



Dr. Lynn Z. Lang

November 18, 1942 - November 18, 2021

Lynn Z. Lang, a long-time resident of the Washington, DC area and a highly regarded teacher and naturalist, loved for her generous enthusiasms, died in Chapel Hill, North Carolina on November 18, 2021, her 79th birthday. The cause of death was ovarian cancer.

Dr. Lang's academic interest was literacy, especially the process of children learning to read, and her avocation was gardening with native plants. It is likely that her students, who ranged from public school children in Arlington, Virginia to graduate students at universities in the Washington, DC area, number in the hundreds. Her gardens were recognized by important naturalist organizations.

Dr. Lang was born in Washington, DC and raised in Arlington County, Virginia. She attended public schools in Arlington, received her bachelor's degree from then-Madison College in Harrisonburg, Virginia, her master's in teaching from the University of Virginia, and her doctorate from Virginia Tech. She began her career as an elementary school classroom teacher in Arlington. She taught at several universities in the Washington, DC region, including Marymount College in Arlington, the George Washington University, the American University, the University of Virginia, and Virginia Tech and retired as an administrator and reading specialist in the Arlington School system.

After retirement, Dr. Lang took up her many lifelong interests, especially in the natural world. She became a docent at the Adkins Arboretum in Ridgely, Maryland, the major demonstration garden of plants native to the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and she established a native plant meadow and demonstration garden of her own at the property she and her husband owned near Queenstown, MD on the Eastern Shore, which they called "Cabochon." Cabochon eventually was added to tours of the Horticultural Society of Annapolis, MD and was designated a "Bay-wise" property by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Dr. Lang was a Life Member of the Nature Conservancy.

In 2015, the Langs, then in their mid-70s, moved to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where Dr. Lang energetically continued to pursue her interests. She served on the Board of Orange County Literacy, an organization dedicated to literacy among adults, and the Chapel Hill Garden Club. She also served James Madison University, the direct descendent of Madison College. She was a member of the University's Foundation Board and the Advisory Board of JMU's Honors College.

Dr. Lang was married and devoted to the love of her life, Jeff Lang. While pursuing their separate careers, the couple shared a deep and loving connection. Together they gardened, collected art, and designed everything in their lives, from their wedding rings to their residences. They designed and built their home and gardens in Chapel Hill, significantly revised and expanded the buildings and landscape at Cabochon and repaired designated historic buildings that became their residences in Old Town, Alexandria and Falls Church, Virginia. They raised and attempted to control a squad of loyal but energetic terriers, read widely, hiked the outdoors from the Appalachian Trail to the La Garita Wilderness in Colorado, kayaked the Chesapeake and the ocean waters of Maine, sought out the Japanese Red Crested Crane on Hokkaido Island, Japan (and hundreds of other birds), and cultivated good taste in music of all kinds from Blues Alley in Washington to La Fenice in

Venice. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on a Sunday, 25 days before she died.

Her survivors are her husband and her cousin, Coralie Bishop of Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Contributions in lieu of flowers, please, to the Lynn Z. Lang Memorial Endowed Chair for Excellence in Teaching at the College of Education, James Madison University. Checks should be made out to The James Madison University Foundation, designated to account #1002919, and be sent to JMU Advancement Gifts and Records, 1031 Harrison Street, MSC 3603, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807.

Cemetery Details

Oxford Cemetery

Oxford, MD

Previous Events

Graveside Service

NOV **26**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Oxford Cemetery
Oxford, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Lynn Z. Lang*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Dr. Lynn Z. Lang*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Dr. Lynn Z. Lang*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Sheri Sanders - December 11, 2021 at 08:27 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Sheri Sanders - December 11, 2021 at 08:21 PM

SS

“ Lynn was college roommates and lifetime friends with my mom, Sandy. She was known to me as Aunt Lynn, my adopted aunt and second mom. My middle name and also my daughter’s middle name came from her name. She was always supportive of me and such an inspiration. I will miss her dearly!

Sheri Sanders - December 11, 2021 at 05:20 PM

BN

“ I first met Lynn when she walked into the Chapel Hill Garden Club in 2017 and then very soon after walked into my flower design classes. Lynn had a special quality to her demeanor, I use to think she radiated sunshine. She was a pleasure to work with and to teach. A stand out with me is that following each of the four design workshops, I would receive, in the mail, a hand written note thanking me for the class along with a complimentary remark. Lynn will always be part of any memories I might have of those years. I consider myself fortunate to have known her.

