



**Laura Z. Bursuk**

**March 1, 1926 - August 17, 2007**

Following a long and distinguished life, Laura Bursuk passed away from a cerebral hemorrhage. Laura was born in New York, and helped in her father's small grocery store as a young girl. In school, she was always a straight-A student. Her cousin who attended school with her as a child recently mentioned that Laura was not just the smartest person in her class, but the smartest person in the entire school. Laura obtained a Bachelors degree from Hunter College, a Masters degree from CCNY (City College of New York), and a Ph.D in Education from New York University. She began her career teaching kindergarten and progressed to become a full Professor at York College in Jamaica, New York, teaching and supervising students studying to become teachers. She also had a private tutoring practice for children with learning disabilities.

Laura's passion and expertise was reading, and she co-authored a textbook on reading strategies that has been used at colleges throughout the country. She was President of the Nassau Reading Council for several years. She was a life-long educator and learner who never missed an opportunity to obtain new information or knowledge and then pass it on to those who could use it. Laura was a "career mom" before it was widely accepted and set an example for her children of how you "can have it all." She was a superb teacher and an even more superb mother. Laura also traveled the world to such places as China, Japan, Russia, Southeast Asia and Brazil. Laura was married to her soul mate, Cy, for 51 years until his death in June 2006. Laura was a vibrant and compassionate person who was genuine, honest and truthful every minute of her life. Her life had a positive impact on many, many people. She is survived by her sister, Charlotte; children, Barbara and Lois; son-in-law, Gregg; precious granddaughter, Rachel and special family friend, David. Laura's family would like to extend the utmost gratitude for the care and support of the ER and regular medical staff at Northwest Hospital and the angels on earth at Casa de La Luz Hospice. Laura was laid to rest next to her beloved Cy at East Lawn Cemetery, Tucson, AZ. In lieu of flowers, a contribution to the Casa de La Luz Hospice Foundation (400 W. Magee Road, Tucson, AZ 85704) would be appreciated. A memorial and celebration of life service will be planned at a later date.

Arizona Daily Star  
25 Aug 2007 p. B5  
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