



Shirley Todd Antes

May 30, 1936 - October 19, 2023

Shirley Todd Antes, age 87, a lifelong resident of Lake Forest, Illinois, passed away October 19, 2023 at Lake Forest Hospital.

Shirley was born May 30, 1936 to her late parents, Willson Grant Todd and Mary Louise Todd nee Buell. After graduating from Lake Forest High School and the University of Michigan, she briefly moved to Hawaii with her first husband while he served in the Navy there, where she also worked as a schoolteacher. The family later settled in Lake Bluff and she returned to teaching with special ed students at Lake Forest Country Day School. Eventually she began working for Hildy Gathany at Lake Forest Book Store, which was perfect as she was a voracious reader, remarried and moved to west Lake Forest. Her talents were sought after by the Northern Trust in Chicago, where she became a VP, trust administrator. She finished her career at the Lake Forest branch of the Northern Trust.

Outside of work she never stopped learning and growing. She was always active and inquisitive, pursuing a variety of passions, gardening her beautiful yard and traveling the world with her husband Roger. They spent a lot of time in Europe, and over the last 20 years, hiking nearly every trail in Sedona, Arizona during the winter, always with a camera and gear in hand. She was a talented photographer and spent countless hours in the dark room developing her black and white photography, a talent she learned from students of Ansel

Adams. She exhibited and sold her photography at numerous juried art shows.

Shirley was a board member of the Deer Path Art League and a member of the Friends of Lake Forest Library.

Beloved wife of Roger S. Antes for 41 years; loving mother of Stephen (Denise) Hitchcock and Deborah (Scott Gertner) Hitchcock; stepmother of Deborah Antes; grandmother of Katie Hitchcock and Andrew Hitchcock; and sister of Lynn (Richard) Paolillo.

A celebration of Shirley's life is being planned for the Spring of 2024, a date to be announced. A private family interment will take place at Northfield Union Cemetery in Northbrook, Illinois.

For information – Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Directors of Lake Forest, 847-234-9649 or www.RTfunerals.com.

Memorial contribution in Shirley's name may be made to the Deerpath Art League (<https://deerpathartleague.org/how-you-can-help/donate>) and the Friends of Lake Forest Library (<https://www.lakeforestlibrary.org/friends-lake-forest-library#sectn6>).

Cemetery Details

Northfield Union Cemetery

3035 Dundee Road
Northbrook, IL 60062

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

DS

“Walter and I send our sincere condolences to Roger, Stephen, Deb, Deb and the grandchildren. Walter and I will miss Shirley. We were lucky to have traveled with her and Roger and spend time in Sedona hiking the trails she loved. Walter and Shirley met through their love of photography but our friendship didn't end there. Today we will miss her celebration of life as we are away photographing but I know Shirley would be ok with that. We will make a toast to her tonight and share our wonderful memories of her. We will always think of the wonderful, kind and caring person she was.

Walter and Debbie Sawka

Debbie Sawka - May 09, 2024 at 02:16 AM

RZ

“Shirley , I called ShirlGirl(no so correct today) was simply one of most pleasant persons I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. We worked at Northern Chicago for years and when I was running Northern Financial Counselors, Shirley came up as our administrator. Never a cross word although I am sure I gave her plenty of opportunity. One of my fondest memories is “lunchbox”.the word would go out and we would descend upon Shirley and Rogers house immediately after work and sometimes before where we would sit on their patio overlooking their gorgeous gardens with snacks vodka, wine and much laughter. And more often than not being treated to a viewing if her magnificent photography. Wonderful times and memories of the wonderful ShirlGirl! Rob Holt

Rob zholt - October 24, 2023 at 11:05 AM

SS

“ We are so sorry to hear of Shirley’s passing. Godspeed to a lovely lady.

Sue and Bill Schwab

sue schwab - October 23, 2023 at 06:50 PM

CB

“ I have been Shirley's personal trainer (both in person and via Zoom) for almost three years. What a joy she was as a client! Her no-nonsense approach to health and fitness was commendable and she prioritized her exercise program more than most. Her dedication and determination was admirable, as was her fun demeanor and can-do attitude. I always looked forward to seeing her. She radiated a quiet but strong energy, infused with kindness. Shirley, your presence in my life was a blessing and I am honored to have been a part of your healthy living program. I will miss you greatly. Thank you for enriching my life.

Love, Catherine

Catherine Bongiorno - October 22, 2023 at 07:57 PM

DH

“*Aside from my husband, my mom was my best friend. I will miss her immensely. I was so proud of the person she was, and what she accomplished in life. She was a woman of substance, and hers was a life well lived. She was smart, talented, insightful, vibrant, welcoming and quick with a smile or a laugh. She was always learning and growing and inspired the same habits in her children. She instilled a life-long love of reading in both my brother and me. I recall that in grade school bedtime was 8pm. But if you were reading a book, bedtime was 9pm! And every Christmas morning we'd wake up to find a new book under our bed. Over the past few years I believe I received an email from her almost daily with some sort of book recommendation. We shared notes on our favorite authors. When my husband published a novel she proudly bought copies for every member of the family and told all her friends. She also instilled a love of music in her children, from folk music to opera. She encouraged us to learn to play musical instruments and to this day I can't pass a piano without dabbling with the keys.*

She was an integral part of the salient moments of each of our lives, both the good moments and the not so good ones. She was a fighter and a survivor, and she never gave up when the going got tough. As she went through a difficult divorce from my Dad her priority was preserving her children's relationship with their father, not saying a word against him. She was a class act. I could always count on her for love, acceptance and encouragement, no matter what went wrong in my life, or hers. I hope that she felt I offered the same to her.

After retiring from her banking career she became a fine arts photographer as her 'second career'. She truly looked at nature with an artist's eye. Although we all moaned and teased her while she stopped to take photos, we all loved the results. Then we would sit around and drink wine while trying to come up with names for each shot. (The names got better the longer the wine flowed). We were very proud of her photography work. Almost every piece of art hanging in my home is one of her photos.

We took many trips together, starting from when I was 6 years old doing family backpacking trips in Colorado, to European trips as an adult. In every case we enjoyed new adventures together and laughed and rolled with the punches if anything went wrong. She lived life to the fullest, full of energy right up to her last hours. Not a minute was wasted.

She made lasting friends wherever she went. It has been humbling and gratifying to see friends of the family all the way back to my childhood sharing fond memories of her and remembering her as 'beautiful inside and out'. It says a lot about a person when they make that sort of impression on people. I don't think she even knew how special she really was.

For the past 20 years she wintered in Sedona, Arizona together with her husband Roger. She made a point to be out hiking almost daily. She never took herself too seriously. Last year she and Roger wore t-shirts declaring themselves the "oldest and the slowest" people on the trails. This is one of my favorite photos of her, on a hike to her favorite cactus (in the picture). Over the years she had visited this cactus while hiking in Sedona, waiting for the bloom to arrive each spring.

Love you always, Mom. You're my hero.

*Deb Hitchcock
Mount Dora, Florida*

Deb Hitchcock - October 21, 2023 at 10:19 PM