



## Laureen Isabelle Slutzker

August 12, 2024

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Laureen "Laurie" Isabelle Slutzker, a beacon of warmth who left us unexpectedly on August 12, 2024. Laureen - or "Auntie" as she was affectionately known by her three cherished nieces - was an ebullient spirit whose vibrant personality touched everyone she met. She lived the life she desired, sometimes to the consternation of others, and she was steady in her life philosophy. Though we teased her about her tendency to quote the New York Times, the truth is that she was worldly and wise and brought a unique perspective to each interaction she had. She was easy to laugh and tended towards optimism, and the world without her is a less colorful place.

Laureen never married or had her own children, but she shared a deep, unwavering bond with her family and happily played varying roles of mother, sister, friend, and confidante with her characteristic enthusiasm and affection. Her family was her greatest source of joy - and of course frustration - and she cherished every moment spent with them. Her happiest place was the family cottage on Keuka Lake, where for multiple generations she and her loved ones made memories, many of which involved Laureen going out to swim after dark and causing onlookers varying levels of anxiety. We cherish those memories of Laureen and feel grateful that the cottage can forever be a place where we look to every corner and see her smiling face.

Beyond the bond she shared with her family, Laureen also had an extensive group of close friends who were drawn to her loyalty, generosity, and warmth.

She had a remarkable ability to make each person feel valued and loved and to provide for every one of her dear friends an indomitable ally. Her friendships spanned decades and locations, reflecting the depth and breadth of her connections and the lasting way in which she related to others. Laureen's impact on those around her was profound. In the weeks since her passing, we have been brought to tears hearing the wonderful memories shared by those who knew and loved her. From her flair for brightly-colored cashmere sweaters and pink lipstick (no matter the season) to her tendency to pepper all correspondence with xxxs and oos, everyone agrees that she was completely and utterly herself.

Laureen is survived by her brother Dr. Michael Slutzker (Julie), her nieces Chloe Quail Schmidt (Chris), Shelby Slutzker, and Taylor Slutzker, her great nephews Archie Schmidt and Jules Schmidt, and her beloved extended family and vast network of friends, all of whom will remember her every day with immense love.

We will eventually plan a celebration of Laureen's life, but in the meantime, celebrate her by drinking a Mojito, taking a long swim, or sending someone you love a silly card. In lieu of flowers, we request that donations be made to Operation Smile, Doctors Without Borders, or the San Diego Humane Society in her honor.

It is an understatement to say that we will deeply miss Laureen but her radiant spirit and the love we shared will forever remain in our hearts.

# Tribute Wall



“ I met Laureen in 1974 when we were both undergraduates at the University of Denver. I edited the entertainment section of our thrice-weekly student newspaper, *The Denver Clarion*, and as a result got all manner of freebies, from front row center/All Access backstage passes to every college-circuit concert in the Southwest to stacks of LPs. Lots of free tee shirts. I'll never forget the squeals of delight whenever I'd hand Laureen a stack of hot wax, no charge. I knew her when her front tooth got knocked out late one night in a snowy fender-bender, an injury she would fret about for decades. She always said that, as *Year of the Dog*, she was a worrier. Then came thyroid disease, gall bladder disease, then the lymphoma. Last time we talked, she LMK how proud she was that she had lost weight, always a concern. Her move from SoCal, where I live, to RI certainly was what she wanted, and I really missed the late-night giggles, midnight buttered toast-binges, and mad treasure-hunts at thrift stores, antique stores, tag sales, flea markets, swap meets. "We are a good family" she would always say of the Cooks/Slutzkers. Vaya con Dios, Weenie.

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**Victoria Thomas** - October 03, 2024 at 02:52 PM

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I was so sad to find out of laureene's passing.this came to a shock to me I had no idea she was my client and friend.I own a small salon in Edgewood Rhode Island.she frequent at my salon stop by bring coffee she was the best.she will spend Thanksgiving with me and my family when you during covid.I still don't know what happened I'm so upset that I found out when I was looking up her address in Connecticut when she moved and I came up with this I'm still in shock.she was She will be missed.me she rest in peace

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**Donna Izzo** - December 08, 2024 at 10:28 PM