



Nora Anthony

January 25, 2021

Nora Brown Anthony died in the early morning of Monday, January 25 at Hartford Hospital. Facing a difficult sequence of medical complications in the last months of her life, she was provided inpatient hospice care, in accord with her wishes. Receiving excellent care, which included allowances for frequent and long visits from her children, she died peacefully in her sleep.

Nora was born December 11, 1936 in Omaha, NE, the daughter of the late David Campbell Brown and Virginia Leussler Brown, both professors of English who met at Yale University. After her father's death at age 37 in 1941, Nora and her older sister Sally were raised in Omaha by their mother and maternal grandmother, Helen Bernadette Mahoney Leussler.

Nora attended public schools and graduated from Omaha Central High School in 1954. She completed her Bachelor's degree from Smith College in Northampton, MA in 1958. Upon graduating, Nora worked editing scholarly texts for Harvard University Press in Cambridge, MA where she met J. Danford Anthony, Jr. (Dan). They married in Omaha in 1961 and maintained a deep, loving relationship for 51 years until Dan's death in 2012.

In her early years of marriage in Saint Paul, MN, Nora worked as an editor for the University of Minnesota Press and completed a Master of English Literature from Creighton University in Omaha, graduating in 1966. Nora was a devoted mother to her three children, Julian, Sarah, and David, and gracefully maintained the family household in West Hartford, CT. She kept up an active role in her community, working on parent teacher associations,

volunteering with the League of Women Voters, and serving as President of the Board of The Bridge Family Center, an agency sheltering vulnerable youth in Greater Hartford. She was an Elector of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, an Elector of the Hartford Seminary, and a lifetime member of the Board of Visitors of the Mortenson Library at the University of Hartford. Always a woman of letters, Nora returned to school as her children grew. Attending classes part-time, she worked towards a Master of Divinity, first at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford and eventually at Yale Divinity School in New Haven, graduating in 1991. She spoke of being pleased to return to the institution that had brought her parents together. Using her new degree, Nora embarked upon a twenty-five-year career providing the pastoral ministry of spiritual direction individually, through the Yale Divinity School, and through the Spiritual Life Center in Bloomfield, CT.

Nora was a loyal friend, particularly to the many women in her life. She maintained a lifelong connection with a group of Omaha friends from kindergarten. She participated avidly in a women's book club, winning plaudits from her colleagues for her analyses. She also participated for many years in a women's group, directing conversations on important topics affecting women beyond its membership.

After Dan's death, Nora resided at Duncaster in Bloomfield. There she engaged in the community, again participating in a local book group. She maintained an active and supportive role in the lives of her children and grandchildren, and she spoke nearly daily with her oldest and dearest friend, her sister Sally.

She leaves behind her three children, Julian D. Anthony III, of West Hartford; Sarah D. Anthony, of West Hartford; and David C. Anthony, his wife Brett Summers, and their children, Nora's beloved grandchildren, Willa, Jasper, and Hazel, of Providence, RI. She is also survived by her sister Sally Troyer and brother-in-law Tom Troyer, of Chevy Chase, MD. Sally's children, Ken, Bob, Ginny, and Kit, were Nora's ties to her own ancestors, just as she was to them a unique family connection to their maternal roots. On Dan's side of the family,

Nora is survived by a brother-in-law Cushman D. Anthony (Maureen); a brother-in law, David B. Smith; a sister-in-law, Barbara M. Anthony; and several nieces and nephews, their spouses and children.

A Requiem Mass will be held at the Church of Saint Timothy in West Hartford on December 18, 2021 at 10 AM. Due to the pandemic, there will be no reception following the Mass. In lieu of this, there will be an online gathering at a future date in 2022 and a burial next summer at Oakdale Cemetery in Wellfleet, People wishing to honor Nora's memory are encouraged to make a donation to Smith College, 33 Elm St, Northampton, MA 01063 or Yale Divinity School, 409 Prospect St, New Haven, CT 06511. Please send any personal communications to Julian Anthony, c/o Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave. West Hartford, CT 06119.

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 18. 10:00 AM (ET)

Church of St. Timothy
1116 North Main St
West Hartford, CT 06117
(860) 233-5131

Tribute Wall



“ *Molloy Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Nora Anthony*



Molloy Funeral Home - December 06, 2021 at 08:05 AM

FB

“ *suck my dick*

Fuck Boi - June 15, 2025 at 02:27 AM

NS

“ *One other thing I want to share Is that my youngest sons name is Julian. A lovely name I first heard from Nora. The J in J Danforth Anthony stood for Julian. Rent in oeace.*

nancy smeeth - February 04, 2021 at 08:59 PM

JS

“ *To the family of Nora Anthony:
During our early married days we were friends in Bloomfield where our older sons played together. Later our paths crossed at concerts or Hartford Stage Company. Nora's bright mind, sensitivity and concern for others characterized this remarkable woman who shared her unique gifts in service to others.
With deepest condolences,
Jean Sziklas*

Jean Sziklas - January 31, 2021 at 04:02 PM

AM

Dear Family of Nora,

I am so deeply saddened to hear of Nora's passing. It was an honor to do her hair for many years. She was quite a woman and I enjoyed our many conversations of what was going on in her life. I know she will be missed by many. My prayers go out to all of you. I know God has truly entered an angel in his kingdom . Nora may you R.I.P. Thank you for the wonderful memories. With much love Ann

Ann Mazur - February 02, 2021 at 12:44 PM

MK

To Nora's Children,

I am one of your mother's directees. She really was a great gift from God to me. I met her while a student at Yale Divinity School, where she led the monthly colloquium of the spiritual directors of the Annand Program, a program of spiritual direction offered free of charge to all YDS students. I was referred to her by Prof Margaret Farley, RSM. Once I graduated in '04, I continued with her as my spiritual director, by phone on a monthly basis. Through her and her prayers, the Holy Spirit was able to shed so much light and direction into my life, which in turn helped me to help others. My last conversation with her was in January when she was still at Duncaster. I am deeply grateful to God for the gift of Nora and shocked to learn that she is gone from this world. I will miss her, and pray to her. I know that she will be able to do much more good on earth now from her perch in eternal life. I pray for you too-- what a lovely, gentle, soft spoken, humble and wise mother you had! May she enjoy eternal joy with Our Lord!

*Maryann Knag
New Canaan, CT*

Maryann Knag - March 07, 2021 at 08:39 PM