



Dr. Lynn Steveson

April 23, 1939 - April 4, 2023

IN MEMORY OF:

Dr. Lynn Steveson

Serving Location:

CRAIN FUNERAL HOME – ANNA

135 West Vienna Street, Anna, Illinois

Dr. Lynn Rae Steveson, 83, of Anna, passed away on April 4, 2023 at Herrin Hospital.

She was born in Chicago on April 23, 1939. Her father was Otto E. Fenske, a furniture manufacturer, and her mother was Helen Rupp Fenske, a former teacher of high school math. She has one sister, Christine (Scallon) of Wisconsin, two nephews, Hugh and Sean Scallon and a niece, Becky Scallon. Her elementary and secondary education were completed in Suburban Evanston and Glenview. Lynn received her B.S. in Speech Education from Northwestern University in 1962 and her Master's Degree in Elementary Education from National Louis University in 1968. In 1983, she received her PH.D. in Speech Communication and Theatre from SIU Carbondale.

Her professional career has been devoted to teaching. Lynn has taught all age levels from kindergarten through graduate students. She taught in the

Evanston public schools, SIU, Giant City Elementary School, University School, Cairo High School, and Anna District #37. Lynn taught public speaking, English, creative dramatics, 6th grade, and business and professional communications. She has won two awards. In her undergraduate work at Northwestern, she received the Winifred Ward Prize for excellence in Children's Theatre. In 1997, she was honored by the Illinois Theatre Association for outstanding work in Creative Drama.

Lynn married Paul Kenneth Steveson of Carbondale on November 22, 1982, having been previously married to Earl Edsel Bradley from 1969-1974. Earl was deceased. Paul and Lynn adopted a daughter, Mary Marie (Mixer). They have two grandsons, Ryan and Austin. There are also eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren by Paul's previous marriage. Also surviving are step daughters, Barbara, Vicki, and Rose and step sons, Lester and David.

In the summer of 1982, Lynn and her husband Paul moved to a farm six miles east of Anna. Paul was the scenery builder and mover for Lynn's plays. Lynn's work in drama in Anna began shortly after their arrival, with the Union County Arts Council. She appeared on stage as an actress in two plays, "Cheaper by the Dozen," playing the mother, and "A Christmas Carol," playing a bag lady. Both of these productions were directed by former WRAJ radio personality, Tom Ellison. Lynn then directed children's plays for the Art Council. These included, "Flat Stanley," "Harry and the Lady Next Door," "The Phantom Tollbooth," and "The Pushcart War." This production was the final show done by the Arts Council. She was the last president of this organization.

After retiring from a five year stint as an English teacher and speech coach at Cairo High School in 1995, Lynn joined the staff of Anna's elementary District #37. She worked in the areas of drama, and gifted education until her second retirement in May of 2002. During her tenure in District #37, she directed many productions. Some of these were "Many Moons," "James and the Giant

Peach,” “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs,” “Cinderella,” “Rumpelstiltskin,” “Mother Goose Meets Dr. Seuss,” “The Wizard of Oz,” various Winnie the Pooh stories, “The Littlest Angel,” “A Christmas Carol,” “A Christmas Collage,” and a staged reading of “The Diary of Anne Frank.” In addition to teaching the drama and working with gifted units, Lynn also had small dance troupes for two years, assisting with music choices and choreography. She also wrote and directed the short play used as a part of the closing of Davie School. Lynn estimated that over her career, she has probably directed about 70 or more plays.

In the summer of 2003, P.A.S.T. of Anna approached her and she wrote and directed an adaptation of Jan Karon’s novel, “At Home in Mitford.” This was titled, “Scenes From Mitford,” as no attempt was made to cover the entire book. Lynn also wrote and directed a short children’s story by Karon, “Miss Fannie’s Hat.”

“Moments to Remember,” an original play, is scripted oral history. It was based on real people who lived in Anna. The play was set on July 31, 1958. It was presented at the Henry Dillow Grandstand in Anna City Park on June 29, 2004. Approximately 300 people saw this production which was commissioned as a part of Anna’s Sesquicentennial Celebration. Lynn said “Working on this play over a five month period has made me feel much more a part of Anna. I have met so many wonderful new people, and learned so much more about those who have gone on and the development of Anna through the years. I never realized community service could be so much fun.”

Lynn had just finished a short Christmas play called, “Holding Christmas,” and she was working on scripting another Jan Karon novel for P.A.S.T. This is Karon’s Christmas Novel, “Shepherds Abiding.”

Lynn also enjoyed reading, writing poetry, and gardening and working on planning and finishing the nature trail she and Paul had created in their

enchanted forest.

Funeral Services will be on Monday, April 10, 2023 at 3:00 PM at Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church in Anna with Rev. Mark Hasty officiating. Inurnment will be at a later date at Pleasant Grove Cemetery in Marshall, Arkansas. Visitation will be on Monday from 1:00 PM until 3:00 PM at the church.

Crain Funeral Home in Anna is assisting the family with arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **10**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Mount Moriah Lutheran Church
104 W Jefferson St
Anna, IL 62906-1208
(618) 833-5234

Funeral Service

APR **10**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church
Anna, IL 62906

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Lynn Steveson*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *We knew her as Mrs. Bradley at Giant City Grade School in the late '70's. I was her set assistant for Harry and the Lady Next Door. She was a huge influence on all her kids and was a teacher for those of us in Friday Class. She encouraged us to read the classics and got us interested in Shakespeare. She even had us put on productions of Macbeth and The Taming of the Shrew. I'll never forget her enthusiasm and encouragement. She will be missed.*

Cheryl Rich Wallerich - April 10, 2023 at 07:36 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Lynn Steveson.*



April 08, 2023 at 12:05 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Lynn Steveson.*



April 08, 2023 at 11:58 AM

SE

“ *She will be missed, Karrie Rochman Ewers purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Lynn Steveson.*



She will be missed, Karrie Rochman Ewers - April 07, 2023 at 06:27 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dr. Lynn Steveson.*



April 07, 2023 at 04:51 PM

EU

“ *Dr. Steveson was a great teacher, mentor, and person. She went out of her way to engage with students and always made class fun!*

Erica Ury - April 06, 2023 at 07:21 PM

JO

“ *Over the time of the death of Richard Weaver from the Mt Pleasant Mennonite Church in 2021, there were hundreds of people present for the visitation the day before the funeral. Paul and Lynn generously lent their golf cart for shuttling the elderly to the church building, as parking near the building was not possible for everyone.*

Joe - April 06, 2023 at 03:57 PM

NB

“ I had the delightful privilege of working with Lynn in many plays such as the Scenes from Mitford, as well as the Christmas ones at the United Methodist Church in Anna. She was a wonderful lady and gave so much to others and her community. She will be missed by many. Prayers to the family on the loss of a beautiful soul. Thank you so much for the opportunity of knowing and working with you.
RIP Nancy Barker, Elgin, IL

Nancy Barker - April 06, 2023 at 10:27 AM

KH

“ Lynn was creativity personified. I will always remember her work with my Giant City class and her introduction of a magic circle. She turned on the creative light of class when they stepped into their magic circle.

Kathy Elston Hall - April 06, 2023 at 08:43 AM