



Audra L. Berg

March 11, 1968 - May 2, 2020

Audra Lee Berg, age 52 of Mattoon, IL passed away unexpectedly at her home at 5:51 PM, Saturday, May 2, 2020.

A funeral service in her honor will be held at noon, Friday, May 8, 2020 at Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, located at 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938; Pastor Josh Butler will officiate. Burial will immediately follow in Dodge Grove Cemetery. A visitation will be Thursday evening, May 7, 2020 from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM at the funeral home.

Audra was born in St. Catherines, Ontario, Canada on March 11, 1968, the daughter of Rodney and Dace Smith. She married Richard (Rick) K. Berg III on July 10, 1993 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Her two proudest accomplishments occurred on October 16, 1996 when she brought her first child, Jackson Ray Berg into the world. Her second, but equal accomplishment occurred May 10, 2000 when her "mini me" Jillian Rebecca Berg arrived. She is survived by her parents Rod and Dace Smith of London, Ontario, Canada. Her husband, Rick of Mattoon. Her son, Jackson Berg of Fayetteville, Arkansas and her daughter, Jillian Berg of Tucson, Arizona and Mattoon, IL. She is also survived by her Maternal Grandmother, Velta Ligers of London, Ontario, Sister and Brother in Law Erin (Mike) Marriott of Sarnia, Ontario, Brother and Sister in law Diane (Brian) Gillaspie of St. Louis, MO, Sister and Brother in Law Rebbeca (Rich) Lykins of St. Louis. She also leaves several special nieces, Abby, Scout, Greer and Elaoiise Marrion, Hannah Gillaspie, and Cecelia Lykins.

Audra graduated from high school in Canada, and was recruited to play Division 1 Golf at Illinois State in Bloomington-Normal where she graduated with a degree in Education in 1991. She said in golf you can tell how good you are by how far south you play, and always told the story jokingly she was recruited to play twelve hours south. After graduation, she came to Mattoon and was the Head Golf Professional at Buck Grove Golf Course where she met her eventual husband. Following her successful trek through US Immigration, she earned her Illinois teaching certificate. She taught grade school in Elwood Illinois, before she and Rick returned to Mattoon, where she taught for Effingham Community 40 for eight years. While at Effingham, she was a finalist for the Illinois Teacher of the year in 1998.

In August of 2002, Audra decided to take her love of children and teaching from the

classroom to the business world, feeling she could impact more children's lives. She purchased Sylvan Learning Centers in Mattoon, Champaign, and Springfield. She eventually added centers in Carbondale, Effingham and Decatur. She worked relentlessly and tirelessly running her centers, refusing to allow any obstacle to stand in her way, all the while changing the lives of thousands of children who attended her centers over the last eighteen years.

Audra was a former member of the Mattoon Golf and Country Club, where she was a nine time Women's Club Champion. She was also a member of the Sylvan Franchise Association. However, her true love and passion in life was her children. She traveled thousands of miles every year, following Jackson as he played golf, the one game that ultimately changed her life and gave her the family she loved so. And she probably traveled hundreds of thousands of miles being the ultimate dance mom. Nothing made her happier than watching Jillian transform from a little girl into a beautiful artist on stage. She continued touching lives during each of her children's journeys, having and making friends all across the country.

Memorials in Audra's honor may be made to University of Arizona's Alpha Phi Philanthropy Women's Heart Health, 1930 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201.

Those who are unable to attend the service may remotely attend live via Tribucast. Please use the following link at 12:00 PM, Friday, May 8, 2020 at <https://client.tribucast.com/tcid/97274006> .

Please visit www.mitchell-jerdan.com or www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome to light a virtual candle in

Cemetery Details

Dodge Grove Cemetery

917 North 22nd Street
Mattoon, IL 61938

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 7. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.
1200 Wabash Ave
Mattoon, IL 61938
contact@mitchelljerdan.com
<https://www.mitchell-jerdan.com/>

Service

MAY 8. 12:00 PM (CT)

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.
1200 Wabash Ave
Mattoon, IL 61938
contact@mitchelljerdan.com
<https://www.mitchell-jerdan.com/>

Tribute Wall

GW

“ *Audra and I taught together in Effingham. She was a great teacher and friend. She was kind, thoughtful and fun. The staff truly missed her when she left teaching. I am sad that her life was ended so soon. Love to her family.*



