



Michele Issokson Sbrega

February 5, 1975 - October 13, 2017

Grantham, NH – Michele (Issokson) Sbrega, 42, of Grantham and formerly of Durham, NH, passed away peacefully on October 13, 2017 at her home. Michele was born in Dover, NH, the loving daughter of Roberta (Dinerman) Issokson of Exeter, NH and Dr. Evan J. Issokson of Margate, FL. She was the twin sister of David Issokson of Vineyard Haven, MA. She was the devoted wife of the late Michael Sbrega.

Michele was raised in Durham and graduated from Oyster River High School with the Class of 1993. She spent her first year of higher education at Colby College in Maine. At the conclusion of that year she informed her parents that the program wasn't challenging enough for her. She then transferred to Smith College in Northampton, MA to advance her education and was awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree and inducted into the society of Phi Beta Kappa. She later went on to earn a Master of Science Degree in Evaluative Clinical Science from Dartmouth College.

Upon graduation from Smith College, Michele worked for Bay State Medical Center in Springfield, MA. She married her late husband in 2002. They relocated from Niantic, CT to Grantham in 2005. She was employed at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center as a clinical research specialist in the Department of Clinical Trials.

A loving, compassionate and intuitive woman, Michele had an innate ability to bring out the best in the people she met. Michele loved children as well as older adults and all those in between. She loved visiting her Nana Ruth Dinerman and Aunt Gert. She could just relate so easily to others regardless of a person's age. She was a natural problem solver whose friends and family benefited from her natural intuition. She enjoyed learning, solving math problems, gardening, flowers, and especially irises. Michele loved interacting with people and was at her happiest when assisting others in any way she could. She would say that she "liked to be the dumbest person in the room" since she always loved learning more from others. Michele loved animals especially "Paddy," a dog who belonged to someone Michele loved, viz., the late Ann Draper Brown. Ann became Michele's very close friend and was the principal at Oyster River High School. Ann's late son Gabe,

Jacob Michaels and Michele were the devoted hands on care team for Ann from the time of her diagnosis until her death some 10 months later. Michele would refer to Ann as one of the loves of her life.

Michele dreamed of some day having her own dog named Maggie. She always wanted to become a physician specializing in dermatology but the constraints and physical limitations from lupus precluded her ability to do so.

In addition to her parents, she leaves her twin brother David Issokson of Vineyard Haven, MA, her late and beloved Nana, Ruth S. Dinerman, her late grandparents, Pearl and Yale Issokson, her in-laws Nancy and Louis Sbrega as well as many loving aunts, uncles and cousins. Michele also left and loved Mel Phippin who is her mother's life partner. She also leaves her many close friends and associates at Dartmouth Hitchcock. She will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved her. Sue and Jim Berg, Barbara Moskalenko, and Barbara Baker became very close to Michele and helped her and Mike immeasurably during their period of declining health. Alice and Curt Givan of Kensington, NH were among those who lovingly helped Michele as her health declined. They provided much TLC as well as transportation to medical appointments. Barbara Baker, a coworker and friend, sent a note stating, "Michele was a wonderful friend who was always insightful, bright, funny, warm and a relentless cheerleader. I will always remember our happy times together." Many notes from her coworkers have been received and appreciated expressing the same sentiments.

Michele's outlook was to pull the positive from every day "even if it was by a strand." She was so intelligent and had a wonderful sense of humor, quick wit and such care and concern for others even through her declining health. May Michele remain a bright light within our hearts.

Michele loved flowers and they will be gladly accepted but if desired, memorial donations may be made to the Lupus Foundation of America at www.lupus.org.

Family and friends are invited to visit from 1 to 2 pm on Sunday, November 5, 2017 in the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home, 811 Lafayette Rd., Hampton. A memorial service to honor Michele's memory will start promptly at 2 pm in the funeral home. Burial will be private.

All are welcome to a gathering immediately following Michele's service at the Victoria Inn, 430 High St., Hampton. Directions will be available as you exit the funeral home.

Comments



“ I am so deeply saddened to learn (Dartmouth Alumni news) of your family’s loss. Michele was a treasured friend during a difficult time, a beacon of a rare combination of logic, warmth, integrity and humor. From the day I met her, I was struck by her ability to connect people’s feet to the ground while raising their sights and to dispel tension with succinct, well-placed words. I will always carry with me, and use, what I learned from her.



Janet [Elro] McCarthy - March 14, 2018 at 07:38 AM



“ Dearest Roberta,

You know, you and your family are in my heart and my prayers.

Judy Lavery



Judy Lavery - October 31, 2017 at 04:27 PM



“ Leah Miller lit a candle in memory of Michele Issokson Sbrega



Leah Miller - October 31, 2017 at 11:43 AM



“ Dear Roberta, Jay and David. Greg and I were so saddened to hear about Michelle. Her smile was infectious when she entered the room. She was such a bright and competent young girl and so committed to her family. She was one of the few teens who never went through that rebellious stage. Not having known her as a woman , I can only recall her beautiful face with flowing red hair. We send you all hugs and positive thoughts.

