



Ann Hopkins Cohen

July 17, 1944 - July 15, 2021

Ann Hopkins Cohen took giant strides through life, gifted with an indelible resolve that belied her modest stature. Life took her from the Midwest to New York City, from farms to academia, and travels the world over. Her journey ended abruptly on July 15th, 2021 when Ann passed away in her sleep at her home in Austin, Texas at the age of 76.

She was born Ann Stephenson Hopkins in Granite City, Illinois to Leonard and Mary Hopkins in the early hours of July 17th, 1944. Her passions for sports cars and Weimaraner dogs were instilled early on, along with an insatiable desire to learn. Those never abandoned her.

Her first foray away from home led to a degree at the University of Illinois, her marriage to Bill Elder, and a career in Political Science. Her graduate studies at the University of Minnesota coincided with the arrival of her son, and a lifelong love for (and frustration with) the Minnesota Vikings.

The accomplishments in Ann's life were substantial. She began teaching at Illinois State University and completed her Ph.D amidst parenthood, 180 mile daily commutes, and daily life on a working farm. Subsequent teaching positions at Hunter College in New York were followed by advances into administration at Hunter and Queens College. At each stage of her career, Ann forged friendships that meant so much to her, and lasted until her death.

Ann married Ira Cohen in 1989, and their shared passion for teaching and travel defined their life together over three decades. Ann's conversion to Judaism and their move to New York City deepened the foundation of their love and happiness, and they embraced their communities with both arms.

Ann and Ira moved to Austin to share their final chapter close to family. As the ravages of Alzheimer's Disease took its toll on Ira, Ann devoted herself tirelessly to his care until his passing on April 29, 2020. The two are now buried together in Eloise Woods outside

Austin.

Her brothers, David and Tom, preceded her in death. Ann is missed dearly by her children: son Andrew Elder (m. Rachel) of Austin, stepchildren Peter Cohen (m. Julie) of St. Louis, Heather Cohen of Denver, and Neal (m. Anne) of Cedar Park. Ann took great joy in her grandchildren – Anwen, Madoc and Bevan Elder (Austin), Benjamin, Hannah and Lydia Cohen (St. Louis), and Jacob and Grace Cohen (Cedar Park) – relishing the opportunities to host their visits.

Donations to honor Ann can be made to the American Diabetes Association (<https://www.diabetes.org>) or Austin Pets Alive (<https://www.austinpetsalive.org>).

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JUL 19. 9:00 AM (CT)

Eloise Woods Natural Burial Park
115 Northside Lane
Cedar Creek, TX 78612

Tribute Wall



“ *Austin Natural Funerals created a Webcast in memory of Ann Hopkins Cohen*



Austin Natural Funerals - July 19, 2021 at 03:58 PM

SE

“ *Ann was a great friend at Hunter College, where I taught for 47 years. Her intelligence and deep understanding of higher education also made her the best administrator I encountered in my years at Hunter. Unfortunately, she ran into new leadership in the form of a corrupt and mean-spirited college president and was forced out because of her unusual integrity as a colleague and as a human being. I still miss her.*

Stuart Ewen - February 13, 2023 at 04:14 PM



“ *Ann Hopkins Cohen*

October 14, 2022 at 12:02 PM

“ The following was posted on the Hunter College Listserve.

October 25, 2021

To the Hunter College Community:

It is with deep sadness that we have learned of the death of Ann Hopkins Cohen, Professor of Political Science, Dean of Arts and Sciences, and Acting Provost at Hunter College. Ann was a remarkable person who will be remembered by the faculty of Hunter College with great admiration, fondness, and respect. Ann was a pro-active dean for her faculty, a listener who promoted faculty voice and research.

Ann came to Hunter in 1998 as Dean of Arts and Sciences from Illinois State after a rigorous national search. When she arrived, she hit the ground running. Ann immediately grasped and embraced the culture of Hunter College, and had a vision for the future that included a keen understanding of the meaningful aspects of Hunter's past, as well as the importance of moving forward in changing times. After serving as Acting Provost at Queens College, Ann returned to the Political Science Department at Hunter to teach, and retired from there in 2014.

Ann was predeceased by her husband, Ira Cohen, who joined the Hunter History Department as an adjunct following his retirement as Director of the Honors College at Illinois State. Prior to their move to Austin, Texas where they relocated to be closer to family, Ann and Ira were consummate Upper West Side New Yorkers, committed to social justice and democratic politics. While they loved travelling, they reveled in the life of the city as museum, theater, and concert goers, restaurant connoisseurs, and active participants in their synagogue, Ansche Chesed. They are survived by their children and their eight grandchildren

Hunter College was and is a better place because of Ann Cohen. We mourn her passing, and send our condolences to her family.

Bernadette McCauley

Professor of History (emerita), Hunter College-CUNY

Former President of the Hunter College Faculty Delegate Assembly

John R. Wallach

Professor of Political Science

Hunter College & The Graduate Center-CUNY

Former President of the Hunter College Faculty Delegate Assembly

JP

“ I became a faculty at ISU in 1985. Soon after, I became friends with Ann. She helped me in some of my early grants at ISU. I found her to be one of the warmest and most genuine people I knew. She was clever and had a great sense of humor. I was disappointed when she and Ira left for NYC, but I knew that they enjoyed living in the city. My condolences to her family.

John Pryor

John Pryor - August 04, 2021 at 03:16 PM

GG

“ I knew Ann for almost 50 years, as a valued colleague and friend. She was a person of great intelligence, warmth, and wit. There was never a dull moment in conversations with her, which covered a wide range of subject matter. She will be sorely missed.

George Gordon - July 22, 2021 at 05:24 PM

BB

“ Ann was a colleague of mine in the political science department at Illinois State University. She provided valuable advice to me as I was starting my career there. She had a great wit and was a role model for me in educating students.

Bob Bradley - July 21, 2021 at 02:00 PM

WE

“ 7 files added to the album Family Photos



William Elder - July 19, 2021 at 04:35 PM

JK

“ *Ann's sudden passing is a shock to us all.*

Ann and Ira enriched the community at Anshe Chesed in New York so deeply during their years here. We are grateful to have known them, sang with them, studied with them. And we will always miss them.

We send our deepest condolences to the family.

*Jeremy Kalmanofsky
Anshe Chesed*

Jeremy Kalmanofsky - July 19, 2021 at 08:45 AM

CP

“ *I was shocked to hear the news of Ann's sudden passing. I was just beginning to become a closer friend to Ann. The last time I met with her she told be so much about her career, moving to Austin, taking care of her husband and of course her dogs. We talked about ideas for changes she wanted to make to her bathroom.*

My sincerest condolences to her children and grandchildren.

Her kindness, smile and wit will be missed.

Christina Potter

Christina Potter - July 18, 2021 at 05:57 PM