

Deaths

Dr. Alice Michtom, age 70, Ithaca, March 7, 2016, Bangs Funeral Home

Ruth “Ruthie” Marjory Crance Sinn, age 82, Newfield, March 6, 2016, Herson-Wagner Funeral Home

Patricia Taormina, age 80, Ithaca, March 2, 2016, Bangs Funeral Home

The list of area deaths that appears above is provided free of charge. The obituaries, in memoriams and cards of thanks elsewhere on this page are paid announcements. Obituary Department: 800-640-1722 Fax: 607-798-0261 cnyobits@gannett.com

HOURS Weekday • 8:30am-5:00p Sunday • 2:00pm-5:00p Holidays - Call For Deadlines



Taormina, Patricia

Patricia Taormina, 80, of 537 Hayts Road, Ithaca, died Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at 7:07 P.M. in the loving care of Hospice at the Cayuga Medical Center with her family by her side. Patricia is survived by her pride and joy, Richard Taormina of

Ithaca, Richard gave 10 years of his life to help care for his loving mother, also her eldest son, Michael Taormina of Ithaca; her grandchildren, Tamara Taormina of Ithaca, Michelle Taormina of Saudia Arabia, Nick Taormina of Long Island and Francis Taormina of New York City. She is also survived by her brother, Dennis Wassal of Florida and many relatives from NYC to Flordia. Patricia was born June 20, 1930 and married Louis Taormina in 1956. She was a devoted mother of two sons and later worked as a supervisor in bookkeeping at City Bank. In 1990 Patricia moved to Ithaca to be with her sons. In 1998 her loving husband passed away. Patricia loved swimming in her pool, her family praying to Saint Anthony, dancing, TV Shows, going to church, Bon-Jovi Music and life with all of its twists and turns. Friends may call Friday March 11, 2016 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the Bangs Funeral Home. Private graveside services with Fr. Jeffrey Tunnickliff officiating will be held at Calvary Cemetery at a later date.

"THE WORLD LOST A WONDERFUL WOMAN, WE WILL DEARLY MISS OUR LOVING MOM. MAY SHE REST IN PEACE WITH HER LOVING HUSBAND, LOUIS TAORMINA."



Sinn, Ruth "Ruthie" Marjory Crance

Ruth “Ruthie” Marjory Crance Sinn, age 82 a lifelong resident of Newfield, NY passed away peacefully on March 6, 2016 at her home with loved ones and assisted by Hospice. She was born on May 28,

1933. Ruth is survived by her sister, Margaret Mead; her sons, Richard (Victoria) Sinn, Robert (Kelly) Sinn; her daughter-in-law, Gloria Sinn of Newfield; her grandchildren, Laurie (Ray) Fenton, Tony (Heather) Sinn, Melissa Delong, Jennifer (Frank) Rose, Crystal (Larry) Sinn, Stacy (David) White, Meghan Sinn, Kiersten Sinn and Trevor Sinn; 17 great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild. She is also survived by her extended family of Walter (Lynda) Reeves and Linda Prinzhorn. Ruth was predeceased by her parents, Willis and Margaret (Goodwin) Crance; her devoted and loving husband of 62 years, Louis Sinn, Sr. (2013); her eldest son, Louis Sinn Jr.; two brothers and a sister, John and William Crance, Sandra Sinn. Ruth enjoyed watching her children and grandchildren play sports, Syracuse Basketball, square dancing and country music and her beloved animals including Smokie the Shetland pony. After raising her boys and other extended family members, she worked for many years at the Ithaca Small Animal Hospital. Calling hours are on Wednesday from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM at Herson Wagner Funeral Home, 110 S. Geneva Street Ithaca, NY with a service to follow at 1:00. Interment will follow at Calvary Cemetery in Ithaca, NY. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Ithaca Hospice or the Tompkins County SPCA. The family wishes to thank Cayuga Medical Center, West Danby Fire and Rescue, Bangs Ambulance and Hospicare.



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Leaders react to death of Elizabeth Garrett

Reaction is coming in this afternoon from around the region and state at news of the death of Cornell University President Elizabeth Garrett.

Here is a sampling:

“I’m deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Elizabeth Garrett. Throughout her accomplished career, and especially as president of Cornell University, Elizabeth was a visionary leader who was wholeheartedly committed to furthering the education and growth of those around her. She devoted her life to creating a better future for everyone, and she understood that in order to accomplish that, part of her responsibility as a leader was to boldly challenge the status quo. As the first woman to lead Cornell University as its president, she lived that promise herself. Elizabeth’s passing is a great loss not only for her University, but for our state. On behalf of all New Yorkers, I offer my deepest condolences to all of her many friends and loved ones.” — **New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo**

“Beth’s passing is a shocking loss for Cornell and for higher education leadership as a whole. To meet her is to be immediately impressed with her energy, her positive outlook and compelling personality, and her keen intelligence that slices right to the heart of important issues. My thoughts and prayers are with Beth and her family, and I offer my deepest condolences to the entire Cornell community.” — **Ithaca College President Tom Rochon**

