



Dr. Paula Kathleen Lundberg-Love

February 27, 1949 - June 6, 2020

“Paula’s life goal was to help others. She made a lasting difference in countless lives.”

Dr. Paula Kathleen Lundberg-Love (nee Hirsch) passed away from cancer on Saturday, June 6, 2020, in Tyler, Texas. She was born February 27, 1949, in Cincinnati, Ohio, to Alma Amelia Hirsch Stern (née Bock) and Christian Walter Hirsch. Paula was preceded in death by her loving mother, Alma; her stepfather, Albert J. Stern; and her father, Christian. She is survived by her loving family, daughter, Jill Wright; son-in-law, Charles Wright; granddaughters, Alexis Mara and Lily Racquel Zi Tao; and her stepdaughter, Alisha Holly Love. Paula has two surviving siblings, her sister, Pamela Kay Allendorf and brother, Christian Martin Hirsch. She was aunt to nephews, Gregory Ryan, Alexander Michael Allendorf, and Christian Albert Hirsch; and to her nieces, Victoria Hannah and Erika Leigh Bertocci.

While growing up in Cincinnati, Ohio, Paula had loving support from both sets of grandparents, Amelia & Peter Bock (maternal grandparents) and Miriam Beinkemper & Christian August Hirsch (paternal grandparents). From an early age Paula loved to play “school;” she was always the teacher to her siblings, Pam and Chris. It was no surprise that she wanted to be a teacher. Teaching was her mission, and her core beliefs were: Knowledge is power; those who suffer trauma must know that recovery is possible, and recovery is important for society as a whole.

Education and teaching did become her life. Paula attended Aiken High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, followed with a full scholarship to Western College for Women. She received her B.S., Chemistry, from Xavier University. She worked in pharmaceutical research with Merrill-Dow labs prior to obtaining an M.A. in Psychology & a Ph.D. in Physiological Psychology, both from the University of Cincinnati. She completed a three-year Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO. Dr. Lundberg-Love then began her career in Tyler, Texas, at the University of Texas at Tyler.

Dr. Lundberg-Love was a professor of psychology for 32 years. She was the Ben R. Fisch Endowed Professor in Humanitarian Affairs from 2001-2004. While at UTT, Dr. Lundberg-Love was a Research Consultant with the Family Violence and Sexual Assault Institute and a contributor to the Family Violence Bulletin and a recent contributing editor of the Journal of

Child Sexual Abuse, Sage Publishing.

Paula's academic and research career coincided with and prepared her for a distinguished career as a highly respected clinical counselor with Tyler Counseling & Assessment Center, where she practiced from 1984 until her recent illness. Paula was both a Licensed Professional Counselor and Licensed Psychological Associate with Independent Practice. She was a Fellow of the American College of Forensic Examiners and a Diplomat of the American Psychotherapy Association, the American Board of Psychological Specialties, Divisions of Psychopharmacology and Child Sexual Abuse, as well as the American Board of Forensic Medicine.

Her career in counseling included the treatment of childhood and adult sexual assault, victims of incest, posttraumatic stress disorder, dissociative disorders, eating disorders, bipolar disorder, personality disorders, as well as chemical dependency. Through her counseling with survivors of domestic trauma, she not only healed them, but also gave them the potential for rich, productive lives. In the words of one of the survivors Paula worked with, "she saved my life". This survivor also said, "she believed me; she helped me work through the pain so I could be a normal person and have a good life". Without Paula, this survivor and countless others would still be traumatized and living in pain. The effect of this work is like ripples spreading in a pond when a pebble is dropped. The positive impact of Paula's work touched not only her clients, but also everyone with whom her clients came into contact.

Paula also devoted herself to the empowerment of women. She was a long-time member of Leadership Texas, the oldest women's leadership development program in the USA, where she found some of her closest friends. She exemplified the empowered woman by constantly standing up for the important place that women hold in all aspects of life, whether in the family, the workplace, or society in general. She had recently joined the Tyler Executive Women's Network, and she continued her professional counseling services after retirement as a professor.

Dr. Lundberg-Love was a regular lecturer at state and national legal conferences on the effects and outcomes of PTSD and substance abuse on offender (those accused of committing a crime) behaviors. Dr. Lundberg-Love also edited, co-authored, and wrote chapters for numerous books regarding the effects of violence on women. Two of her more recent books still in press include: "Intimate" Violence Against Women, edited by Dr. Paula Lundberg-Love and Dr. Shelley Marmion, Violence and Sexual Abuse at Home: Current Issues in Spousal Battering, by Susan Sorenson and Dr. Paula Lundberg-Love (both published by Praeger Publishing), as well as Women And Mental Disorders, coedited and coauthored by Dr. Paula Lundberg-Love, Spectrum Books. Dr. Lundberg-Love would love for you to read them and learn more.

Perhaps one of her greatest clinical passions was in the field of forensics. Dr. Lundberg-Love saw great injustice in the sentencing of the accused in the criminal justice system. During her 34 years as a clinician, she worked on more than 100 cases where the accused had histories of mitigating clinical issues, which should have excluded the death penalty. Dr. Lundberg-Love tirelessly examined evidence, the accused's social and medical histories, and conducted hours of interviews and psychological testing with those who had experienced extensive child sexual, physical, and emotional abuse, post-partum depression, as well as those with long histories of neglect, and those with traumatic brain injuries and substance abuse. Dr. Lundberg-Love's forensic work included many cases in Texas as well as throughout the nation, and she helped save many from the death penalty.

