



Garsevan Luka Bekauri

July 1, 2019

GENEVA - Garsevan Luka Bekauri, of Lake Placid, NY, died in an accidental fall Monday, July 1, 2019 while hiking and climbing in the Adirondack Mountains. He was 23. Garsevan was born in Sacramento, CA and baptized an Orthodox Christian in the Republic of Georgia. He moved to Geneva, NY with his family in 2006. He attended Geneva City schools, graduating in the top twenty of his class, in 2014. In school and in his community he was active in music, theater and sports.

A talented musician, he played the trombone, guitar and piano, and sang in a variety of ensembles. A standout athlete in high school, he competed in soccer, wrestling, lacrosse, track, swimming, diving, ice hockey, and cross country. He was the section V champion in steeplechase, qualifying for the NY State championship. A recruited college athlete, he competed at both Vassar College and Norwich University.

Garsevan joyfully participated in both musical theater (Oliver!, Chess, Hairspray, Spamalot, Les Miserables) and summer opera. He was the drum major for the GHS band, and homecoming and prom king. He played trombone with the HWS community wind ensemble, and sang with the HWS community choir. He loved math and physics, history and literature. He enjoyed playing chess, and sharing his love of the game with others.

An accomplished sailor, he successfully competed in his leaky Laser in a range of local and regional races. He crewed on Thistles and Stars – and was a member of a Thistle team which placed second at junior nationals.

Garsevan moved to Lake Placid in the fall of 2018 and quickly embraced the beauty of the region and the many outdoor opportunities. He skied and skated in the winter, and hiked and biked in the spring and summer. He'd recently begun pursuing photography – happily hauling his digital camera on bike trips and long excursions.

The middle child of five siblings, Garsevan was a natural diplomat and peacemaker. Small children loved him – and he shared with them an innocent curiosity about the world

around him. Garsevan was outgoing, compassionate and kind. His energy could electrify a room. He had a remarkable ability to connect with others, to set them at ease. He could talk to anyone from any walk of life, and truly and sincerely listened to another's words.

Very proud of his Georgian heritage, Garsevan traveled often to the Republic of Georgia, most recently in May 2018. He was deeply interested in Georgian language, culture and music. He embraced all of his rich family history, journeying to ancestral villages in both Georgia (his father's side) and Switzerland (his mother's side) in 2017.

Garsevan was an avid reader, a writer of poetry, a composer of music and songs. He was intellectually curious, and spiritually hungry. He was exquisitely attuned to natural beauty, the joy and the heartaches of the human condition, and the emotions and feelings of others. He had an exuberance and a joy for living which touched all who knew him.

Garsevan was extraordinarily close to his four siblings – all who knew them found their closeness and love remarkable. He was a sensitive soul, an untamed spirit, a light shining in the darkness.

Garsevan is survived by his parents, Zaza and Janell (Deter) Bekauri of Geneva; his brothers, Giorgi (US Navy) and Beka of Geneva, NY; his sisters, Mariami of Buffalo, NY and Tamari of Geneva, NY; his paternal grandmother, Aldona Khakhiani of Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia; his maternal grandparents, Bruno and Audrey Deter of Elk Grove, CA; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He was predeceased by his grandfather, Avtandil Bekauri of Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia.

Calling hours and prayers will be Friday, July 12th from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM at the DeVaney-Bennett Funeral Home in Geneva, NY. A Christian funeral service will be held on Saturday, July 13th at 11:00 AM at St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church on S. Goodman St in Rochester, NY.

Internment and prayers will be at 2:00 PM on Saturday, July 13th at Glenwood Cemetery in Geneva, NY. Friends and family are invited to gather at the Bekauri home following the burial.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to New Skete Monastery of Cambridge, NY or Geneva Music Boosters of Geneva High.

Cemetery

Glenwood Cemetery

1000 Lochland Rd
Geneva, NY, 14456

Events

JUL **Calling Hours** 05:00PM - 08:00PM

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DeVaney-Bennett Funeral Home
181 North Main Street, Geneva, NY, US, 14456

JUL **Funeral Service** 11:00AM

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St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church
S. Goodman Street, Rochester, NY, US, 14456

Comments



“ Garsevan was a student in my class on the history of the Middle Ages at Norwich in 2017. We had several fascinating discussions of his Georgian heritage and other cultural interests when he came to my office hours. I remember his vibrant personality. He seemed to be interested in almost anything and everything! I am so very sorry for your loss. In sympathy, Christie McCann

Christine McCann - July 22, 2019 at 08:41 AM



“ I first met Luka one hot August summer day. I was coming back from Basic Training and eager to start off my role as the Norwich Corps Athletic Liaison to the Cross Country team. The freshman recruits were receiving their medical physicals and while attempting to learn their names I remember Luka stood out first. I was able to remember him first from the way he spoke so confidently and articulately. He was excited , friendly and confident. As the season progressed, I got close with Luka. We would sit down on the field and talk philosophy for hours on end. People would come into hearing distance of our conversations and roll their eyes at how dynamic and complex the conversation would go. Sometimes on a cool down run we would find a scenic place with some of the other guys and just sit and talk. Luka was such an intelligent and bright human being. As our friendship grew Luka and I would frequently meet outside in the middle of the night. This would be triggered with a text saying “you up?” Followed by an immediate “yep. See you in 5” . We would walk around the Norwich Campus and talk about everything; the meaning of life, why people acted the way that we did, why the Corps of Cadets had the people in leadership that they did, what our goals and aspirations were... the topics were endless. I specifically remember one chilly October night, we were sitting in the Chapel while he played the piano... we were talking about how he could do better on his term paper. Before we left for the night, he told me that I was one of the best people he had ever met. I believed it then and I still know it true to this day... Luka, was one of the best people that I've ever met.

