

## COLUMNS

Special weekly coverage of Capital Region newsmakers and topics:

**CARING COMMUNITY**, published Tuesday, spotlights people helping people in the Capital Region.

**LAW BEAT** highlights news about the legal profession, law enforcement, the court system and criminal justice issues. It is published on Wednesday.

**CAMPUS NOTEBOOK**, which publishes on Thursday, looks at higher education issues and events at colleges and universities in the Capital Region.

**INSIDE POLITICS**, published on Friday, goes behind the scenes for news about government, politics and people in public office.

**FOLLOW-UP ON THE NEWS** updates recent developments on events and issues since they were last covered in the Times Union. Read it on Sunday.

# Family creativity provides tribute to mom

By **AZRA HAQQIE**  
Staff writer

**COLONIE** — Christine Auclair's "You Can't Find a Rainbow in the House!" is a tribute to her late mother who encouraged her to admire nature and to write.

## CARING COMMUNITY

What makes the book even more special is that it was illustrated by Auclair's great-niece, 8-year-old Lauren Lachance, who suffers from McCune-Albright syndrome, which affects the bones, skin and endocrine system.

A portion of the proceeds from each sale go to the Magic Foundation, which assists children afflicted with rare diseases.

Lauren, who lives in Kentucky, "expresses herself brilliantly through her art work, and I feel it is a unique book in that her illustrations help to paint the story line very creatively," said Auclair, a legal assistant who recently moved to Newtonville.

The first-time author took a year off to write the book. She has published another book since then. Her mother, Cecile Auclair,



PROVIDED BY CHRISTINE AUCLAIR

died nine years ago.

"My mother instilled a love of nature in my brother and me. She loved birds, fed them in our back yard, pointed them out. She

bought me books on nature," said Auclair.

The book includes 10 illustrations by Lauren Lachance and 27 of Auclair's photographs. "I read Lauren the story over the

**CHRISTINE AUCLAIR**, author of "You Can't Find a Rainbow in the House!," shows off the book's cover with her great-niece Lauren Lachance, 8, who provided illustrations for the book.

phone. She mailed me her illustrations, which were phenomenal."

Children with McCune-Albright syndrome also often develop polyostotic fibrous dysplasia, which may cause limping, deformity and fractures as they grow. "It is a ticking time bomb," said Auclair.

There is no known medical treatment for controlling the disease, although surgery can correct some deformities, said Auclair.

Lauren's condition is widespread in her cranium, jawbone, eye socket and the bones around her ears, and she must be extremely careful. In order to minimize risk, she can walk only about 50 feet.

Auclair said she wanted to help children with the condition when she realized that Lauren's insurance doesn't cover many expenses of her care. For example, Lauren's special bike costs \$500.

On Nov. 15, Auclair will sign copies of "You Can't Find a Rainbow in the House!" at the Book House at Stuyvesant Plaza.

► *Azra Haqqie can be reached at 454-5651 or by e-mail at [ahaqqie@timesunion.com](mailto:ahaqqie@timesunion.com).*