



## Laurie Cerretani

October 8, 1952 - July 19, 2017

Cerretani - Laurie Cerretani, age 64, passed away on July 19, 2017 in Snellville, Georgia after a stubborn fight against breast cancer. Laurie was born on October 8, 1952 in Binghamton, New York to Lawrence and Maria Cerretani. She enrolled at Binghamton University in 1970, but her interest in art history and a love of all things Italian led her to continue her studies in Italy. When she returned to the U.S., she worked in the hospitality industry and became the first female Food & Beverage Director for Hyatt Hotels. She took a break to raise her three daughters and then worked in the Gwinnett County Public Schools system until her retirement in 2016. Laurie had an eye for design, which was apparent in everything she did. From her quilts to her art collection to her garden, Laurie appreciated beauty in the every day. She also loved to travel and was happiest with a guidebook in her hand while talking non-stop about Caravaggio or chiaroscuro. Laurie never quite grasped the concept of relaxing, and was just like her father in that she always had a project. Out at Quaker Lake, she could usually be found wielding a paintbrush, leaf blower, or pressure washer. She will be remembered for her unique sense of humor, love of learning, appreciation of good food, and friendships that endured across time and distance. Laurie leaves behind her daughters Maria Cerretani, Elise Russ, and Julia Watkins, who will miss her terribly. They have lost an incredible role model, travel companion, interior decorator, and source of endless support and laughs. Laurie is also survived by her partner John LaFleur, sons-in-law John Russ and Will Watkins, grandson John Lawrence

Watkins, and granddaughter Laurie Marie Russ. Laurie hated goodbyes and we hate to say goodbye to her as it is far too soon. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Loveltaly, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving Italy's cultural heritage. A celebration of Laurie's life will be held on Thursday, August 31st from 6:30-9pm at Beans & Butter Coffeehouse: 851 Oak Road, Lawrenceville, GA 30044. Arrangements by: Tim Stewart Funeral Home: 2246 Wisteria Dr. Snellville, GA 30078. Please leave online condolences at [www.stewartfh.com](http://www.stewartfh.com)

# Tribute Wall



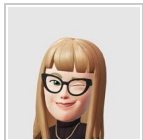
“ Laurie Cerretani

October 08, 2022 at 11:31 AM



“ As a college friend of her daughter Maria's, Laurie was an important part of my life at that formative time. I loved showing off our makeshift Thanksgiving spread prepared in a tiny dorm room...and learned the importance of serving dishes for presenting it all if I was going to show it off. She was such a special person who touched so many people. Thinking of you all and holding Laurie in my heart.

Maria Barva - August 31, 2017 at 05:36 PM



“ I am so sorry to lose precious time and the ability to make a new friend.

We are thinking of you all.

Barbara McLean - August 31, 2017 at 12:06 PM



“ Honored to have met this strong and courageous woman! Laurie always saw the positive side, always had the smile on her face, she even brought me flowers one time just to thank me. She will be sorely missed ...

Arlene Tumale - July 25, 2017 at 10:16 AM

JM

“ I'm so sorry for your loss Laurie was a classmate of mine, my prayers and thoughts are with you and your family she was the best

jim mcnamara - July 21, 2017 at 11:31 PM

JG

“ I send my condolences to Laurie's family. I am her first cousin, Julie Sullivan Griffin. Laurie's mother, Maria, and my mother, Margeurite, were sisters and our families were close as we were growing up. We attended the same high school and were a year apart. We did not have much contact after that, as I lived on the west coast until 1993. Laurie was a very special person and I know she will be missed by all that knew her.

Julie Griffin - July 21, 2017 at 09:26 PM

CP

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. I will always remember you're Mom's great sense of humor and friendship and smile. She was always so kind to her students and just knew what to say to make them feel better. I will truly miss her.

Cynthia Phillips - July 21, 2017 at 07:57 AM



“ Laurie was amazingly kind to me during my first pregnancy with my daughter Julia. It was a complicated scenario and Laurie was always understanding and kind. What a wonderful person who will be missed.

Jennifer Lawrence - July 20, 2017 at 04:33 PM

CF

“ Laurie was such a beautiful person. Always willing to help when you needed her. I'm so sorry to learn of her passing.

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**Crystal Furman** - July 20, 2017 at 03:54 PM

LO

Laurie and I developed a friendship as I helped her navigate her appointments and correspondence with the doctor. I admired the way she always had her game face on accompanied by an amazing smile. She wrote sweet thank you notes to me and even brought me flowers once. I thank God for allowing me the opportunity to meet such a beautiful individual.

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**Lolita** - July 21, 2017 at 10:30 AM