

In Memoriam: Jane Roiter, Ph.D., L.C.S.W.

This issue of *Illinois Child Welfare* is dedicated to Dr. Jane Roiter, a leader in the clinical social work and child welfare communities in Chicago and Illinois. Dr. Roiter died in March, 2007, following a courageous battle with cancer.

Dr. Roiter distinguished herself professionally and made significant contributions to the social work and child welfare communities in many ways. She gave generously of her time to the community, volunteering as the President of the Illinois Society for Clinical Social Work, through her leadership significantly expanding the Society's membership, developing its mission, and bringing inspiration to the organization. She founded and for many years led the Illinois Society for Clinical Social Work's highly successful Sunday seminar series, consistently providing excellent Continuing Education opportunities for clinical social workers. Dr. Roiter maintained long-term, successful private practices in clinical social work in Chicago and Evanston, and was trusted by her colleagues and clients for effectively treating people suffering from the effects of posttraumatic stress syndrome, child abuse, eating disorders, marital conflict, and other difficulties requiring skilled, sustained, and compassionate care. Her colleagues recognized her steadfast, insightful, and humanistic commitment to her clients. She was known for the realistic optimism and skill she brought to her work, as she often said that relationships are sources of healing and that no client is beyond hope. She was an Adjunct Faculty member at National Louis University and Kendall College, teaching courses on human development and human services, and she was recognized by her students as a most effective teacher, mentor, and role model. She was also the Chairperson of the Human Services Program at Kendall College.

Dr. Roiter was born in Newport, Rhode Island, received a B.A. with a major in Psychology from Boston University, a Masters degree from the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago, and a Ph.D. from the Institute for Clinical Social Work in Chicago. She was on the Editorial Board of *Illinois Child Welfare* and, before beginning her private practices full-time, had for many years been a social worker for adopted children and their families in child welfare agencies in Chicago.

In addition to her husband Ronald Eash of Chicago, Jane is survived by her sister Jill Buck of Oyster Bay, New York, and her brothers James of Newport and New York and Eric of Newton, Massachusetts.

A scholarship fund in her name for human services students has been established at National-Louis University. Donations may be sent to the Dr. Jane Roiter Scholarship Fund, c/o ISCSW, P.O. Box 2929, Chicago, IL 60690-2929.

Dr. Roiter treasured the following Sufi saying throughout her life, especially as she was fighting the battle with cancer: "When the heart weeps for what it has lost, the spirit laughs for what it has found."

