

Obituaries



DR. JENNIFER ZANNINI-CIPRIANI, 47, of East Greenwich passed away on February 3, 2021. Jennifer fought for three years with extreme courage and conviction against metastatic lung cancer that ultimately proved too elusive to contain. She will be missed by many in her beloved home state of Rhode Island where she was raised and where she returned in 2018 to

focus on her fight for life. In between she lived in Massachusetts for over 20 years. She located to MA for her residency training program, met a husband, grew a family, and thrived in a career until her diagnosis and early retirement from Winchester Anesthesia Associates at Winchester Hospital.

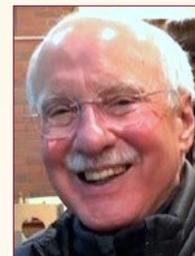
Jen loved her parents, siblings, husband, children, and friends with joy and intensity, creating experiences and making memories to last a lifetime. From the little things: nightly songs of “You Are My Sunshine” to her children, and birthday parties with pony rides in the backyard; to world-class travel to Iceland, France, Ireland, Italian and California vineyards, and the slopes and spas of Stowe, Vermont, and Mont Tremblant. Jen’s zest for life and desire to share the world with her family and friends, to squeeze the richness out of every single day, was evident throughout her entire life. She never allowed day-to-day challenges to eclipse all the world had to offer, long before she knew that would be necessary. Jen will be remembered as a cherished friend to so many who despite her busy life consistently maintained meaningful friendships from childhood, college, medical school, residency, her career at Winchester Hospital, and her life as a mother.

Jen was raised in Barrington by her mother Rita (White) Zannini and her father Gaetano Zannini. Upon graduating Barrington High School in 1991, Jen went on to attend and graduate from Syracuse University, The Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, and a residency program at Boston University Medical Center. She met her husband Matt in Boston in 2003 and the two were married in 2006. They welcomed their first child, Charlotte Bari, in 2010 and their son, Jackson Quinn, in 2012. Her family lived and thrived in Lexington, MA, until Jen’s diagnosis in February of 2018. The family relocated back to Rhode Island that summer to be closer to both Jen and Matthew’s families to help support her fight against cancer. When not busily researching cancer treatments, Jen was always volunteering to help at the children’s schools or focusing on maximizing her time with her family and friends. Their family found many new and lasting friendships in East Greenwich. Matt, Charlotte, and Jackson will continue to live within this great community. In addition to her parents and children, Jen leaves behind a brother, Michael Zannini of Johnston, and a sister, Julie (Zannini) Bianco of Barrington.

Jen’s final wishes were to keep her memory alive for her 10-year-old daughter, Charlotte and her 8-year-old son, Jack, and to fight to rewrite the future of lung cancer treatment through funding medical research. To this end, donations can be made to Jen’s foundation Project Breathing Hope <https://breathinghope.org/>.

At the request of Jennifer, all services will be private. ❖

HENRY GEWIRTZ, MD, of Cambridge, MA, formerly of Providence, passed away on February 17, 2021. He was the beloved husband of the late Nancy H. Gewirtz, and devoted and beloved father of Rebekah Gewirtz of Newton, MA, and Aaron Gewirtz of Wakefield, RI. He was the loving grandfather of Nina and Jacob Kuller and Gabriel and Julian Gewirtz, and dear brother of Eliot Gewirtz of New York City. Services will be private; donations in his memory can be made to the American Cancer Society for prostate cancer research.



Dr. Gewirtz was kind and compassionate and deeply interested in the world. He was a thinker. Dependable and honest, Dr. Gewirtz worked for most of his career as director of nuclear cardiology at the Massachusetts General Hospital. He cherished being outdoors and challenging himself to new adventures. He was an avid skier, sailboat racer and bicycle rider. He loved sailing his Etchells 22 and his Beetlecat, Huckleberry, with his late wife Nancy. First mates, together they won many races in Nantucket Sound. Later in his life, Henry hiked in the mountains of Nepal and always wished to return. On several of his treks he used his incredible eye for photography to capture beautiful images, which he has left for us to enjoy. Henry’s dream was to climb to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

Henry’s friend Renee Rulin of Providence, RI, has been his companion over the past 6 years and the source of much support, happiness and love. Henry will be sorely missed by his children and their spouses, his beloved grandchildren and all those whose lives he touched. May his cherished memory be a blessing. ❖



BERNARD LOWN, MD, 99, of Newton, MA, a pioneering cardiologist and co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, passed away on February 16, 2021.

For 73 years, he was the beloved husband of the late Louise Lown and the loving father of Fred and Barbara Lown, Anne Lown and Warren Green and Naomi Lown and Marvin Lewiton. He was the cherished grandfather of Melanie Lown, Zachary Lown, Emma Lown, Ariel Lewiton and Rachael Lewiton, and great-grandfather of Ezra

Moore. He was the fond brother of the late Harold Lown, Lillian Meyers, and Milton Lown.

Due to the current health crisis, a memorial service will be planned for a later date.

Dr. Lown was the author of "The Lost Art of Healing" and "Prescription for Survival: A Doctor's Journey to End Nuclear Madness." In 1960, during the tensions of the Cold War, he was one of the founders of Physicians for Social Responsibility. In 1980, he and Dr. Evgeny Chazov co-founded International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. They accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the organization in 1985.

For four decades, Dr. Lown invited young physicians and scholars from low- and middle-income countries to Harvard and trained them in cardiovascular disease prevention and treatment. The Lown Scholars Program is a continuation of that vision. In his memory, donations may be sent to the Lown Scholars and Lown Community Health Centers programs. If you are interested in making a donation, please contact Michele Hudak at lownscholars@hsph.harvard.edu.

The following is a statement on his passing from the Lown Institute, a think tank, in Brookline, MA, from Dr. Vikas Saini, president of the Institute.

"Dr. Bernard Lown, pioneering cardiologist, humanitarian, and founder of the Lown Institute, was a remarkable clinician, scientist, and visionary who will be remembered long into the future.

"As a scientist, Dr. Lown did seminal work on sudden cardiac death. He was co-inventor of the modern direct current defibrillator, a device that revolutionized the practice of cardiology and saved countless lives. He created one of the first cardiac intensive care units and transformed the treatment of heart attack

patients. He was one of the first physicians to recognize the importance of overtreatment and the power of money to corrupt his beloved profession.

"Above all, he advocated for social justice and peace, and worked tirelessly to create the health system we all want and need. At the Lown Institute, we continue to be inspired by Dr. Lown's bravery, heart, and vision, and we are proud to carry on his legacy in our work." ❖



FRANCIS L. MCNELIS, MD, of

Providence, passed away February 8, 2021 at the age of 100.

Dr. McNelis was the Chief of Staff for Otolaryngology at the Rhode Island Hospital in Providence and also treated patients at Miriam, Our Lady of Fatima, Pawtucket Memorial and St. Joseph's Hospitals. He became a Clinical Professor of Surgery/Otolaryngology at the Brown University medical school.

He was a United States Navy Veteran of WWII, serving as a medical doctor.

Dr. McNelis was the husband of the late Shirley (Grube) McNelis and the late June (Stewart Bubier) McNelis. He is survived by his children: Frances Houser and her husband Lance of California, J. Kevin McNelis and his wife Karen of Rhode Island, Joanne K. Sheehan of Arizona, Stephen F. McNelis of Massachusetts, Brian F. McNelis (deceased) and Marian E. McNelis and her husband Tom Arnold of Arizona, and David Bubier and his wife Linda of Massachusetts, and 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. ❖

