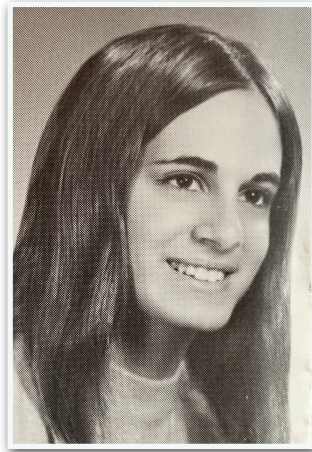




Laura Kalfayan 1953 - 1990



This story came from Laura's husband Stuart Johnson.

"Laura and I were married when she was a Junior at Carleton College. She graduated with a major in Biology. We then moved to Boston, where she worked for a year with the Harvard School of Public Health, and she then went to graduate school at Brandeis University and received her PhD in Biology. She did a three-year post-doctoral fellowship at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, which, despite its name, is at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. She then took a faculty position in the biochemistry department at the medical school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her work was in the area of what was then called recombinant DNA -- the area that has now become widely known because of its application to genetic treatment of disease. Laura and I had/have a son, Adam, who was born in 1983. He was seven years old when Laura died.

Laura had many interests, but I guess the main ones were music (she was a wonderful singer), singing in musical groups at Carleton and was also a member of the Handel & Haydn Society in Boston -- I think it is the oldest still-performing musical group in the country. She also played the piano). She also loved literature and had a special love for Charles Dickens."

"From the Medical Alumni Bulletin, School of Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Volume 37, 1990)

"Laura was an excellent teacher and researcher who was liked and appreciated by everyone who came in contact with her — students as well as other faculty members," said Mary Ellen Jones, M.D., Kenan professor of biochemistry and nutrition and former department chair.

Kalfayan, who joined the biochemistry staff in 1984, had conducted research on the ovarian tumor gene in the fruit fly, creating a model system to analyze problems in ovary development of higher organisms, such as mice and humans, said Jones.

Kalfayan is survived by her husband, Stuart Johnson and son, Adam Kalfayan Johnson, both of Chapel Hill. "

[This is a link to Laura's research](#)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/037811199290186S>