“On behalf of everyone at Tompkins Cortland Community College, please accept our sincere sympathies on the passing of President Garrett. Cornell and the higher education community has lost a brilliant mind, a strong leader, and a compassionate soul who touched the lives of many individuals during her short time with us. Our deepest condolences, along with our prayers, go out to Elizabeth’s family and the entire Cornell family.” — **Tompkins Cortland Community College President Carl Haynes**

“We are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Cornell University President Elizabeth Garrett. As a fellow proponent of higher education in the state of New York, she was one to admire — a leader committed to higher learning and a true visionary. We know that her legacy will live on in the thousands of students, faculty, staff and alumni whose lives she touched throughout her career.” — **Binghamton University President Harvey Stenger**

“I am devastated to hear the news of President Garrett’s passing. She was a lovely, warm and accomplished woman who was poised to be a great leader at

Cornell. My sympathies to her husband and family and to the entire Cornell community.” — **Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton, D-Ithaca**

“It is with tremendous sadness that I learned Cornell President Elizabeth Garrett passed away last evening after battling colon cancer. President Garrett was an outstanding leader. I was honored to have known and worked closely with Elizabeth during her eight month tenure. Together we worked on numerous Cornell initiatives, and I am grateful for her many discussions and guidance throughout those endeavors. Elizabeth’s impact on Cornell University, while too brief, was significant. President Garrett was a staunch advocate and loved Cornell University. She will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with Elizabeth’s family, friends and the entire Cornell community at this time.” — **State Sen. Michael Nozzolio, R-Fayette**

“I can only express my heartfelt sympathy to President Garrett’s husband, Andrei, her entire family, her many colleagues and friends, and the Cornell University and Ithaca communities she was just beginning to call home. In the brief time that I have had the pleasure to begin to know and to work with President Garrett – which has now been left so unexpectedly and far too short – she has been kind, welcoming and, above all, eager to pursue the Cornell University mission to the fullest extent. She always made it very clear how deeply proud she was to be leading Cornell University and to have the incredible opportunity to strengthen one of the world’s leading universities at such an important and exciting time. President Garrett’s passing is a great loss, and I am truly saddened by it. She will remain in our thoughts and prayers.” — **State Sen. Tom O’Mara, R-Big Flats**

“We are saddened to hear of the tragic passing of Cornell President Elizabeth Garrett. We extend our sincerest condolences to her friends, family and loved ones during this difficult time. This is truly a loss for the entire Cornell community, our region and our nation. We remain confident that the positive impact that she strived to make every day will endure and we are proud to have had the privilege of working with her.” — **U.S. Rep. Tom Reed, R-Corning**

“Our deepest sympathies are with Elizabeth’s family, friends and the Cornell community. She was a dynamic pioneer and her many accomplishments will remain a lasting legacy. Elizabeth was a remarkable leader and her loss will be deeply mourned by many.” — **Laura L. Anglin, president of The Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities in New York**



KELSEY O’CONNOR/STAFF PHOTO

Following the moment of silence, the Cornell Chimes rang over campus with tunes like “Somewhere over the Rainbow.”

Honor

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The vast field sat empty and silent in mid-afternoon, the lively campus quiet even with the shifting of classes and the 3:20 afternoon rush. The next block was set to start in just 15 minutes, and even with the campus mobilized, a surreal calm had settled in on Stone Row. For many students, who had just heard the news of Garrett’s death four hours earlier, a feeling of shock had taken hold.

“We were just expected to go about our normal days,” Chris Arce, a freshman, said. “It was just difficult. I had just gotten out of an exam and the entire time, I just felt really bad. I think it’s a profound loss for Cornell, and it was really hard just for me to stay focused in class”

“There’s not the buzz we usually feel,” he said. “I never even met her, but she was my first impression here.”

As the hour drew closer to 4 p.m., a crowd began to filter in from upper campus. Then, Ho Plaza began to flow, a river of silent masses congregating on the quad. A ROTC squadron stood at attention at the feet of the statue of Andrew Dickson White. Then, the bells of McGraw Tower struck — four times — and without words, without fanfare, quiet.

“It was incredibly powerful,” Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick, a 2009 graduate, said. “There were no speakers, no signal to be quiet ... the crowd just stilled.”

Then the bells began to pick up. Solemn, soft and quiet, the 21 chimes began to play Claude Debussy’s “Clair de Lune.” After the chimes played “Somewhere Over The Rainbow,” there was a



KELSEY O’CONNOR/STAFF PHOTO

Hundreds of students, staff and faculty held a moment of silence for President Elizabeth Garrett, who died Sunday after a brief battle with colon cancer.

feeling of something to come. From those milling about and reflecting after the final note, a sentiment prevailed there would be a new day on campus tomorrow, however different that future may be.

Though Garrett made some controversial choices as president, including the decision to merge the hotel and business schools, many said her presence on campus was not just that of an administrator but a leader.

“As soon as she came onto campus, she was very vocal and active,” sophomore Jung Won Kim said. “She would go to events, the dining hall and I thought she really made an effort to not just connect with the students personally, but listen to them ... it’s just a huge waste. She had amazing potential here, even though she made some controversial decisions, she was willing to engage the students on it, too. She was truly a student’s president.”

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