



## Dr. Gerald "Gerry" Nurenberg

October 2, 1947 - December 14, 2020

Dr. Gerald "Jerry" Nurenberg, 73, of Northampton, passed away from complications related to diabetes at home on Monday December 14th surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Revere, MA on October 2, 1947 to the late Ernest and Lena (Kessel) Nurenberg.

The first in his family to complete college, Jerry earned a BA in Political Science at Northeastern University, which he financed via his participation in the school's co-op program. He went on to earn a master's degree from the Smith College School for Social Work, where he met his wife, Stephanie Gubin. Both would go on to earn their doctoral degrees, Stephanie from Smith and Jerry from Boston College, and both settled in Northampton, where they practiced clinical social work for the next five decades. Jerry made a career out of working with the most vulnerable and dispossessed including patients at Northampton State Hospital, early victims of the AIDS epidemic at Holyoke's Chesed House, and abused children through the National Center for Children and Families. He was known at all the agencies where he worked as the therapist who could reach patients that no one else could. In his private practice, he maintained therapeutic relationships for decades with long-term clients, and even in the very last days of his declining health continued to counsel them by phone.

In addition to his wife, Jerry leaves behind a sister, Sandra Goldsmith of Sarasota, Florida, two children, Colleen Nurenberg and her husband Larry White of Easthampton and David Nurenberg of and his wife Liana Tuller of Somerville. He also leaves four grandchildren: Samantha, Charlotte, Naomi and Amitai, all of whom learned from and admired Jerry's kindness, sense of humor, raconteuring storytelling style, political wonkishness, unshakeable moral values and off-key singing. His favorite musical was Man of La Mancha, from which he and Stephanie borrowed their wedding song, "The Impossible Dream." As the song lyrics say, "the world was better for this, that one man strived, with his last ounce of courage, to reach the unreachable star."

All services will be private and at the convenience of the family. DROZDAL FUNERAL HOME of Northampton has been entrusted with his services. For more information, or to leave a message of personal condolence, please visit [DrozdaFuneralHome.com](http://DrozdaFuneralHome.com)

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the American Diabetes Association or

the VNA/Hospice of Cooley-Dickinson Hospital.

# Comments

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“ Dear Stephanie,  
I was saddened to learn of Jerry’s passing. You and Jerry were mentors in my early career and for that I will always be grateful. Please accept my condolences. Best wishes from me and Peggy.  
Nick Fleisher

**Nick Fleisher** - December 20, 2020 at 07:50 PM

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“ I would like to send my condolence to the Nurenberg family. Sami's friends from middle school, Mark Cote and Maryana Hunter Gasperini send their condolence on her grandpa.



**sara Elkins** - December 17, 2020 at 06:29 PM

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“ My name is Jane Laskey, and Gerry was my very first supervisor at my first paraprofessional therapy job at community care center in Springfield . I worked with him from 1973 to 1977, and I will never forget his wonderful sense of humor and his understanding of how to work with severely mentally ill clients. I remember what he said about how to deal with a very paranoid schizophrenic client that I had, and how that opened up a new world to me about what is important in the work: making connections with clients and not challenging their delusions, but working with them to manage the effects of their delusions. I don’t think I realized then that Gerry was only two years older than I was, as I really looked up to him as an older and very knowledgeable mentor.  
He was very helpful to me and had a profound influence on my work life. It was Gerry who convinced me to go for my masters in social work at Smith SSW, which I did earn in 1978, and from there, I had a long career as a clinical social worker. I never forgot his teachings. I am very sad to hear of his passing, and send my deepest condolences.

**Jane Laskey** - December 16, 2020 at 11:10 AM

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“ Oh Stephanie, I'm so sorry to hear of Jerry's passing! I always enjoyed our visits at the Bluebonnet. Sending virtual hugs to you . Joanne

**Joanne Campbell** - December 16, 2020 at 08:42 AM



“ My deepest condolences Mrs. Nurenberg. I only had the pleasure of meeting him once at your daughter's wedding. Colleen has always spoke highly of the both of you. I am most certain he will be deeply missed. Thinking of you and the family during this time. Sincerely, Suzanne Bros Aghedo

**Suzanne Bros Aghedo** - December 16, 2020 at 09:21 AM



“ Stephanie,  
You and Gerry and my husband, Jim Ricci, and I met for the first time at the Children's House for parents' night. Our sons James and David were in the same session. Sitting on those oh so small chairs, Gerry and Jim discussed and agreed that reading through a bibliography was better than reading a novel. Good grief, my husband has met another nut. Gerry was in the throes (my word) of finishing up his PhD and elaborated on the requirements.

I quietly groaned at the rigor but from him developed a life-long appreciation of the field of social work. Thank you both for just being here when we could meet you. Margaret Ricci

**Margaret Ricci** - December 16, 2020 at 01:44 PM



“ Dear Mrs. Nurenberg, I feel very sad that your husband passed away. Thank you for the honor of helping him when he went for medical help three times a week. Jonathan Weinmann

**Jonathan Weinmann** - December 28, 2020 at 02:44 PM



“ Dear Stephanie, So very sorry of your husband's passing. Although I never met him, I was deeply moved by his life's work and the deep respect of others. Ellen Weinmann

**Ellen Weinmann** - December 28, 2020 at 02:48 PM