



Ray Naar

October 15, 1927 - February 2, 2023

Ray Naar Ph.D., Diplomate in Clinical Psychology, ABPP
(1927-2023)

Ray Naar was born in 1927 in the city of Salonika in Greece, to Lily and Isaac Naar. He had a younger brother, Jacque Naar. During World War II Ray and his family were taken by the Nazis to Bergen Belsen concentration camp. His immediate family all survived and immigrated to America after the war. Ray then enlisted in the U.S. Army and returned to Europe, where he served as a translator in the Judge Advocate's office, helping negotiate for the return of American soldiers detained for accusations of breaking local laws while stationed abroad. While in France, he met the love of his life Claudine, and they married a year later. He rose to the rank of captain and later served in the US Army Reserves.

On returning to the U.S. Ray completed his bachelor's degree at William and Mary College in Richmond Virginia and then his doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology at the University of Pittsburgh. During his career he taught undergraduate and graduate students at Carlow University, Chatham University, and the University of Pittsburgh, as well as medical students at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He served as a mentor to many clinical students, and he continued to be a mentor and source of inspiration for many psychologists throughout their careers. He was a frequent presenter for the Greater Pittsburgh Psychological

Association (GPPA) and the Pennsylvania Psychological Association (PPA) as well as having served as Board President for GPPA and on ethics committees for both organizations. He became the co-director of outpatient psychiatric services at Saint Francis Medical Center and was one of the first licensed psychologists in private practice in Pittsburgh. He gave his time when asked to talk about his war experiences at local schools. Ray was also a gifted writer, contributing several articles and editorial pieces to professional journals, as well as publishing three books. Ray is survived by his wife Claudine, his son Walter, daughter-in-law Suzan, granddaughter Shelby and her husband Russell, grandson Robert, and great granddaughter Isabella. May his memory be a blessing.

If you wish, please make donations to the Pittsburgh Hospice Care. Professional services trusted to D'ALESSANDRO FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY LTD., Lawrenceville. www.dalessandroltd.com.

Tribute Wall

CV

“ Ray nagar was a great guy and a friend to our family. He will be missed

chuck vukotich - October 06, 2024 at 11:37 PM

GB

“ My friend, Ray, how much I am going to miss you. I have your books, I have the memories of your intelligence, the endurance of your character, the loyalty of your friendship. Good bye my friend, good bye. My friend, my friend. Sleep well. G. Borrero

Guillermo Borrero - March 14, 2024 at 07:29 PM

AG

“ Dr. Naar, my father knew you better, but I knew you from the pool - conversations in passing, your recognizing my Dad's name. In talking about writing, as encouragement to me with mine, you gave me a copy of your book, *Rachamim: From Darkness Into Light*, for a promise I would read it and tell you what I thought. I had to move unexpectedly, and all my belongings became a *mélangé* stuffed into totes - some of which I only recently unpacked. Among them, your book. Today I am racing sunshine and the imminent arrival of a handyman, writing this while simultaneously hunting for socks and getting an arm through a stubborn sleeve, but I saw your book in the stack, and remembered my father said you had passed. I wanted to take this minute for you to know, I know, I still owe you. Tomorrow is to be a wonderfully miserable day - too rainy, cold, for handymen & perfect for reading...I will start when I get home tonight, and, candle lit, dedicate the day to you. For now, just thank you for your kindness, your encouragement, and your book - an enduring nudge...

Angelle Guyett - December 09, 2023 at 07:43 AM

NC

“ My father Roger and I are deeply saddened to hear of Ray's passing. He was a great friend to my father and a mentor to me. I wouldn't be where I am today without his wisdom and sense of perspective. Even now I'm reading a book he recommended to me last month that he wrote about group therapy, and it's a joy to read his words. I can hear his voice as I read. As were many from his generation he was a natural helper, but also kind, intelligent, and insightful. I'm sure that's why he changed so many lives. He will be deeply missed. To Claudine and Ray's family, may your memories of him bring you comfort. You are all in our thoughts. -Nicole Currivan & Roger Adam

Nicole Currivan - March 05, 2023 at 08:59 PM

SK

“ Ray, I am blessed to have you as part of my history. Your compassion, understanding and warmth came through each and every time I interacted with you. You overcame your past, and made the world a far better place.

It is with love that I say my goodbyes. I pray we meet again.

Scott Kallick - February 23, 2023 at 11:28 AM

MI

“ Rest in peace, Dr. Naar. You made the world a better place because you were in it. 🙏

Mike - February 11, 2023 at 01:22 PM

GA

“ I was so blessed to know the Naar's. I was raised up with Walter who was like a brother to me. Dr. and Mrs. Naar were like my 2nd family and I couldn't have asked for a kinder family. We lived about 2 blocks away from the Naars and watching Walter and Ray take many karate lessons at their home was always enjoyable. Claudine is one beautiful woman and should know how blessed she was to have such a caring, sweet husband. I will miss you a lot Ray. I promise I will still call weekly to talk to Claudine. I love and will miss you so, so much!!! : (
Sincerely with love,
Gail Amshel

Gail B Amshel - February 09, 2023 at 04:17 PM

CB

Like so many others I studied and was influenced by Ray Naar. I took part in his wonderful Psychodrama group for several years where I learned, grew personally, and loved the experience. Such an amazing, wise and creative man was he. He gave of himself to others. I share in the sadness of his passing.

Carol Berger - February 09, 2023 at 05:14 PM