



Andrea Jean Gay

March 8, 2026

Andrea J. “Drea” Gay, 79, of East Syracuse passed away on Sunday, March 8, in Destin, Florida. Born in Mineola, LI, NY, to the late Andrew and Florence (Lambo) McDonald, she was also predeceased by her brother, Andrew McDonald. Following graduation from Oneonta State with bachelor’s and master’s degrees, she became a certified secondary English teacher and from 1978 to February 2002 was a NYS Department of Labor Counselor, retiring as Senior Employment Counseling Consultant.

With an interest in genealogy, Drea established the company Bird-In-Hand to research missing family members for estates in surrogate courts. She had been a member of the CNY Genealogical Society and is a member of the New England Genealogical Society. Family genealogy led back to the original colonial settlers of Kingstown, RI and many other old New England families. Drea enjoyed gathering with family, especially all of her cousins, and friends, traveling, reading mysteries, jogging and walking. She was a board member of her homeowner’s association.

Surviving are her husband since June 14, 1997, C. Richard “Dick” Gay, Jr.; eleven first cousins, Donald Harris, Diane Seymour, John (Nadine) Lambo, Brad (Linda) Lambo, Camille (Charlie) Ruggieri, Pam (Gary) Kientzler, Marge Mack, Phillip (Celeste) Lambo, Christine (Charles) Jennings, Sue (Michael) Cowan, and James (Robert Evans) Lambo.. Also surviving are her brother-in-law, Martin W. (Susan) Gay; nephew-in-law, Martin Clinton Edwards; niece-in-law, Karin (Zach) Benjamin; a great nephew, Colton Kemp; and several former

Paikin in-laws who remain family; and many dear friends who were like family to Drea.

The family will greet friends on Tuesday, March 17th from 4 to 6 pm at Ferguson Funeral Home, 215 South Main Street, North Syracuse. Funeral services will be Wednesday, March 18th at 10 am at the funeral home followed by burial in Pine Plains Cemetery, Clay.

Donations may be made to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, 1350 Broadway, Suite 1530, New York, NY 10018 or the Arthritis Foundation, 1355 Peachtree Street, Suite 600, Atlanta, GA 30309.

Cemetery Details

Pine Plains Clay

8686 Henry Clay Blvd.
Clay, NY 13041

Previous Events

Calling Hours

MAR 17. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Ferguson Funeral Home, Inc.
215 South Main Street
North Syracuse, NY 13212
(315) 458-1970
<http://fergersonfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

MAR 18. 10:00 AM (ET)

Ferguson Funeral Home, Inc.
215 South Main Street
North Syracuse, NY 13212
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Tribute Wall

WK

“ Dear Dick, I am thinking of you at this sad time. Andrea was a very special lady. I enjoyed the years working with her at NY State Department of Labor. She was a calm presence in even our most hectic workdays. She was dedicated to excellence in all she did for our organization and our customers.

Losing your spouse leaves a hole in your heart. I hope, in time, you will be able to smile when you reflect on the happy years together.
Wanda Kucera-Eksteen

Wanda Kucera-Eksteen - March 21 at 02:17 PM

BC

“ Drea was a constant presence in my life for as long as I can remember. As my neighbor throughout childhood, she was always there- kind, steady, and quietly guiding me in the right direction. Her care didn't fade with time; it grew with me. Through out my adulthood, she remained a source of wisdom, warmth, and reassurance. She was the kind of person who shaped your life simply by being in it. I will always be grateful for the impact she had on my life. She will be deeply missed, but never forgotten.

Forever grateful,
Brian and Johnna Connolly

Brian Connolly - March 18 at 06:43 PM

CP

“ Drea and her husband, Dick, have become more than friends to me. They have become my Syracuse sister and brother. They welcomed me and my family into their lives, and I am forever grateful for that. I admire Drea for her love of life, humor and travel. She was a dedicated friend. I hope she is at peace and once again free from the restrictions she recently faced... I will miss her terribly. My condolences to Dick and her extended family.

Cindy Paikin - March 16 at 07:14 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Andrea Jean Gay.



March 16 at 02:44 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Andrea Jean Gay.

March 16 at 02:44 PM

TF

“ The Yeomans Family purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Andrea Jean Gay.



The Yeomans Family - March 16 at 11:44 AM

JP

“ Dear Dick and family,

We are very sorry to hear about the passing of Drea. She was a wonderful person who truly cared about her friendships and her family. We have many memories of our dear friend that we will always cherish and hold close in our hearts. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family and may your saddened hearts begin to heal with each day moving forward. Take care and God Bless

*With deepest sympathy,
Jeannine and Lou Pugliano*

Jeannine Pugliano - March 14 at 09:10 AM