Betsy Nininger

Betsy Nininger - December 02, 2021 at 10:27 AM

AW

“ What wonderful person, always enthusiastic! I knew her through the Chapel Hill Garden Club and will miss her. A bright light has dimmed. -- Amanda Watlington

Amanda Watlington - December 01, 2021 at 06:58 PM

SK

“ A better person, you will not find. Lynn was always there to lend an ear, give expert advice on anything from a good book recommendation to planting a native butterfly garden. Her knowledge base was so vast and her heart was so big. She was definitely one of a kind and she will be missed terribly.

Shellie Kegerreis Kelly - November 24, 2021 at 07:20 AM

FS

“ Lynn was a friend and colleague with a well honed mind and abundant, gentle heart. It was ever pleasure to be in her company. I had the good fortune to share in knowing many of their scattered homes: each bore welcome with art and Inviting spaces. Since I attended UNC-CH, I was delighted when they settled on “the southern part of Heaven” for their retirement housing venture. I did visit and see Lynn there but not her3 addresses. I loved her spirit of exploration of places and spaces: in living in homes of varying designs: in loving painting and art from boxes to blotches. I shall miss her, knowing she has slipped away. I shall remember her in glimpses and with smiles, Ever. Fran Bell Simms



Fran Bell Simms - November 23, 2021 at 03:10 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Dr. Lynn Z. Lang.



November 23, 2021 at 12:28 PM

VB

“Lynn was the kindest, gentlest, most thoughtful person I ever met. I will miss her but will always be grateful that I knew her, if only briefly. My condolences to Jeff and to all of Lynn's family and friends.

Vicki Breeden - November 23, 2021 at 11:05 AM

CP

“How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." Winnie the Pooh knows hard. A half century of friendship: what more to say! You and the other good Dr. friend and colleague were my therapy life line during our lunch breaks in my turbulent decade. Not to forget those 'before the school bell rings' coffee times with brioche , prepping for the day or week ahead: Survival, Lynn, thank you. The best among us are few my friend. You have remained so, for so long.

Charlie



Charles Padgett - November 23, 2021 at 09:04 AM

SK

“I worked in APS with Lynne. Her patience, graciousness, and knowledge were without equal. I will always be grateful for her and to her. My sincere condolences to Lynne's family.

Silvia Koch

Silvia Koch - November 22, 2021 at 07:36 PM

LL

Lynn, Jeff and I graduated from Washington-Lee High School in Arlington, VA. May the more than 50 years of love and joy you shared be a reminder of what you and Lynn meant to each other. My deep condolences to you and Lynn's family.
Lynne Schmidt Lilly

Lynne Schmidt Lilly - November 22, 2021 at 10:20 PM

SS

“*Lynn was a most gracious person who exemplified grace in action. She was so remarkable, displaying compassion and enthusiasm in all her endeavors and friendships. Lynn holds a special place in our hearts.*

Susan & Charles

Susan Schill - November 22, 2021 at 04:58 PM

MD

“*Lynn will be remebered in my household for years to come! She was a dear friend of mine for 20+ years & a devoted personal training client for 16 of those years! My children grew up with her & she was always a ray of sunshine with her sweet smile & gentle voice.*

I cherish every handwritten note she gave me & her warm hugs.....we will miss you dearly, Lynn!!



Mary D'Orsaneo - November 22, 2021 at 12:27 PM

GL

“ I will miss Lynne and her glorious sunny outlook. She was always a ray of sunshine even under the most adverse circumstances. Especially now Jeff and all of us need the glory of her smile
jerry audrey lazarus.

gerald lazarus - November 22, 2021 at 10:41 AM

AK

“ We were happy to have spent quality time with Lynn (and Jeff) in Maine before COVID hit. We knew she was very ill and she borne her illness with the grace that was one of her many fine qualities. She was so talented and used her talents to help kids- as Jeff said "she was grand". She will be sorely missed. Peter Rose and Alicia Kershaw

Alicia Kershaw - November 22, 2021 at 07:54 AM

CL

“ Clydette & Tom Lobred purchased the [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) for the family of Dr. Lynn Z. Lang.

Clydette & Tom Lobred - November 21, 2021 at 05:10 PM



“ Lynn valued exercise and even when she didn't feel well she rarely ever missed a training session with me and always said she felt better afterwards. She was strong in so many ways. I will forever remember our amazing talks and how much she inspired me to be a better person.

Gayle Silver, Lynn's trainer and friend



Gayle Silver - November 21, 2021 at 01:25 PM