



Rhonda Naomi Simpson

April 2, 1956 - February 9, 2018

Dr. Rhonda Naomi Simpson, 61, of Corvallis, OR passed away on February 9th, 2018, due to complications from heart failure. The celebration of her life will be held on February 24th, from 11:00am-2pm, with a short program beginning promptly at 12:00. Her service will be held at the Chintimini Senior and Community Center in Corvallis, Oregon.

Rhonda was born in San Diego, California on April 2nd, 1956. She graduated from Patrick Henry High School, and continued on to receive her Bachelor's of Science from Harvard University and her medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco. Rhonda was married to her high school sweetheart, Paul Gunn, on September 24th, 1983; they were married 34 years.

Rhonda worked for Samaritan Internal Medicine for 21 years, first as an physician of internal medicine and then as a physician and administrator at HeartSpring Wellness Center. She was the medical director for her family business based in San Diego, A Doctor's Weight Clinic, since 2002. Her life coaching practice, HeartSong Enterprises, had just begun operation in 2015.

She enjoyed world travel with her family, studying integrative and holistic medicine, political activism, gardening, and reading. She was also actively involved in the National Medical Association and Corvallis' "We Are the

Change Makers” organization.

Rhonda is survived by her husband Paul Gunn, her daughter Caitlin Gunn, her mother Clementine Simpson, her sisters Sandra Simpson and Linda Welch, her niece Courtney Welch, her nephews Joshua and John Bronson Welch, and other family and friends. Rhonda is preceded in death by her father, Howard Simpson. She will be sorely missed by her family, friends, patients, and community.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB **24**. 11:00 AM (PT)

Chintimini Senior and Community Center
2601 Nw Tyler Avenue
Corvallis, OR

Tribute Wall

ML

“ *Mary Leek lit a candle in memory of Rhonda Naomi Simpson*



Mary Leek - March 23, 2019 at 09:12 PM

LO

“ *Dr. Simpson was a pleasure to work with at the weight clinics in San Diego !!! It saddens me to hear that you are no longer here on earth. You will be missed ... may ur beautiful soul forever Rest In Peace ... and may God console the hurting members in the family ... shine bright doctor 😊*

lorrie - April 05, 2018 at 12:39 AM

RI

“ *Rita lit a candle in memory of Rhonda Naomi Simpson*



Rita - March 15, 2018 at 03:31 AM

RI

Hi Paul and Caitlin: I was shock today to find out that your wife and mother passed away. I have been asking friends if they have seen Dr. Simpson. There is no words to express my shock of her leaving this earth so early. May you be comforted during this time of grieving. Will contact you soon. Peace to you.

Rita - March 15, 2018 at 03:36 AM

AT

“ Dear Paul and Caitlin,

We offer our condolences on your loss. Rhonda was Jeanne's doctor for several years and enjoyed her loving and compassionate care and her warm hugs. She really missed her when Rhonda was unable to continue her practice. Alan remembers Paul for his woodworking (and a presentation of AutoCAD that was life-changing), and we both remember Caitlin as a vivacious young girl. While we haven't been in touch for a long time, we both treasure these memories of your family, and we wish you well.

Jeanne and Alan Taylor

Alan Taylor - March 01, 2018 at 08:39 PM

DT

“ *I knew Rhonda when she was a girl - even then she was kind and considerate of others.
Her sweet spirit in the world will be missed.*

R.I.P, Rhonda.

D. Terry

D. Terry - February 27, 2018 at 08:53 PM

ST

“ *My condolences to Dr. Simpson family. She was my doctor for many years and never meet anyone that was so caring in the office or just meeting her on the street. She was always ready with hugs and a smile on her face. She was truly a doctor that cared about her patients. She took her time with each patient and really listen to their concerns. She is going to be greatly missed. I am so thankful that I had a chance to meet a wonderful lady. Sheila Tomschin*

Sheila Tomschin - February 26, 2018 at 04:07 PM

JG

“ Hi, my condolences to your family on your loss. I had the pleasure of knowing this amazing woman, though work at Samaritan Health Services. She was so lovely and kind, a true pleasure. Her soul shined so brightly and I know she will missed terribly. I'm grateful that I knew her.

Janet Gambatese

Janet Gambatese - February 25, 2018 at 10:40 AM

CS

“ Dear Paul and Caitlin:
We are so sorry for your loss. We heard from Nina that it was a meaningful celebration of life. We are sorry that we are not in Corvallis right now and could not make it. Our thoughts and prayers are with you both. We will always remember Rhonda's loving heart and bright smile. She gave us such a warm welcome when we arrived in Corvallis. It was always a lift when we saw you again and reconnected.

Our best wishes.

Cosimo and Meredith

Cosimo and Meredith Storniolo/Weir - February 25, 2018 at 08:17 AM

ER

“ Rhonda, thank you for helping me to better understand the complexities of both race and wellness, for being a mentor of parenting empowered young women, for dancing amid the beauty of life even during adverse times.

