



## Linda C. Wenzel

November 1, 1947 - December 12, 2025

Linda (Grosinski) Wenzel, a lifelong Long Island resident, teacher, world traveler, and loving mother and grandmother, died from Bulbar-Onset ALS on December 12, 2025, attended by family at her home in Huntington Station. She was 78 years old.

Linda was born to Thaddeus Grosinski and Eleanor (Laudano) Grosinski at the Swedish Hospital in Brooklyn, New York on November 1, 1947. She graduated from Hauppauge High School in 1965. Throughout her schooling, she was known as a very hard worker who babysat frequently in her neighborhood. She worked at Kings Park Public Library the summer after graduation.

Linda went on to enroll at Hofstra University, where she earned a B.A. in Psychology in 1969. She would complete an M.B.A. in Management at Long Island University in 1976. The following year, she joined the faculty at LIU – CW Post, and soon thereafter pursued M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Applied Research and Evaluation back at Hofstra, which she completed in 1980 and 1983, respectively. For 34 years, Linda served as a faculty member at LIU, teaching a wide range of topics, including statistics, organizational behavior, and health care administration. She taught thousands of students, many of whom would stay in touch after graduation to maintain enduring friendships.

During her teaching career, Linda served as a consultant to Nassau and Suffolk counties. She became an integral part of the local public health response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the late 1980s. She wrote and received the region's first federal grant for HIV services and also worked to ensure that people who were diagnosed were documented so the Nassau-Suffolk region would meet the criteria to receive Ryan White HIV/AIDS funding through the Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act in 1992. After that, she developed the region's federal grant application, guiding the proposal review process, and participated on the Nassau-Suffolk region's HIV/AIDS planning council.

As she wound down her teaching career at LIU, eventually retiring in 2011, Linda began to serve the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council as Coordinator of Emergency Preparedness Planning. She also continued her own education, completing an M.S. in Homeland Security at LIU in 2008 and developing new expertise in infectious disease outbreaks in the context of hospital emergency management. In her two decades in the Coordinator role, from 2003 to 2023, she conducted many "secret patient" exercises at local hospitals, disguising herself as a patient with mysterious symptoms and concocting stories about having returned ill from exotic travel, all the while surreptitiously assessing hospital performance related to emergency quarantine and notification protocols. Her last teaching experience was at the American Society for Healthcare Human Resources Administration conference in Albuquerque this past April, where she presented on "The Role of Human Resources in Crisis Management."

Linda loved to travel and try new foods. With family and friends, she visited many of our national parks and countless locations abroad, including Botswana, Morocco, Namibia, Hong Kong, Russia, and Norway, and she enjoyed many trips to Universal Studios and Disney World, riding even the most aggressive rollercoasters as recently as 2024. She also loved to laugh –

corny jokes, puns, cartoons of all kinds, and the now-defunct Annals of Improbable Research generated a joyful giddiness her family and friends will always remember.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents and is survived by her daughter Susan, son-in-law Robert, and grandchildren Greta and Maryn (Nazareth, Pennsylvania), stepmother Teena (Mineola, New York), sisters Elisa (Shirley, New York) and Catherine (Port Townsend, Washington), brother-in-law Stephen (Santa Fe, New Mexico), and nephews Eric (Chicago, Illinois) and Evan (Seattle, Washington).

"A Celebration of Life is planned for May 9, 2026. If you are hoping to attend but did not receive an invitation, please reach out to [robguroff@gmail.com](mailto:robguroff@gmail.com)  
In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory can be made to the ALS Association ([www.als.org](http://www.als.org))."

# Tribute Wall



“ Linda was a friend and mentor since the 1990's at C.W. Post U where she was my absolute favorite professor! After my graduation she continued to reach out, encourage, and suggest pathways for my future. Her friendship meant so much to me, and I will miss her very much. She gave much of herself to others, and the world has lost a champion.

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**Carol Francesca** - January 07 at 01:24 PM



“ Carol Francesca lit a candle in memory of Linda C. Wenzel



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**Carol Francesca** - January 07 at 01:24 PM



“ Linda was a role model for me. So smart, independent and thoughtful. She taught me how to advocate for myself with a doctor, how to manage a situation with my family, and how to be a good next door neighbor. What a loss.

