breneman since 2000, when they, along with their youngest son, Julian, came to assist her parents, Reverend Gregory AE Rowley and Lucy Elizabeth Fary Rowley, and her brother, Gregory Otway Rowley, of Shackelfords.

She was an associate professor of Sociology and Chair of the Social Science department at Allen University in Columbia, SC, and at Hampton University, VA. She received her EdD in Social Science Education (1983) and her MA in Sociology and Anthropology (1980) at the University of Georgia (Athens). She received her BA in Sociology and Anthropology and her teaching certification at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY (1977), where she also was one of the first women to be a Thomas Watson Research Fellow, Southeast Asia. She was a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, and also of the Universal Peace Sisters. She presented her research nationally and globally, particularly her work on the empowerment and equality of women. She is the co-author of *Women in the New Millennium: the Global Revolution*, with Rebecca Mbu, her coworker, collaborator and friend. Parts of this work are translated into several languages. She is the author of several children's books: *A Violet in the Garden*, *Like Pure Gold: The Story of Louis G. Gregory*, and *A Baha'i Alphabet Book*. She served on two national Baha'i committees, one for education and one for social and economic development, as well as several times serving as a delegate to the National Baha'i Convention. She was a world traveler, loving educator, and stalwart servant of community building via her beloved Faith. Anne's sweet, sincere, loving and caring nature was bestowed upon all who met her.

Anne was preceded in death by her parents, Reverend Gregory A. E. Rowley and Lucy Elizabeth Fary Rowley, as well as her grandchild, Cameron Ali Scott (Suzanne). She is survived by her beloved husband, Bret; brothers, C. Wesley (Laura) Rowley and Gregory Otway Rowley; sister, Rebecca Lee (Ken) Rowley Mirvis; daughters: Michelle (James) Ernst Modera, Yvonne (Steve) DiMattia, Suzanne Kraus; son, Julian Mihdi Breneman;

step-children: Eva Breneman and Reed (Lua) Breneman; grandchildren: Michael Husayn Ernst, Ashley Bahiyyih Ernst, Patrick Chase Babb, Sean Elliot Ferguson, Anisa Marie Ferguson, N. Amin Bainbridge Scott, and step-grandchildren: Ramsey Reed Breneman, Leo Reed Breneman, Juliet Lua Breneman; as well as several dearly loved cousins, aunts, nieces and nephews.

The memorial service honoring and celebrating Anne's life will be held on Saturday, May 4th, 2:00 pm, at Vincent Funeral Home West Point Chapel.

Events

MAY **Memorial Service** 02:00PM

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Vincent Funeral Home, West Point Chapel
417 11th St, West Point, VA, US, 23181

Comments



“ Robin Neiheisel lit a candle in memory of Dr. Anne Rowley Breneman



Robin Neiheisel - December 08, 2019 at 11:31 AM



“ When we moved to Athens, GA in 1981, we had just become members of the Baha'i Faith only a few weeks earlier. We knew very little about the Faith, but were eager to learn. The first Baha'i we called after we moved to our apartment was Anne Rowley. She would become a profound influence in our lives...a stalwart, dedicated, loving Baha'i "mom" given to us by Baha'u'llah to help us along our way. She taught us songs on her guitar, shared the history of the Faith, told us stories of teaching and traveling. These were hard years for Anne, as she was raising her teen aged daughters by herself while trying to earn her PhD. She also had a young Baha'i teenager named Enid Penso living with her family. She still found a way to travel teach in Albany, GA and rural communities throughout GA and SC as an assistant to Auxillary Board member Adriane Reeves. We were inspired by her tenacity, her exuberance, her spirit of sacrifice, and her positive, happy nature. Years later we visited her in S.C after she married Bret (what a perfect match). She was pregnant with Julian at the same time we were expected our son Philip. Anne gave me a Baha'i prayer book on my birthday which has traveled to many places and on two pilgrimages. It is a constant reminder of the love we will always have for this dear lady. Thank you Anne, for being our friend. Robin and Bill Neiheisel, Oakwood, GA

Robin Neiheisel - December 08, 2019 at 11:30 AM



“ 20 files added to the album Anne Breneman



Michelle Ernst Modera - May 06, 2019 at 11:15 AM



“ I helped Anne travel teach the faith in Sodus Point,NY.She was also teaching the faith elsewhere in the area. I knew her when she lived in Geneva, N.Y. She had a lot of energy. She was raising her children by herself at the time. My wife Crystal and I are very sorry for her loss. Sincerely, Brian and Crystal Erenstone

Crystal Erenstone - April 28, 2019 at 07:58 AM



“ For me ,Anne epitomized the phrase , "walk the walk ...Talk the talk ..."
She is perhaps the most truly spiritual and intentional individual I have been honored to call family. She lived her life with pure intention ,and she died with pure intention: waiting to say goodbye to all those she holds dear .
I know there will be many wonderful souls welcoming her home .
I thank her for the warm and genuine blessings she gave me and Nate and Ashley.She was /is an incredible loving presence. I will miss her,my sister and friend...Yet believe she is surrounded by joy.

Bev

Beverly - April 29, 2019 at 04:09 PM



“ Anne was a great inspirational and Spiritual presence for me as a child. A truly memorable, formative character for me growing up. I remember one day she phoned my Mother on the telephone to tell her how much she enjoyed hearing me sing as I walked past her house on my way to St. Stephen's School. I was honored to be able to care for, Rupert, the family dog when Anne and the girls were out of town, and she very sweetly gave me a beautiful gift of Mark Twain's book, "The Prince and The Pauper" upon her return. I have so very many wonderful memories of Anne; a beautiful, generous, kind, loving, brilliant Soul. Knowing her was truly a gift for me... and for all of humankind. Thank you Anne, for the soaring example you gave us all of a life so very well lived, a life of great Love. You are with us always... watching, guiding, inspiring, loving. We love you, Anne. We are Eternal.

Joseph Mahan - April 27, 2019 at 12:39 PM



“ So sorry to hear of her passing. She was such a kind and sweet lady. I enjoyed my conversation that I had with her. She was such a delightful lady.



joanie - April 27, 2019 at 08:41 AM