



## Sherry Banks-Cohn

May 12, 2026

Sherry Gaye Banks-Cohn, 89, of Bloomfield, died peacefully on May 12, 2026, surrounded by family. Born in Hartford, the daughter of Goodman Banks and Cecelia (née Yessner) Banks, Sherry spent most of her life in West Hartford and Bloomfield, CT. A graduate of Oxford School, she attended Sarah Lawrence College, married, and returned to West Hartford. Believing in the importance of giving back to her community, she advocated fiercely for the causes she believed in.

She served for decades on the Board of Kingswood-Oxford School, both as a trustee and Chair. For this work, in 2001, she received the national Seymour Preston Award, given yearly to one independent school trustee for dedication and service to their school. A life-long patron of the arts, Sherry established The Goodman Banks Visiting Artist Series at Kingswood-Oxford School in 1974, which enables students to work with practitioners in the visual and performing arts. She also served on the boards of The Bushnell, Hartford Stage, and Goodspeed Opera House, to name a few. In the early 1990s, she was appointed by Governor Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. as Chair of the Connecticut Commission on the Arts.

Sherry loved life and, always generous, made sure that those around her were taken care of and had fun. She especially enjoyed traveling with her beloved husband, Bud, to distant destinations and Stowe, VT; playing bridge

with “her girls”; and attending theater and dance performances.

Nothing was more important to Sherry than her relationships with her friends and family. She was invested in the details of their lives and developed close bonds with all of them. Holidays at Grandma Sherry’s overflowed with good food and laughter, the table set to perfection. She adored her grandchildren and loved her regular getaways with them at Stowe, VT and elsewhere.

Sherry is survived by her daughter, Wendy Eve Steiner and her husband, Steven Schwartz, of New York, NY; her son, Bradford Evan Steiner and his wife, Karin Raye, of Charleston, SC; her stepson Frederic Cohn and his husband, Robert Bowe, of New York, NY; her stepson William Cohn and his wife, Susan Dahl, of Northfield, VT; her stepson Jonathan Cohn and his wife, Lynda Cohn, of Farmington, CT; and her grandchildren Maxwell Cohn (Brittany Veres-Cohn), Charlotte Cohn, Emma Schwartz (Alexander Kronman), Benjamin Cohn, Eric Schwartz (Kendall Lloyd), Julia Cohn (Eric O’Brien), Zachary Raye Steiner, and Samuel Raye Steiner. She was predeceased by her husband, Robert Emery Cohn, and her sister, Marilyn (née Banks) Hamilton.

A service celebrating Sherry’s life will be held on Sunday, May 31 at 11 a.m. at the Roberts Center Theatre at Kingswood-Oxford School in West Hartford, CT.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Sherry Banks-Cohn to a charity of the donor’s choice.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAY 31. 11:00 AM (ET)

Kingswood Oxford School  
170 Kingswood Rd  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
(860) 233-9631

*In the Roberts Center Theatre*

# Tribute Wall

BN

“ I think I "knew" this lady all of my life, as Wendy's mom, but I came to know her when I was an adult, and I enjoyed that immensely. She was so much fun to talk to and always had something interesting to say. She was just a loving and lovely person who spent so much of her time doing good works and being involved in the community. I know her family will miss her and I'm thinking of them at this time. They simply don't make people like this anymore. Truly sorry for her loss.

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**Bill Newman** - May 18 at 11:23 AM

KA

“ Dear Wendy and family, I have fond memories of your Mom from when Wendy & I were at KO together as well as in the decades following when I would run into your Mom at an event or performance. She was always so kind, taking time to catch up, even when as a 20-something I felt like a wallflower at some big event but she came right up to me and immediately put me at ease. I was always struck by Sherry's warmth and intelligence and her community involvement on many fronts. In the creative/performing arts realm, she always seemed to be there, supporting, encouraging, and appreciating. She was a force for making good things happen in Greater Hartford and inspired others at every turn. My sincere condolences to you—Sherry's influence and involvement will no doubt have an enormous, lasting impact and many people will remember her with appreciation as I certainly do. -  
Kathy Andrews

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**Kathy Andrews** - May 17 at 10:49 AM

SJ

“ I met Sherry in seventh grade and we bonded over a joint science project! She was bright, capable and fun. My heart-felt condolences to her loving family. I share your sorrow and extend my deep sympathy.

*Sheila jacobs*

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**Sheila H. Jacobs** - May 16 at 02:50 PM

GA

“ Wendy and Brad, Carol and I send our deepest condolences your Mother and my dear friend will never be forgotten as long as I live. She's done so much for our family her gratitude was and will always be appreciated. I know she loved you both till the end of the earth, I will miss her beautiful smile and her words of encouragement when I was down.

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**Gerald Raymond Aubin** - May 15 at 04:32 PM