As a friend of Paula's said, "she lived her life the way she wanted to live it, helping others become who they were supposed to be in the first place before they were hurt." Paula spoke her truth. Paula lived her truth, and she empowered others to do the same. Her legacy will live always through the many people she helped.

Paula cherished the relationship she was able to build with her daughter and granddaughters, made somewhat difficult because they live in Canada. A devoted grandmother, she delighted in buying Alexis and Lily a week's worth of Texas dresses she took on every visit to Canada, and in her home she displayed photographs of them at every turn. In addition to "her girls", Paula was much beloved by her former students, who probably number in the thousands, as well as professional associates who respected her intellect, her compassion, and her dedication.

Thanks go out to the UT Health Tyler and UT Health Northeast facilities for her care, and to Choice Hospice and Home Place for her final weeks. Heartfelt thanks are expressed by the family to attending physicians Dr. Robert Strominger, Dr. Usuri, Dr. Seferovic, and Dr. Johnson for their skill and candor. Special thanks also go to the caring nurses at The Waterton (Rosie, Brandie, Katy, and Sonia).

Thank you to Paula's many dear Tyler friends who were her local family. They supported her always, especially during these past five weeks as she struggled with this devastating cancer diagnosis. Everyone wanted to spend more time with Paula, and Paula wanted to spend more time with all of us.

Stewart Family Funeral Home has assisted with arrangements and cremation has taken place. Dr. Lundberg-Love's final resting place will be at Rose Lawn Cemetery's Angel Columbarium. A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date when travel restrictions are lifted and people can come together.

If you would like to honor Dr. Lundberg-Love, we offer two donation ideas that align with her lifetime of work:

Leadership Women, of which Leadership Texas is an important part:

<https://www.paypal.com/donate/token=SErUe056RV5BFnvOzkvNqvRuQ2Bmdq0uq6c0UZbyb-StheAwR8GC4hY3zUZPqq4S9B9Jo0&country.x=US&locale.x=US>

About Leadership Texas/Leadership Women: <https://leadership-women.org/programs/>
or the

Equal Justice Initiative <https://eji.org/>

Your contribution is critical to EJI efforts to end mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, challenge racial and economic injustice, and protect the basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society.

Paula, a.k.a. Dr. Love, will be missed by so many. Rest in Peace.

Comments



“ I wish I had the words to express what a wonderful person Dr. Love was. I can only imagine the countless number of lives she directly changed for the better. I know she played a critical role in my education, and I'm grateful that we had the opportunity to cross paths. (Thank you for introducing us, Dr. Schmitt!) I'll always remember her charming personality, sense of fairness, and passion for education. All students should be so lucky to have a mentor like her. The time I spent as her teaching assistant was undoubtedly the high point of my college experience. I wish I could have had more time with her.

Dr. Love was truly full of wisdom and character, and I am honored to carry her memory forward and spread it with others. (By chance, I recently watched an educational video that contained one of her favorite quips: "Neurons that fire together wire together!" It immediately reminded me of our happy times together.) She will be dearly missed.

Rebecca Olson - June 12 at 06:12 PM



“ Ms. Paula helped me through a difficult time of my life. I will miss her and appreciate her work in the life's of many people.

Dale Silvertooth - June 10 at 11:58 AM



“ I honestly do not know if there are words that can do justice for what Dr. Love has done for the graduates of UTT professionally and personally. She was by far one of the most demanding instructors I have EVER had (including a PhD program). However, not only did I learn how to be a client-centered trauma informed therapist, I learned how to be a survivor of my own past. Reflection papers I wrote for her Family Violence and Child Sexual Abuse courses were difficult for me. That is until I received my first one back with her neon pink glittery notes etched all over the paper. She wasn't marking my mistakes...She was being a cheerleader! She validated statements, provided insight, and normalized emotions her courses brought up for me. Her words and her story created an even stronger drive in me to continue to work with trauma survivors.

I know I am not alone in saying I would not be the therapist I am today if it had not been for her input! I consider it an honor to have been her student and will continue to strive to empower survivors and give them a voice in her honor!

Thank you for all you have given me and all the students you shared with! You are truly unforgettable! (Including the high heals and perfume!)

Kendra Bennett, (Former Student)

Kendra Bennett - June 08 at 11:06 PM



“ Dr. Love. I knew when she was coming down the hall to see me. Those heels!! And that glorious perfume she wore. I missed her singing in her office when I passed by when she retired. She was always kind to me and even after she retired she brought me my favorite soaps for Christmas. I will miss her so much. I know she was so proud of her family and I pray for your comfort and strength at this time. So many sweet memories of this precious life.

Linda Speed - June 07 at 08:31 AM



“ I worked with Paula at TCAC for more years than I care to count. One of the memories I have of Paula is from the annual office Christmas parties. We always play the white elephant gift game and Paula enjoyed playing so much she would bring two gifts so she could have two turns. The game will never be as much fun without her. I have many other fond memories of Paula and I hope her other friends can share them. My condolences go out to her family, friends, students and clients. She will be missed by so many. Erick Lenert

Erick Lenert - June 08 at 10:30 PM