Georgiann Wilson - May 14, 2020 at 11:47 AM

CM

“ *Sending our deepest condolences*



Crystal Carter & Sydney Mills - May 09, 2020 at 11:41 AM

SV

“ *Audra was a special person to so many of us. For me she was a constant reinforcement to live life to the fullest. She had unwavering optimism, the best laugh, an amazing sense of humor and was truly the life of the party. I will always admire her strength and grace the most. My prayers are with the Berg family. I hope the beautiful memories and lives she touched brings you the strength you need during this difficult time.*

Susan Valverde

Susan Valverde - May 08, 2020 at 02:00 PM

IB

“ *I'll always remember our trips to Sarnia for family gatherings. Growing up with two older brothers, Audra was the big sister I never had and always entertained my girly demands to curl, braid, hairspray my hair in all sorts of crazy ways. We would laugh together for hours. I looked up to Audra for her big, outgoing personality and fun-loving take on life. My deepest sympathies go out to tante Dace, uncle Rod, cousin Erin and Audra's family, Rick, Jillian and Jackson.*

With love, cousin Ive

Ive Balins - May 08, 2020 at 01:26 PM



“ *She was the first grandchild born, and I was third. We didn't see each other much but I was always in awe of how level headed and upbeat she was. Thank goodness for social media because we were able to chat recently and of course family weddings. You won't be forgotten.*



Juris Ligers - May 08, 2020 at 11:59 AM

JS

“ *Audra was one of a kind. Dedicated, hard-working, fun-loving, passionate, and truly a loyal friend who, no matter what was going on in her life, found time to listen, advise, or commiserate with you. Over the years, it's always been obvious to me throughout our many chats, that her family was the most important part of her life and she spoke often about her love and admiration for Rick and her children.*

I feel ever so fortunate to have known her...she will be missed by so, so many.

*Jan Schneider
Former Sylvan Owner*

Janet Schneider - May 08, 2020 at 11:41 AM

AN

“ *It is with great sadness that I extend my deepest sympathies to Tante Dace, Uncle Rod, cousin Erin, Rick, Jackson, Jillian and other family. I will always remember Audra as being my most vibrant older cousin who's warmth and laughter filled a room, someone who instantly brought a smile to my face. Audra was someone I was always excited to see, and so easily made everyone around her feel special. Although we cannot be there physically today to hold our family close, we are there in spirit and take comfort in knowing that Audra is in our hearts always.*

With all of our love, cousin Pele (chickadee) and family

Aelita Neimanis - May 08, 2020 at 09:51 AM

SP

“ *Prayers from the Poffinbarger's.*



Steve, Debbie & Connor Poffinbarger - May 08, 2020 at 09:17 AM

AB

“ Angie Benninghoff lit a candle in memory of Audra L. Berg



Angie Benninghoff - May 08, 2020 at 07:58 AM

AB

My thoughts and prayers have been with your family. So, so sorry you are all going through this heart breaking time. Angie

Angie Benninghoff - May 08, 2020 at 08:01 AM

EM

“ Erin Marriott lit a candle in memory of Audra L. Berg



Erin Marriott - May 08, 2020 at 06:45 AM

JP

“ Jama Plotts lit a candle in memory of Audra L. Berg



Jama Plotts - May 08, 2020 at 03:35 AM

AN

“ News of Audra's passing breaks my heart. My oldest cousin, Audra was the leader of our small childhood posse. I have such fond memories of getting to spend the weekend at Tante Dace and Uncle Rod's, where the four of girls would get up to all kinds of antics. I still remember Audra teaching us some of her best cheers... She was so bubbly and optimistic! These memories still bring a smile to my face. All my love to her family and those close to her, and wishing you all some comfort and peace in this sad time.- Cousin Astrida & family, in Sydney, Australia.

Astrida Neimanis - May 08, 2020 at 12:37 AM

GB

“ Gina Myers Barr



Gina Myers Barr - May 07, 2020 at 11:31 PM

GS

“ The Bergs have been a huge part of our professional life as Sylvan franchisees. As we were both a "wife-husband team with kids," we had a lot in common starting early on in our Sylvan journey. For many years we were in a "small group" together, meeting at various locations a few times a year and encouraging and supporting each other with business and work/family balance.

