

Two Remembrances of Rachel Davidman

Amy writes about her Aunt Rachel:



She was only 7 years older than me and took me under her wing when I was a camper at Camp Kinderland. The only way they got me on a plane by myself at 9 yrs old from CA to NY was because I knew she would be with me the whole month! She became our dance instructor at camp and of course her name became synonymous with dance for the rest of her life. She loved music (and all the concerts I could get her into). She loved telling people she was my "Aunt who didn't look like she could be my Aunt". We had lunches in downtown Oakland when we both worked there and discussed planning a family reunion together. Our last visit was awesome. I remember saying that I felt she was at her best, on top, feeling great and happy....I see light, happiness, purpose and a way to honor and remember (her) in my future but first the grief. This is a new kind of sadness. I will miss you forever Tia Raquel.

From Aaron Davidman:

It is with tremendous sadness and grief that we let you all know that our dear sister, daughter, aunt, friend, compañera, Rachel, has died by suicide.

She was a light to so many—full of life and light and movement. Her love of dance and social justice causes were an inspiration to us all. Her devotion to friends and family was filled with love and loyalty. There are so many bright, shining qualities. Too many to share here.

Rachel was suffering from the serious illness of depression, in episodic cycles, for many years. The method by which she took her life is not something we wish to discuss, and suicide crisis professionals ask that methods are not discussed so as to prevent copycat attempts. Suicide is an epidemic in our culture, and depression is a profound disease. If you know anyone suffering from depression, please try and get them the help they need. Rachel had many tools and many supporters around her. But in the end, the disease was too strong.

There will be a memorial celebration of Rachel's life in the new year, after the family has had time to grieve and process this devastating loss.

Lastly, there is a plan to set up a "Friends of Rachel" group so that we can stay in touch and use her extended community to continue to support the values and causes close to Rachel's heart. We will update you.

Love and light to all.

Davidman/Rogers Family