



Shirley Graves Cochrane

March 25, 1925 - November 18, 2015

Shirley Thorton Cochrane, 90 of Charlotte, died November 18, 2015.

Shirley was born in Chapel Hill, NC, on March 5, 1925, the daughter of Thorton S. and Margaret White Graves. She grew up in the Chapel Hill area before going on to Agnes Scott College in Georgia. Returning to Chapel Hill after graduation, she worked for five years as the editor at the UNC Press. She married William M. Cochrane and they moved to Washington DC where her husband served as the Senior Advisor to the Senate Rules Committee. In Washington, she shared her knowledge as a founding member of the Capitol Hill Poetry Group and she also taught as a professor at Georgetown University's School of Continuing Education and The Writer's Center. Her fiction and poetry have appeared in numerous magazines, quarterlies, and anthologies. She is the author of numerous poetry books including "Burnsite", "Family & Other Strangers" and "Letters to the Quick/Letters to the Dead".

Shirley is survived by two sons: William Daniel Cochrane of Los Angeles, CA, and Thomas McWhorter and wife Janice Jean Cochrane of Mint Hill, NC; and nieces: Carolyn Dillon, Frances Vaughn, and Susan Carney. She is further survived by numerous other relatives and friends. Shirley was preceded in death by her parents and her husband.

Her family has given Lowe-Neddo Funeral Home the privilege of caring for

them. A celebration of the life, love and blessing of Shirley will be held at 1 PM on Saturday, December 5, 2015. Starting at noon, the family will receive friends and hold services at the funeral home, 4715 Margaret Wallace Road, Mathews, NC. A private burial will be held at a later date at the Chapel Hill Cemetery.

In honor of Shirley's life and loves, memorials in her name would be appreciated to either Agnes College <https://give.agnesscott.edu/> or to the ASPCA, <https://www.asPCA.org/ways-to-give>

FALL OF THE MOURNING DOVE

Lord help us! you mourning doves
are hanging out with pigeons—
did they seduce you with their
coos and flashy iridescence?

Doves, return to your country
meadows with your break-the-heart
calls—who will weep for you
in this break-their-bones city?

Go back to where we left you
even though we may never join you—
we need to know you're waiting
there in your paisley garments

like the fine clothes great-aunts
wear with cultured pearls
and tiny gold earrings amde
from Papa's cuff links.

You have a position to uphold—
don't turn into street birds
battling for Popeye thighs
tossed on filthy sidewalks.

Fly now, with your creaking wings
and the whir like a mechanical toy—
flee before you become like the gulls
invading the Metro stations
forgetting the hues of the sea.

Published in Beltway Poetry Quarterly, Volume 11, Number 4, Fall 2010.

Previous Events

Gathering of Friends and Family

DEC 5. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Lowe-Neddo Funeral Home
4715 Margaret Wallace Road
Matthews, NC 28105
(866) 682-4043
info@loweneddo.com
<https://www.loweneddofuneralhome.com>

Celebration of Life Service

DEC 5. 1:00 PM (ET)

Lowe-Neddo Funeral Home
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Tribute Wall



“ Shirley Graves Cochrane

October 05, 2023 at 07:26 AM



“ Shirley Graves Cochrane

October 24, 2022 at 08:52 PM



“ Shirley was a warm, wise, wonderful poetry teacher at Georgetown University. I still have the textbook she had assigned in 1985, including marginal notes I had written as she talked about poetry. Thanks so much to Shirley.

Mary Quattlebaum - November 25, 2015 at 05:41 PM



Thank you for sharing memories of our mom.

Tom Cochrane - December 02, 2015 at 06:43 AM

KA

“ Shirley Cochrane's poetry manuscript was brought to *The Word Works* by her dear friend Robert Sargent who was on *The Word Works* board of directors at that time. We proudly published *FAMILY AND OTHER STRANGERS* which had a beautiful cover design using an image of Janice Olson's oil painting entitled "Inheritance." Robert's intro to her book said she transcended the past as she transcended what was old fashioned in poetry.

