



## Claire Mary (Lyons) Callahan

August 12, 1928 - February 11, 2016

Claire M. (Lyons) Callahan, beloved wife of Dr. James Callahan, died on February 11, 2016 at the Kaplan Family Hospice Residence in Danvers, after a lengthy illness. She was a daughter of the late Helen (Mahoney) Lyons and Bernard P. Lyons of Danvers. She was graduated from St. Mary's Girl's High School, Beverly, and the Fay School, Boston. She graduated with honors from St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, and was a recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship to the Institut d'Etudes Politiques at the Sorbonne, Paris, France. She also held a master's degree in counseling psychology from the University of Texas at Austin, with additional doctoral study at Fordham University, New York.

Her career was devoted to the service of people, principally as educator of youth, and in the prevention and treatment of addiction.

The onset of the national problem of drug use and addiction in the 1960s and 1970s, led her to accept a position with the Adult Probation Department, Austin, Texas. As the first female adult probation officer supervisor in the State, she conducted individual and group therapy with felon offenders, principally those with addiction problems. Because of the excellence of its approach to rehabilitation through the use of community-based resources, the Department received a Federal demonstration project grant to conduct an outcome study for replication of the project in other areas of the country. Mrs. Callahan directed the project's educational component.

During this period she was a member of the City of Austin Human Rights Council, was appointed by the Governor to the State of Texas Drug Abuse Policy Task Force, and served on the Board of Directors of the Catholic Lay Mission Corps, an organization of volunteer teachers in needy areas.

Following their marriage in 1970, she and Dr. Callahan moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where, as a counseling psychologist, she continued her work with young adults addicted to drugs. The Governor of Georgia appointed her to the State Committee on Youth and Drugs. She also served on the Metropolitan Atlanta Council on Alcohol and Drugs, and was staff psychologist at the Georgia Regional Hospital of Atlanta, a facility for mentally ill and developmentally disabled.

She and her husband moved to Washington, D.C. where Dr. Callahan directed the American Society of Addiction Medicine, and, later, the American Board of Addiction Medicine. Mrs. Callahan continued her work in the addictions at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) of the National Institutes of Health. There, in a collaborative program between NIAAA and the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA), she oversaw the development of curricula to educate primary care physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers and other health care professionals to prevent and treat addiction. In recognition of her work, she received the Administrator's Award for Outstanding Achievement. She served on expert committees to review and make recommendations on applications for federal grants and contracts for medical and health professions education in addiction medicine.

Many of the physicians trained under the NIAAA/NIDA programs were instrumental in forming the Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse, the American Society of Addiction Medicine, and the American Board of Addiction Medicine.

At the invitation of the Ministry of Health, and the National Council on Alcoholism of Ireland she directed the first national training program in Ireland to educate health professionals to develop hospital and community-based programs for prevention, intervention and treatment of alcoholism and other drug addictions.

In all of her endeavors she wanted to bring healing and hope to persons in crisis. Her work was supported by her strong spiritual faith. Claire was particularly sensitive to broken-hearted parents whose children were addicted to alcohol or other drugs.

Earlier in her career, she taught history and was school psychologist at secondary schools in Virginia, Washington, D.C., Texas, and Maryland. One of the greatest joys of her life was teaching underprivileged children in New York's "Hell's Kitchen." During her teens she

was a Red Cross Swim Instructor at North Shore beaches, and a playground instructor in Danvers.

She and her husband resided in Topsfield from 2002 until her death.

She is survived by her beloved husband, James, with whom she shared forty-five wonderful years of marriage, and her brother, John Lyons of Danvers. She is predeceased by her parents, her brothers, Philip Patrick, and Joseph, and her sister Eleanor. She also leaves many nieces and nephews, and was particularly close to her nephew, John P. Lyons, and to her nieces Mary (Briane) Lyons Ritchie, Donna (Ralph) Lyons Newhall, Deborah (Timothy) Lyons Wilson, and Nancy Lyons, with all of whom she had close and loving ties. Since her retirement, her greatest pleasures were the times spent with her family and husband, and the memories she and her husband shared of their travels. She was an avid reader, and had a remarkable sense of humor.

Her Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 9AM on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 in St. Rose of Lima Church, 12 Park St., Topsfield. Burial will follow in Annunciation Cemetery, Danvers. Visiting hours will be held Monday from 4-8PM at C.R. Lyon & Sons, Funeral Directors, 28 Elm St Danvers. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Claire's name may be made to The American Board of Addiction Medicine Foundation to train physicians to prevent and treat addiction: Arcade Suite 101, 4601 North Park Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815; <http://www.abamfoundation.org>.

