

Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Janice Burns set standard for all

The Westchester Library System, along with all others who knew her, mourns the death of Janice Burns. The courage she displayed in fighting AIDS and increasing public awareness of AIDS set a standard for character that all of us should hope to emulate.

Janice Burns was an extraordinary human being, and yet another person lost to the horror of AIDS. I feel fortunate to have known her.

Janice received WLS's National Library Week Recognition Award last spring for her book, "Sarah's Song," a poignant and powerful account of her life with AIDS. This book is one of the selections on Westchester's Choice 1996, a list of outstanding books for young adults available at every public library in Westchester County.

On a personal note, I had the pleasure of interviewing Janice on WLS's monthly cable show, "Libraries in the Lime fight." She brought an openness, and an

ability to express herself so articulately on the most sensitive and difficult aspects of her affliction. She gave unstintingly of what time and increasingly debilitating resources she had to educate people, especially teen-agers, and dispel so many of the myths that have misled us about AIDS.

"Sarah's Song" is in most of the public libraries in the county. It is a book for adults as well as young adults. Borrow it or buy it; and read this beautifully written story of one person's heroic life with AIDS. May she rest in peace.

- MAURICE J. FREEDMAN

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(The writer is WLS director.)