I didn't know what Chilean Sea Bass was before I met Audra, or who knew one could order a cocktail that had dry ice in it? No one was more fun to be around than Audra. I would always marvel that she could throw on a plain red scarf and look like a million dollars. She made it look effortless.

One of my favorite memories with Rick and Audra was when our Sylvan conference was cancelled in New Orleans due to a hurricane. We hopped in rental cars and drove north to the Berg's house! We enjoyed their hospitality on the golf course, at their club and of course good food/grilling at their home. Audra's "Latvian Salad" was so delicious, that I asked her for the recipe (which I never do for salad). Rick said that "he married her for that salad!"

Audra's incredible people skills remind me of that old saying, that people might not remember what you said, but they do remember how you made them feel. Audra made you feel special.

Over the past few years, Audra and "the Daves" have had a standing appointment to "talk Sylvan" every Friday at 10:00 a.m. CST, to encourage and support one another. Her enthusiasm, laughter and light will be forever missed.

Gail & Dave Smith

Gail & Dave Smith - May 07, 2020 at 09:24 PM

LC

“ Warm smile and humour is always how Audra greeted me and what I will always remember her by. You couldn't find a warmer person. I have difficulty expressing my grief over her passing and even more difficulty in the fact I can't be there for my wonderful Tante Dace, Uncle Rod, cousin Erin, Rick, Jackson, Jillian and the rest of family. Fond family memories come flooding back to me as soon as I think of her and we will forever feel her missing piece of our family puzzle. I will hold on to her beautiful smile until we can all meet again

-love always your cousin Laima & family

Laima Camilleri - May 07, 2020 at 04:49 PM

TJ

“ TJ lit a candle in memory of Audra L. Berg



TJ - May 07, 2020 at 04:37 PM

“ We are so very saddened to not be with Audra’s family and friends to share in the remembrances of her and say good-by to our wonderful niece. Our condolences and thoughts are with all of you there, especially with my sister Dace whose hand I wish I could hold.

A life too soon ended for Audra, this vibrant, accomplished and caring woman who brought such joy and happiness to my sister Dace and her husband Rod, as she did to her own children, husband , her sister Erin and her family, and as I read, her circle of friends and colleagues in America. Dace would tell me about Audra’s many projects, her energy and unflagging support and encouragement for Jillian and Jackson in searching out their future life goals. And especially Jillian and her love of dance.

Our memories are closest to Audra’s younger self when she and Erin, and cousins Saulite and Astrida explored the world and both of our backyards through the eyes of youth and anticipation of the years to come. There were happy sleepovers in Hamilton and Sarnia, adventurous road trips to Canada’s East Coast, and camping in our parks even on one of the last expeditions on a rainy, cold May 24th long weekend at Long Point amongst mud and sleet. We all loved her.

The memory I hold most of Audra is of the feisty, freckled little redhead who met her world and its challenges head-on and lived it in her indomitable way with enthusiasm and energy.

Her heart, the bodily, physical one, lies among the flowers with you there in Mattoon, but Audra’s heart of love, compassion, friendship, energy and spirit lives with us, in all of ours.

As Latvians say at these times of sorrow, may the sand that lies over her, cover and hold her lightly and gently,
Aunt Ieva and Uncle John.

Dr. Ieva Neimanis - May 07, 2020 at 12:44 PM



“ 46 files added to the album Life Tributes



Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home - May 07, 2020 at 12:40 PM

MC

“ Audra's passion for education, her infectious laugh and warm smile, and her ability to always make you feel like the most important person in the room made the world a better place. I'm blessed to have known her and will cherish my memories of our time together forever . . . my love and sympathy to Rick, Jackson and Jillian.

Mary Alice Carlson, Sylvan FBC

Mary Alice Carlson - May 07, 2020 at 12:31 PM

TG

“ Tony and Jamie Gunn purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Audra L. Berg.



Tony and Jamie Gunn - May 07, 2020 at 10:30 AM

JH

“ This isn't a photo of our provincial curling team, but it's a photo of Audra and myself. I was so sorry to hear that Audra had died. What a shock it must be for everyone close to her. Audra and I won the provincial championships and finished 3rd at the Nationals in curling. Yes she could also curl when she wasn't golfing. We had great times before, during and after the competition! We loved arranging the hotel furniture around before we checked out! ;-) My thoughts are with Audra and her family, her parents and her sister, Erin.



Janet Huerlimann - May 07, 2020 at 10:28 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.