Lisa and Greg Shaker

lisa shaker - October 31, 2017 at 08:38 AM



“ Dear Gilda, I was shocked to learn (from Janet) of the illness and death of your daughter Michele. I never met your husband or children, but I remember you as one of my fun cousins when we were both children. My father, Sam (Uncle Maurice's brother), my mother, Ethel, and my sister, Judy, spent many a holiday or celebration at your house in Swampscott, surrounded by more cousins and lots of great food. I was jealous of your blond curls! I'm sure your family has had similar warmth and joy. I can't imagine what you're going through now; I only hope your memories of better times sustain you.

Barbara Dinerman

Barbara Dinerman - October 30, 2017 at 05:28 PM



“ We are sorry for the loss of your beloved daughter, Michele. At this sad time you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Judy and Bill Goode - October 30, 2017 at 04:33 PM



“ Roberta,

I am so so sorry for your loss. After reading her story, I am so touched at what a fabulous human she has been to so many. I'm sure you will miss her dearly.

Keep her in your dancing heart.

Love
Kathleen Babin-johnson

Kathleen Babin-johnson - October 30, 2017 at 03:17 PM



“ Lit a candle in memory of Michele Issokson Sbrega



Michael Goode - October 29, 2017 at 09:17 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Michele's passing. May all the great stories and memories help you in the days ahead. Roberta, Jay and David, you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Kathie Penna

Kathie Penna - October 29, 2017 at 12:03 PM



“ Gayle D. Stiller lit a candle in memory of Michele Issokson Sbrega



Gayle D. Stiller - October 26, 2017 at 03:15 PM



“ Janet Dinerman lit a candle in memory of Michele Issokson Sbrega



Janet Dinerman - October 25, 2017 at 06:40 PM



“ Michele was a very special and much loved niece. We will think of her and her family often. May good memories give Michele's family and friends comfort and strength.

Janet Dinerman - October 25, 2017 at 06:44 PM



“ Michele, you were a very good and kind friend. I prayed for you when you were sick & hurting and I'll keep praying for you now that you are at peace. AFA Betty

Betty - October 30, 2017 at 01:16 PM



“ I met Michele in research at DHMC. She was a such a kind person who reached out to everyone, and burdened no one. I will miss her.

Jo Strohbehn - October 25, 2017 at 05:33 PM



“ 10/18/17

Jay, David, & I thank all of you who have contacted us as well as post messages and offerings on this website. We all appreciate the thoughtfulness beyond words. I am never succinct in email online communication. So I'll keep this one short which means less than 1,000 words. But we do all appreciate the love & support that you're sending our way. Michele appreciates it also. I know that in my heart. Our thanks & gratitude to all of you.

We don't have everyone's contact information so this note is to thank you all.

From Jay, David, & Roberta Issokson & our families

Roberta Issokson - October 25, 2017 at 09:40 AM



“ Laurie Rogers lit a candle in memory of Michele Issokson Sbrega



Laurie Rogers - October 24, 2017 at 01:14 AM



“ Keeping Gilda, David, and Jay in my heart, as well as Michele's extended family of aunts, uncles and cousins.

Laurie Rogers - October 24, 2017 at 01:14 AM



“ Susie Morgan lit a candle in memory of Michele Issokson Sbrega



susie morgan - October 23, 2017 at 08:50 PM



“ I remember spending numerous Sat mornings at her parents house as a elementary school girl after a sleep over thinking it was cool they had tv channels over 13 and MTV eventually. :) And getting through our years in camp .

Jean (Croker) Gagnon - October 23, 2017 at 08:45 PM



“ Michele will be missed by Everyone, Staff and Campers, from Bear Hill 4H Camp. She is now back to giggling and smiling with Clancy. Love you Michele.



Jenny Hutchins - October 23, 2017 at 06:52 PM



“ DeeDee lit a candle in memory of Michele Issokson Sbrega



DeeDee - October 23, 2017 at 04:45 PM



“ Michele was a sweet and gentle soul I knew when we worked together at Pfizer, and she also lived nearby. When she moved to north, I was happy to know she was settling down with a partner, and would be in the Upper Valley I missed, and at DHMC where I began my clinical research career. I admired her courage to manage her illness, and her brilliant mind which often surprised me. Her soft, sweet face is etched in my memory. Please know that I am thinking of you and praying for peace and comfort.

Susan Young - October 23, 2017 at 10:37 AM



“ My sincerest condolences to Michele's family. Michele and I met during our studies at The Dartmouth Institute. We shared lunch on several occasions after finishing the program. She had a kind and happy spirit that was contagious. I hadn't seen her in a while, but I thought of her often. I will remember her fondly. May she rest in peace.

Jennifer Snide - October 23, 2017 at 07:02 AM



“ Susan Young lit a candle in memory of Michele Issokson Sbrega



Susan Young - October 23, 2017 at 03:10 AM



“ Julie & Jim Plunkett lit a candle in memory of Michele Issokson Sbrega



Julie & Jim Plunkett - October 22, 2017 at 10:14 PM



“ Hi Julie & Jim,

Thank you very much for your kind note & tribute. Very much appreciated. I hope that you,

Jimmy Jr., Ava & family are all well. Sending you our thanks & wishing all of you well. Aunt G, Uncle J, & David

Roberta Issokson - October 31, 2017 at 11:23 AM



“ Dearest Roberta,

You are held in our thoughts and prayers during your very sad loss. God keep you and ease your days with his love and blessings. We are here if you need a friend anytime.
Love Stephen and Leah Miller

Leah Miller - October 31, 2017 at 11:42 AM