Even in your passing, you share your message to make the most of each day, to encourage and be kind to others. I can feel your energy amid those who still work to heal the world. ❤️🙏🏻🕊️❤️🙏🏻🕊️❤️🙏🏻🕊️

❤️🙏🏻🕊️❤️🙏🏻🕊️



Ella Rhoades - February 25, 2018 at 06:44 AM

CW

“ Dear Paul and Caitlin:

I am so sorry to learn about Rhonda's passing late this afternoon. I still have on my phone a mutual text promise to get together again for coffee, and I must now treasure the last time—such a healing time—we sat for too many hours at Coffee Culture reconnecting.

Rhonda was an effervescent and healing powerhouse, and few know the toll on her health to remain buoyant, and present for all of her patients.

But I know she loved you both so fiercely and delicately. She showed me photos of Paul's woodworking art, and posts from Caitlin-whose emerging intellectual prowess will soon touch the wider world.

My heart is shocked and broken. Once again, I am reminded that we cannot take for granted that the sweetness in our lives, so freely given, may not be there always for us to share.

Words are insufficient to convey my condolences to you and to the rest of Rhonda's family. I know my loss is a hundred times less than your loss. May knowing how many also loved and treasured Rhonda provide some solace and strength as you traverse the journey that grief requires of you.

Chareane Wimbley-Gouveia

Chareane Wimbley-Gouveia - February 24, 2018 at 07:12 PM

JK

“ There are very few people you meet who touch your heart. Rhonda did the the first time you met her. Her big smile, her big hug, and her love for you are the Rhonda I will always remember. Besides being an excellent, moral, and caring physician, she represented the best of humanity and will be missed by her patients, her friends, and most of all her family. She and her husband raised a wonderful woman who we all wish the best for.

Our hearts are broken. Love, Jerry, Nancy and Katie Keuneke

Jerry,Nancy & Katie Keuneke - February 24, 2018 at 12:16 AM

 Mary
Vizcarra

“ We had that special bond, both from San Diego and living in Corvallis. You will always have a special place in my heart. Thank You for your many words of wisdom and pushing me when I needed it. I will never forget you!!!



Love You With All My Heart,

Mary Vizcarra

Mary Vizcarra - February 23, 2018 at 06:48 PM

KS

“ Dear Rhonda,

Please rest in peace.

Know that your positivity and enthusiastic thirst for life will continue to impact me and inspire me infinitely. Your true concern for all was a clear testament of your selfless and genuine nature.

-Kate

Kate A. Sundstrom - February 23, 2018 at 06:08 PM

CC

“ We had coffee or tea at least annually for more than 20 years. A friend you did not have to see every day, you just reconnect where you are in the now. I will miss those hugs, and that wealth of spirit. Knowing her was a blessing.

charli carroll - February 22, 2018 at 07:01 PM

PM

“ Rhonda was a blessing in my life and was dear to me. I was not only the recipient of her medical expertise but her friendship. Whenever the exam room door opened, I was always greeted with a warm smile and a hug. We laughed and sometimes cried together.

Once when dealing with an insurance company, I mentioned what a wonderful doctor Dr. Simpson was. The operator was stunned; she said she rarely heard positive remarks about doctors, just complaints. I can honestly say I have never heard a negative comment about Rhonda.

Rhonda often spoke with pride about her daughter; Caitlin you are the amazing legacy your mother leaves behind.

I remember seeing many angelic figurines in Rhonda's office; now I realize that she was an angel among us and is now serving in that capacity in heaven.

Rhonda, I am so thankful to have had shared my life with you; to your family always remember how much she was loved and appreciated.

Sincerely,
Penny Macpherson

Penny Macpherson - February 22, 2018 at 06:59 PM

CC

“ *Charli Carroll lit a candle in memory of Rhonda Naomi Simpson*



charli carroll - February 22, 2018 at 06:55 PM

 Gabriel Ledger

“ *I met Dr. Simpson when I was creating a list of complementary and alternative medicine providers for the Emergency Department to hand out to patients. Though I only met her once, I always remembered Dr. Simpson's warmth, her energetic personality, and her exuberant honesty. Her passing is surely a big loss to the community.*

Gabriel Ledger - February 22, 2018 at 01:32 PM

JM

“ *Rhonda was immediately a warm presence for me upon moving to Corvallis. As my mother's partner at GoodSam (Dr. Waldron), and my first doctor, there was a wonderful connection that I will never forget. I remember Caitlin as a baby, already beautiful, and it has been such a pleasure to follow the Simpson/ Gunn family over the years, watching everyone mature and grow. Rhonda will be missed very much and I feel honored for having been able to experience her love.*

Jamie Martino - February 21, 2018 at 05:13 AM

JM

“ *JoAnn Miller lit a candle in memory of Rhonda Naomi Simpson*



JoAnn Miller - February 20, 2018 at 12:00 PM

AT

“ *The time I worked with her was one of the most significant periods of my life. We could finish each others sentences!*



Anita Janes Theberge - February 20, 2018 at 11:27 AM

DW

“ *Dr Simpson was the best doctor what very kind and gentle soul she was*

Dessa white - February 19, 2018 at 09:52 PM