



Diane S. Karzas

August 4, 1928 - February 8, 2026

Diane S. Karzas, a beacon of wisdom and spirit, passed away peacefully on February 8, 2026, in Lake Bluff. Born in Milwaukee, WI, to Pericles and Mary (Pegis) Stathas, Diane's life was a testament to her intelligence, dedication, and service to her community.

Diane's academic journey led her to the College of William and Mary in Virginia, where she earned her A.B. in Economics with a minor in Business Administration. Her education laid the foundation for a successful career that began at Marshall Field's Chicago, where she excelled as Head of the Retail Division and Assistant Buyer. Her entrepreneurial spirit shone brightly as she later co-owned Bold Ideas, Inc., an event planning company that thrived under her leadership.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Diane was deeply involved in numerous associations and committees. Her passion for economics and community service found her a place on the Membership Committee of The Economic Club in Chicago.

Her love for music and the arts was reflected in her significant contributions and volunteer leadership work with the Chicago Symphony Orchestral Association as well as a Board member, Vice Chair, and Chair for the Women's Association of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Diane's

commitment to the arts extended to her roles with Ravinia Festival as a lifelong festival attendee and longterm volunteer with annual fund raising events and appeals.

Her influence and dedication to enhancing cultural institutions were further evident in her many years involvement with The Art Institute of Chicago and its Antiquarian Society as a Governing Member, and her volunteer work with The Guild at the Chicago Historical Society. She was an active member of the Woman's Athletic Club in Chicago for 31 years, serving on many committees and special projects.

Diane's civic engagement was multifaceted, including her role as a Republican Precinct Committeeman. She served on the board of The University of Chicago Women's Board and the Women's Board of the Field Museum of Natural History. As a co-founder, officer, and board member of the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Community Fund, Diane's efforts were instrumental in supporting local initiatives and fostering community growth.

A devout Christian, Diane was an active member of the Church of the Holy Spirit of Lake Forest, where she served as a key member of the Altar Guild for 63 years, taking special joy in orchestrating the flowers for Christmas and Easter Church services, guiding brides and grooms during wedding festivities and supporting families during bereavement services. Her faith and compassion were cornerstones of her life, guiding her service and interactions with others.

Diane S. Karzas lived a life marked by her intelligent, wise, and spirited nature. Her impact on the many organizations she touched, and the lives she influenced, will be felt for generations to come. She leaves behind a legacy of service, leadership, and love that will continue to inspire all who knew her; she took particular joy in serving as a mentor to younger volunteers and

colleagues. Diane considered herself as a “catalyst” who derived great pleasure from seeing things come together.

Diane and Byron both loved to travel and explored many different countries together, enjoying the arts and culture, food and wine. She was renowned for her annual baking of 100 pounds of fruitcake, distributing the loaves to friends and family for the Holidays. They both enjoyed their nearly 50 year membership at Onwentsia Club in Lake Forest, playing tennis, gathering with friends and friends for dining and special events.

Diane's life was a remarkable journey of purpose and passion, and she will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and the many communities she served. Her legacy includes her beloved family, with her late husband Byron C. Karzas, and her daughter, Mary Kay (Warren Reiss) Karzas, who will remember her as a guiding light and source of unwavering support.

Memorial Service and interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Diane's name may be made to the Church of the Holy Spirit, 700 E. Westminster, Lake Forest, IL or online at <https://msi.chslf.org/>.

Cemetery Details

The Church of the Holy Spirit Columbarium

400 East Westminster
Lake Forest, IL 60045
(847) 234-7633
<http://www.chslf.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Diane was a beautiful soul! An inspiration to me and so many others. She will be missed.* ”

Mike Adams - March 17 at 03:19 PM