

In Memoriam: Elizabeth A. Rauscher (1937-2019)

Marilyn Schlitz ¹

Sofia University

Elizabeth A. Rauscher, an American physicist and parapsychologist, died on July 3, 2019 in the hospital from respiratory failure. Elizabeth was always interested in science and built her own telescopes as a child. She attended the University of California, Berkeley for her various degrees. As an undergraduate student, she was the only woman in her class. She received her master's in nuclear physics in 1965 and a Ph. D. in 1978 on "Coupled Channel Alpha Decay Theory for Even and Odd-Mass Light and Heavy Nuclei." Over her remarkable career, she was a former researcher with the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, NASA, and the Stanford Research Institute. Her work was chronicled in *How the Hippies Saved Physics* (2011) by David Kaiser, who noted that Elizabeth coped with being one of the only women in physics by wearing tweedy dresses and keeping her hair short.



In addition to her mainstream scientific research, Elizabeth was always one to challenge conventional ideas. She was involved in developing the Fundamental Fysics Group, where she collaborated with other young scientists who sought to engage in speculative research. She explored various altered states of consciousness and sought to combine Eastern mysticism with quantum physics in order to create a new paradigm for science. She held positions as professor of physics and general science at John F. Kennedy University from 1978-1984; research consultant to NASA from 1983-1985; and Professor in the Department of Physics at the University of Nevada, Reno from 1990-1998. She was involved with the initiation of the International Tesla Society and the U.S. Psychotronics Association, seeking to advance our understanding of physics and metaphysics. She was an active contributor to research on psi and sought to develop a theory of multidimensional geometry to account for remote viewing experiences and the nature of consciousness. Elizabeth also sought to advance clean energy systems, reduce nuclear waste, and develop sensitive sensors for monitoring the ionosphere, and held a deep reverence for indigenous worldviews and searched for connections between science and philosophy.

I had the privilege of knowing and working with Elizabeth for several decades. I was her junior by many years, but she always treated me with respect and collegiality. She was a kind and thoughtful

¹ Send correspondence to: Marilyn Schlitz, Ph. D., Sofia University, Mjmschlitz@gmail.com

person who maintained an open mind and playful nature. We attended conferences together and had delightful conversations in the hot tubs of the Esalen Institute. In keeping with her personal philosophy, Elizabeth requested that she be cremated and her ashes spread in a pine forest to be truly free in spirit and returned to nature in flesh. Her family invites those who knew the scholar, or who were impacted by her work, to visit her online memorial page and post their stories of triumph and disaster, of laughter and sorrow, of those eureka! moments that were shared with this remarkable woman. www.mykeeper.com/profile/ElizabethRauscher/. Her contributions were deep, fundamental, and enduring; she will live on in our hearts and minds.

References

Kaiser, D. (2011). *How the hippies saved physics. Science, counterculture, and the quantum revival*. New York: Norton.