# Cemetery

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## Annunciation Cemetery

155 Hobart St.

Danvers, MA, 01923

# Events

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**FEB** **Visitation** 04:00PM - 08:00PM

**15**

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Lyons Funeral Home

28 Elm Street, Danvers, MA, US, 01923

**FEB** **Funeral Mass** 09:00AM

**16**

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St. Rose of Lima Church

Park Street, Topsfield, MA, US, 01983

# Comments

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“ In 1966 I had the gift of (HB) Claire, coming into my life with a force of love and caring. Both my parents were alcoholic with lots of violence. I showed up at the convent one night with my younger sister, crying, not knowing what to do. She hugged me and my sister and said she would talk with mother and dad the next day.

A few years later they sobered up and went to AA. My dad saw the need of bringing meeting to the jail. He called me and was so excited. Claire was there helping him start the meeting. I will love Claire throughout eternity. She touched my very soul.

Jim, I'm so sorry for your loss. Both of you have truly touched so many people for goodness in our lives.

Love you  
Marvie Irwin Keith  
Wimberley, Texas

**Margie Irwin Keith** - January 28, 2017 at 10:48 AM

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“ Every student has a favorite teacher - a person never to be forgotten. She is mine.  
Anne Kurtz Dodrill

**anne kurtz dodrill** - February 16, 2016 at 08:54 PM

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“ Claire led an extraordinary life of service. My mom, Patricia (Kelahe) Luppino, and Claire were great friends from St. Mary's days on. It was a great blessing when shortly before my mom passed away Claire and Jim visited her in the care facility she was at in Beverly. It was wonderful seeing them catch up on so many things, and have quite a lot of fun sharing stories. Like so many others I am very grateful for Claire's passion and generosity of spirit. Tony Luppino

**Tony Luppino** - February 14, 2016 at 02:46 PM

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“ Aunt Claire will be truly missed. In her presence the feeling of warmth and love was overpowering. Her constant smile, quick wit, love of Notre Dame was an amazing gift. I am sorry Uncle Jim. This earth was blessed to have her.

**Ken Panciocco** - February 11, 2016 at 11:09 PM



“ I was truly fortunate to have been a colleague of Claire's in the 1970's at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. She was the primary counselor/psychologist at the school when I was Chair of the Religious Studies Department. We collaborated regularly about troubled teens and, I believe, prevented more than one suicide attempt with keen observation & effective intervention. I lost contact with Claire & Jim when they moved out of the Washington Metropolitan area, but I've never forgotten Claire's kindness, competence, compassion and good humor. She lit up a room whenever she walked in. I was sad to read in the Washington Post this morning that her radiant spirit has moved on to another dimension. May she live in eternal peace.

Joseph A. Izzo, M.A., L.I.C.S.W.

**Joseph A. Izzo, M.A., L.I.C.S.W.** - February 13, 2016 at 09:24 AM



“ I realize, Clair can intercede for us now. I now pray that she is with God and is happy. I also pray for Jim and their family. With special prayers at this time, Theresa and Joe Chathapampil.

**Dr. Joseph and Theresa Chathapampil** - February 13, 2016 at 08:01 PM



“ Claire had a tremendous impact on so many lives; particularly the lives of her young students. I had the privilege of being but one of the many students who loved and cherished her. Indeed, Claire's words of wisdom have guided and sustained me through the past fifty years of my life. One of her credos was, "Function in disaster and finish in style." This has helped me through many difficult periods, in my life. Claire was always next to me, in spirit, encouraging me onward.

Jim, my thoughts and prayers are with you, during this time of sorrow. The earth has lost a bright light and heaven has gained an angel.

Jim, you and Claire are two of the most special human beings I have ever known. I love you, both.

**Rita Boncompagni Ludovisi** - February 14, 2016 at 03:20 PM



“ Although I never had the good fortune to meet Claire, I could see in you, Jim, the way she lit up your life. May her flame continue to warm your spirit even though she is no longer here on earth.

**Eileen** - February 16, 2016 at 04:21 PM



“ Claire I was honored to care for you during your illness ,I wish I had more time with you .I will miss your beautiful smile and conversation.

**Catherine Smith.CNA HHA** - February 17, 2016 at 09:26 PM



“ Jim: While I did not have the good fortune to know Claire I did learn of a wonderful person that shared your life for many years. She exemplified what a truly good person was. My condolences to you Jim for the passing of a gracious and kind soul. The remembrance of Claire should remain a comfort to you and family in the days and years ahead. With love

and deep respect, Len and Gerry Perlman, Silver Spring, MD

**len perlman** - February 24, 2016 at 10:44 AM