May 07, 2020 at 08:46 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.*



May 06, 2020 at 09:46 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.*



May 06, 2020 at 09:46 PM

KB

“ *I am truly sorry that I cannot be there to say goodbye to my dear niece. Audra was a joy from day one. She was the first baby in the family that we got to cuddle and care for. As the years passed, she became the oldest cousin who was always kind, helpful and full of fun. I marvelled at her accomplishments in curling and golf, and at the success of her Sylvan business. Our last visit was four years ago when she came to Toronto for her cousin's wedding. It was a wonderful reunion, she was bubbly, happy and loving. A memory I will cherish. I miss her and will keep her in my heart forever. I send my heartfelt condolences.*
Aunt Kristine



Kristine Balins - May 06, 2020 at 07:59 PM

DS

“ *Sorry for your loss Rick and family. Sending my thoughts and prayers .*

Dan Spitz - May 06, 2020 at 07:34 PM



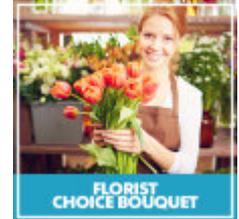
“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.



May 06, 2020 at 04:15 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.



May 06, 2020 at 03:28 PM

JS

“ There will never be enough I can say about Audra Berg. I am so incredibly thankful to have come into her life. Audra hired me as a teacher for the Mattoon Sylvan Center in 2013 and I quickly soaked in everything there was to learn about Sylvan. Audra and I were the Sylvan Dream Team and we were unstoppable during Enrollment Conferences-- I could pick up exactly where she left off every time. Audra taught me to ask for forgiveness instead of permission and it's something I'll remember forever. She taught me to help first and ask questions later. We had such a wonderful relationship and she would love it and laugh when I texted her about Sylvan at 10:30 at night. I don't think I will ever encounter a more caring person. She always did everything she could to help a student succeed. I'll never forget how much Audra believed in me and I will continue helping students succeed in her honor for the rest of my life.

Jackie Surdyk

Jackie Surdyk - May 06, 2020 at 03:26 PM

JH

“ Jay, Robin, Hannah Grace & Lily Hopper purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Audra L. Berg.



Jay, Robin, Hannah Grace & Lily Hopper - May 06, 2020 at 02:39 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.*



May 06, 2020 at 01:45 PM

AM

“ *Alison Maxwell purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Audra L. Berg.*



Alison Maxwell - May 06, 2020 at 01:35 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.*



May 06, 2020 at 12:52 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.*



May 06, 2020 at 12:09 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.*



May 06, 2020 at 12:03 PM

MH

“ Audra shared her passion for students and families each and every day. It was a pleasure to see her smiling face in her center and at Sylvan conferences. Audra was a joy to be around and she will truly be missed. My prayers are with Rick and her children.

Melanie Hadley Franklin, Sylvan FBC.

Melanie HadleyFranklin - May 06, 2020 at 11:06 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.



May 06, 2020 at 10:36 AM

SM

“ Sylvan Learning Baltimore MD purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Audra L. Berg.



Sylvan Learning Baltimore MD - May 06, 2020 at 10:08 AM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.



May 06, 2020 at 09:46 AM



“ Audra has the most amazing laugh. We were blessed to host two special events with Audra and Rick, that required us to spend a lot of time together, and we all laughed more than we worked. Audra always had the right words when you were sad and the best laughter to lift you up. Sending our love and wishing we were there to help comfort all of her loved ones through this unbearable time. You will be in our thoughts and our prayers. Rob and Michelle

Michelle Walters-Diepholz - May 06, 2020 at 07:53 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.*



May 06, 2020 at 07:47 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.*



May 06, 2020 at 03:47 AM

KS

“ *Kayla Your Instacart Shopper lit a candle in memory of Audra L. Berg*



Kayla your instacart shopper - May 06, 2020 at 01:21 AM

BU

Thinking of all the family & saying prayers for this difficult time 🙏

Becky Ueleke - May 06, 2020 at 10:15 AM

KS

“ *I miss her opening the door when I i i i i i i i*

When I would come deliver her groceries she was always so happy to see me...she was such a sweet and nice person..you will be greatly missed! 😭

Kayla your instacart shopper - May 06, 2020 at 01:18 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.*