I love her poem "My Sons Disguised" which begins with a wild image of her sons at a young age full of turkey and self-importance chasing a pink rabbit in the church basement." But the poem goes picturing them in new disguises as grown men in beards with bass voices and boots that stretch halfway across the kitchen. The love of family pervades but not in a sentimental way.

Once Shirley's book was published, she also pitched in to help the press grow—she took on direction of direction of our Washington Prize which had at that time become a book prize. So there was Shirley lugging around bags of other people's heavy manuscripts. Her generosity was always above and beyond.

*Through Jean Nordhaus in Shirley's last years, I have been following the news. I feel very proud that *The Word Works* was able to know and publish Shirley. She will always be with me through her poetry.*

Karren Alenier - November 25, 2015 at 05:21 PM

TC

Thank you for sharing memories of our mom. She will live on through her writings and personal influences.

Tom Cochrane - December 02, 2015 at 06:47 AM

TC

“ I have had the honor of knowing Shirley for about ten years. She always was a delight to be with. She was happy and even near the end, when she had dementia, it warmed my heart to see her face light up in joy when her eyes spotted Tom coming to visit. I will never forget that beautiful smile. Everyone was her friend and everyone at the nursing home loved her.

I will remember going to visit her when she was at Cuthberson at Aldersgate. She loved listening to music. She would smile, tap her feet and clap her hands.

She also loved to look at my wedding band and show me how it was like hers.

We would also go and feed the animals they had at the nursing home. They had birds, Guinea pigs and a cat. She would sneak the Guinea pigs a little of her salad from lunch and we would walk around looking for the cat. 😊

I also loved when Tom, with his deep kind voice would bring her a vanilla shake and smile at his momma and read her one of her short stories she had written. He would always say to mom when leaving, "Momma, I will see you later. I love you momma."

I will miss mom but am so happy she is with her Lord, husband, and parents. Will miss taking her to church and will always have that smiling face in my memory. So many fond memories.

God bless you Tom for taking such good care of your momma. You did a very good job and she knew how much you loved her and she absolutely loved her sons. My heart hurts for both you and Dan. I know how much it hurts and how much you will miss her. She was one special lady! May God bring you comfort during this time.

*Love and Blessings,
Jan*

Tom Cochrane - November 24, 2015 at 09:46 AM

DM

I am so sorry to find out about the loss of your mother.. She was such a nice woman to me and was always smiling when I had the opportunity to meet her when she was in DC. She had the most beautiful face.. I am sure she is still sadly missed.

So sorry for your loss Tommy and Dan...

Diana Mariorenzi

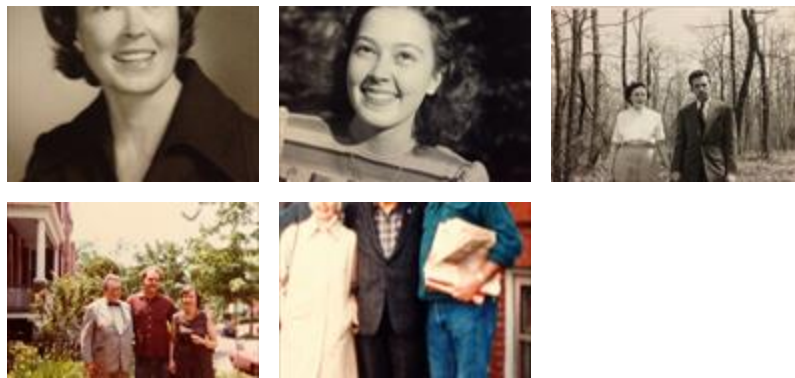
Rhode Island

freebyrd1641@outlook.com

Diana Mariorenzi - September 26, 2024 at 01:49 PM

TC

“ 36 files added to the album Pictures of Shirley and family



Tom Cochrane - November 23, 2015 at 07:06 AM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shirley Graves Cochrane.



November 22, 2015 at 08:34 PM