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**Connie Shakalis** - December 21, 2025 at 09:41 PM

JA

“ I met Linda working on emergency preparedness in Suffolk County- and was immediately struck by her brilliance, wit and cheer. We got together every couple of months or so for dinner after that to catch up. We talked about books ( she always had one with her!) her intrepid travels and most importantly her family-she was so crazy about the girls, and so proud of her daughter and son in law. We talked about the absurdity of things in the news, my political boyfriends and she once gave me a pack of sharpies to edit away anything bad coming my way. I wish I could have used them. Deepest condolences to her lovely family and all who knew and loved her.  
Jeanne Alicandro

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**Jeanne Alicandro** - December 20, 2025 at 08:47 AM

EB

“ I will miss my Aunt Linda very much. My family is hurting from this loss. She was a special person to her many friends as evidenced by the outpouring of love on this page. May we all remember to bring some of Aunt Linda's cheerful, silly personality into our own lives each day.

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**Eric Black** - December 19, 2025 at 09:10 PM

MW

“ Linda was a dear friend and colleague at LIU. We met in 1976 as i began my career and taught me how to teach statistics! I will miss her very much. My heart aches over this loss

Mary Westermann

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**Mary Westermann** - December 19, 2025 at 12:51 PM

DD

“ Growing up as I did with her daughter Susan, whom I shared several classes with from elementary school through high school, I have decades of nothing but the fondest memories of Linda. Her sharp wit and intelligence were matched only by her warmth and humor. She will be sorely missed; may her memory be a blessing to all who knew her.

David DeMar - December 19, 2025 at 12:05 PM

RA

“ Linda was a fellow faculty member at LIU-Brentwood. She had a very upbeat personality and was an admired college professor. Linda introduced me to Central American cuisine in general and pupusas specifically, and we enjoyed lunch together at a Brentwood pupuseria before teaching assignments. Sincere condolences to Linda's family.

Richard Auletta - December 19, 2025 at 08:34 AM

AK

“ Linda was a special person. She always had a smile on her face, loved to laugh, and was a great sounding board for thoughts and Ideas. I have had the privilege of making many fond memories with Linda over the years, and she will be greatly missed. Our condolences go out to her entire Family whom she loved very much during this difficult time 🥹



May she Rest In Peace 🙏

Andrew Kruzykowski - December 18, 2025 at 04:53 PM

BD

“ It is with deep sadness and profound respect that I post this memorial tribute.

*I have known Linda personally and professionally for over 20 years, serving together on several policy making and planning work groups, while based in Suffolk County, had outreach across NY State. She was a well respected and widely recognized expert in public health emergency preparedness who dedicated her life to protecting and improving the regional health care system’s preparedness, response and recovery from naturally occurring or man made disasters. Never one to seek out the spotlight, Linda often working quietly, persistently, and without the need for recognition. Her passion for public health emergency preparedness was never just professional; it was deeply personal.*

*Those of us who were fortunate enough to call Linda a friend will agree that she was more than just her work. Linda was kind, thoughtful, quick to listen, and always ready to support others— whether through wise counsel, gentle humor, or simply showing up when it mattered most. Her presence and influence had a profound impact on my own career. Rest in peace, my friend. Your work, your kindness, and your spirit will not be forgotten.*

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**Bob Delagi** - December 18, 2025 at 04:14 PM

GP

“ I send my deepest condolences to Susan, Rob, Greta, & Maryn, & to the rest of Linda’s family.

*Linda & I have been friends since we were both 14 years old. She was my Maid of Honor when I got married, & we had maintained our friendship over all these years. Through the good days, & the bad days, we were always there for each other. I am going to miss her terribly, & I pray that she is resting in eternal peace now.*

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**Grace Patane** - December 18, 2025 at 03:44 PM

RE

“ *Linda was a special person and friend. May the support of friends and family comfort her loved ones during this difficult time. R Eble*

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**Raymond Eble** - December 18, 2025 at 01:49 PM