May 05, 2020 at 10:54 PM

DF

“ *Audra was deeply loved and respected by those who worked with her at Sylvan! She passionately cared about our students and did all she could to ensure their success! She was a kind, caring and charismatic leader! Audra brought joy to our workplace everyday! Our entire staff has been devastated by her loss! Words can't describe how much we cared about this precious woman! The loss we feel is profound! Audra will NEVER be forgotten and we are all better people for knowing her. Heaven has taken her from us and we will struggle with this loss for some time. I know I speak the sentiments of our entire Sylvan family when I say she was truly an extraordinary woman!*

*Donna Foppe
Springfield Center Director
Sylvan Learning Center*

Donna Foppe - May 05, 2020 at 10:45 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.*



May 05, 2020 at 10:39 PM

LM

“ My name is Leslie McDaniel and I met Audra when I brought my son Ryan to Sylvan at age 12. Ryan was born with speech and learning delays. He had been through the State of Illinois “Birth thru Two” program and they said Ryan was delayed but did not learn differently. Ryan started with the Sylvan program and Audra was on top of his progress. Ryan stayed with Sylvan and eventually took the SAT prep class. He did well and is now halfway through his education degree at the University of Northern Colorado. His degree is in Secondary Education in English with an extra “Tesl” certificate. He will be qualified to teach English for grades 7-12 and to teach English as a second language to Spanish speaking students. He is quickly becoming bilingual in Spanish and he loves his students and his life! This would not have been possible without Audra and Rick and Sylvan. Once Ryan started with Sylvan, my husband and I could better focus on the educational needs of Ryan’s older brother Kevin. My husband Jim taught physics at Lake Land College and he began pouring math and science development into Kevin. Kevin is now an ER Doctor at the hospital in Olathe, Kansas which is right outside Kansas City, Kansas. He says often that he would not be a doctor without the development his Dad put into him during his High School years. All my comfort to Audra’s family at this difficult time. She will be missed by many!

Leslie McDaniel - May 05, 2020 at 09:07 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.



May 05, 2020 at 09:03 PM

PG

“ I meant Audra at dance competitions. Being a dance grandma and a talker Audra was so easy to be around and make you feel welcome. She always had a smile and always so happy. We will all miss her. Our sympathy to her family. Prayers to all.

Makenna Gray’s Grandma

Pat Gray - May 05, 2020 at 08:31 PM

WA

“ With our deepest sympathy, Lauren & Reagan Archer purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Audra L. Berg.



With our deepest sympathy, Lauren & Reagan Archer - May 05, 2020 at 08:30 PM

DS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dace Smith - May 05, 2020 at 06:33 PM



“ Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.



May 05, 2020 at 06:30 PM

DS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dace Smith - May 05, 2020 at 06:28 PM

PW

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. So very sorry and sad for you and your daughter's family. Ken and Pauline

Pauline White - May 05, 2020 at 06:23 PM

KK

“ I am so sorry to know that Audra left this world so early. She will now be an angel watching over all of her family and the students that she loved so dearly. I always admired her love of teaching and passion to help while I worked with her in Effingham. My children spoke fondly of her as their teacher too! Rest in peace Audra, peace be with your family in these most difficult times.
Kerri Krischel and family

Kerri Krischel - May 05, 2020 at 05:03 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.



May 05, 2020 at 04:34 PM

TR

“ Tom and Renee purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Audra L. Berg.



Tom and Renee - May 05, 2020 at 04:04 PM

EC

“ I was lucky to work with Audra through my district and Sylvan Learning. She was always upbeat and helpful.

Eva Cornwell - May 05, 2020 at 03:33 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.



May 05, 2020 at 02:36 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.*



May 05, 2020 at 02:35 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.*



May 05, 2020 at 02:15 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.*



May 05, 2020 at 02:07 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.*



May 05, 2020 at 01:59 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.*



May 05, 2020 at 01:38 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.



May 05, 2020 at 01:35 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage* was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.



May 05, 2020 at 01:23 PM

MD

“ *Miss you .. Mom & Dad* purchased the *Magnificent Life Spray* for the family of Audra L. Berg.



Miss you .. Mom & Dad - May 05, 2020 at 01:14 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Audra L. Berg.



May 05, 2020 at 01:12 PM

LN

“ *Love Nanny* purchased the *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* for the family of Audra L. Berg.



Love Nanny - May 05, 2020 at 01:09 PM