Luka although we were not able to keep our promise of hanging out after I graduated and finished my training , you will always be with me. And we will meet again. Our memories will live on and I will live my life every day in your honor.

- Jack

Jack LaBonte - July 18, 2019 at 11:54 PM



“ My most sincere condolences to you on the loss of Garsevan. I was his academic advisor at Norwich, and we had several long talks in my office about his hopes for college. I will always remember his ready smile, easy laugh, and compassion for others. He struggled, as you know, but he had a good sense of his own strengths and weaknesses. I am so sorry that he has passed...

Dr. Rowly Brucken - July 18, 2019 at 03:16 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. We were both on the cross-country team together at Norwich University for one year and my memories of him included his kindness and positive attitude every day. Outside of practice, I could always count on being greeted with a smile and short conversation, even when just bumping into each other on campus. He will be greatly missed.

Melissa Hango
Norwich University '18

Melissa Hango - July 18, 2019 at 09:16 AM



“ This memory is from Irene Hall, the sister of Bruno Deter, Garsevan's grandfather. It was a July 4th celebration many years ago. I was viewing the fireworks that Bruno was lighting off but was startled by some of the more spectacular fountains. Garsevan, who was just a little tyke at the time, took my hand and said that I would be safe with him. He then led me away to a better spot for viewing. Garsevan was also present at my 90th birthday celebration in November 2016. All grown up and interested in many endeavors. It was a wonderful day I shall always remember. Love Irene

Richard Hall - July 16, 2019 at 02:06 AM



“ Garsevan was an amazing person. He was the light of GHS when we went there together. Literally everyone knew him and had wonderful memories of him. I remember how easily he could brighten the mood of the whole drama club. He was an amazing person and I am so sorry for the Bekauri family.



Hannah Fisher - July 15, 2019 at 07:51 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of your son's accident. Gar sevan swam with my son Danny McGuigan on the swim team. He always had that wonderful smile and encouragement for all of his team members. My heart breaks for your family and my prayers are with you. Michelle McGuigan

Michelle McGuigan - July 12, 2019 at 04:49 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Garsevan Luka Bekauri.



July 12, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ Dearest Janell, Zaza & family,

We are so very sorry for your loss. I know there are no words that can decrease your pain during this difficult time. But perhaps knowing how many people's lives Garsevan touched and how many people love you and are thinking about you will provide some comfort.

With love & our deepest sympathies,
Your cousins, Becky, Bre & Lukas

Becky Shepherd - July 11, 2019 at 05:34 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Garsevan Luka Bekauri.



July 11, 2019 at 05:09 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Garsevan Luka Bekauri.



July 10, 2019 at 07:53 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Garsevan Luka Bekauri.



July 10, 2019 at 12:38 PM



“ I am so saddened to learn this. Your whole family is so talented and has brought so much to the community. I remember Garsevan from the HWS Community Chorus (along with some of his sisters). My thoughts are with you all. Rachel Weil, Seneca Falls.

Rachel Weil - July 08, 2019 at 06:13 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Garsevan Luka Bekauri.



July 08, 2019 at 04:25 PM



“ To the Bekauri Family.....I am so saddened to learn of Garsevan's sudden passing. I cannot begin to know of the pain that you are experiencing at this time. Please know that Garsevan will be remembered so fondly by those that knew him. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Tim McSweeney
Geneva

Tim McSweeney - July 08, 2019 at 12:03 PM



“ My son, Carter, was a close friend of Garsevan in Lake Placid. They worked together, skied, biked, hiked and more, together, almost daily! I believe Carter loves him like a brother! They supported each other through everything. I am so very sorry about Garsevan's death; I cannot even imagine your loss, but I know Carter can! Prayers of peace for you and good memories to last forever!
- Jan Woodworth

Jan Woodworth - July 07, 2019 at 12:28 PM



“ I personally didn't know Garsevan but my daughter, Courtney, graduated with Giorgi and played soccer with Tamari, and my son Nicholas played football with Beka. My condolences are with all of you. May you find peace in your heart and healing in your soul. Praying for all of you at this tragic time.
Bobbie Jo Franceschi

Bobbie Jo Franceschi - July 06, 2019 at 11:34 PM



“ To Janell, Zaza Janell, Giorgi (US Navy), Beka, Mariami and Tamari and all of Garsevan's loving family. While I met Garsevan only a few times, I knew of the many wonderful attributes and diversity of interests and exceptional capabilities this amazing young man had. Sadly as a hiker in the Adirondacks for 70 years (since the age of 12) I have hiked Garsevan's last path many times and will pay respects and contemplate his presence when I hike the trail again.. What to say except He touched the lives of all of us who met him. He would hope you know that if he could choose from all of God's gifts he would wish his presence would always be near and with you and that you would feel his enduring love. He bathed the day in sunlight and brightened the night from the light within him. There is a saying by Helen Keller that "The best and most beautiful things in the world can not be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart." This will be true of our memories of Garsevan. God's blessings to you all. George Abraham

George Abraham - July 12, 2019 at 02:28 PM



“ So beautiful to share these loving words

Cheryl - July 18, 2019 at 04:18 PM