



Anna Barbone Smith

December 5, 1920 - July 29, 2020

Anna Barbone Smith, age 99, passed away peacefully from renal failure on July 29, 2020 at Kaplan Family Hospice Residence in Newburgh, NY. Beloved daughter, wife, mother, teacher, colleague, and friend, she lived a rich and vibrant century-long life, touching all who knew her with her sense of humor, kindness, vivacity, and grace. She was predeceased by her first husband of three years, James F. McCormick, and her second husband of 42 years and father of her children, Gardner L. Smith. Anna is survived by her son, Alex Smith and his wife, Lisa, of Middletown, New York, and daughter, Maria Smith, who resides in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Anna was born in Middletown, NY, on December 5, 1920, to Giuseppe Barbone and Maria Petrosillo Barbone, both of Monopoli, Italy. At the age of ten, her parents took her to Italy for one year, a sojourn that made a lasting impression on her. Anna's Italian heritage and devotion to family were driving forces in her life. She travelled frequently to Italy with her daughter, Maria, visiting relatives and immersing herself in the language, music, and culture of her parents' birthplace. She loved to speak and hear the Pugliese dialect that she had learned as a child, enjoying its rich humor and expressiveness.

Blackie, as she was known to her friends throughout high school, college, and beyond, graduated with a B.S. in Chemistry from St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY, in 1942. Like most of her generation, her life was profoundly affected by the events of World War II. Contributing to the war effort, she took a job at the Westinghouse Plant in New Jersey—the only female chemist in her laboratory unit at that time. In 1943, she married James F. McCormick, whom she had met at St. Lawrence, and moved with him to South Texas. A pilot with the U.S. Army Air Force, Captain McCormick was killed during active duty in 1946.

On January 1, 1950, Anna married Gardner L. Smith of Halifax, Nova Scotia, a colonel in the Royal Canadian Air Force and decorated fighter pilot during WWII. Anna and Gardner, whom she called the rock of her life, settled in Middletown to raise their two children. While devoting most of her time to family life, Anna also directed her talents and energies

to music and teaching. An accomplished classical pianist, she gave private lessons, conducted school plays and recitals, and sang in her church choir. She taught the fifth grade at St. Joseph's Catholic School for 14 years, until her growing hearing loss forced her to retire from the classroom; she also served as a volunteer literacy tutor at Thrall Library. Fortright and staunch in her progressive views, Anna was actively engaged in the political and social transformations of the 1960s and 70s. Beyond her greatest loves of opera and singing, Anna's passions and pastimes included travelling, walking, swimming, reading, and enjoying the company of many friends and relatives. Her beloved husband, Gardner, passed away in August 1992, and Anna remained strong and independent for the rest of her life.

Anna Smith is my adored mother and closest friend, whose loss is immense and profound, but whose strength, joyful spirit, and guidance will accompany me throughout the rest of my life. Both my brother and I are grateful to have had our wonderful mother for so many years, and to have had the privilege of caring for her in her advanced age. We wish to thank the home care aides from WillCare, First Choice Senior Services, and Community, the staff at Kaplan Family Hospice Residence, and Dr. Douglas Fletcher and his staff for their kind support.

Cemetery

St. Joseph's Cemetery

149 Cottage Street

Middletown, NY, 10940

Events

AUG **Memorial Service** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

1

Martinez-Morse Funeral Home

33 Railroad Ave, Middletown, NY, US, 10940

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Martinez Funeral Homes - July 30 at 01:55 PM



“ Maria,
What a work of love this was gathering these photos of your mother's life. Take comfort knowing that she led a full rich life. Bless you my friend, Kathleen

Kathleen - July 31 at 12:48 PM



“ Thank you, Kathleen. The photos are precious!

mariasmith - July 31 at 05:08 PM



“ To Maria and Alex - Your Mom was my Godmother as cousin on my Dad's side of the family. She was a truly accomplished woman and I do remember her great smile and upbeat personality. It is so great that she went back to Monopoli and as these photos show enjoyed all the beauties that life offered. You are fortunate to have so many pics to cherish. With heartfelt sympathy, Your cousin, Tina DiBello Budd and family. --I remember the great family gathering at Pete's home a while ago...

T Budd - July 31 at 10:18 PM



“ Dear Tina, It's wonderful to hear from you. Thank you for your kind thoughts.

Love,
Maria

mariasmith - August 01 at 03:01 PM



“ What a beautiful slide show of pictures I truly enjoyed seeing her past. She was such a beautiful person always joyful when I would visit.

Mary Kadet - August 02 at 09:17 AM



“ Hi, Mary - Our mother truly enjoyed your company. Thank you for being her friend.

Maria

mariasmith - August 02 at 04:39 PM



“ Carissima Maria, ricordo con affetto la tua mamma e i bei momenti insieme sia a Chapel Hill che a Middletown. Ricordo in particolare quando l'ho conosciuta e come mi ha accolto e ha avuto un affetto materno anche per me. Ti abbraccio forte e ti sono vicina! Elisabetta

Elisabetta Fois - August 10 at 05:21 PM



“ Cara Elisabetta, Che bel modo di pensare a mia madre! Ti ringrazio per i tuoi gentili sentimenti verso di lei - ed anche per la tua preziosa amicizia. Il tuo ricordo è vero nel fatto che la Mamma ha abbracciato te e la tua famiglia con affetto e gioia immediati e genuini.
Un abbraccio,
Maria

mariasmith - August 10 at 06:31 PM



“ Peter Kara lit a candle in memory of Anna Barbone Smith



Peter Kara - August 02 at 07:20 AM



“ Dearest Peter,
My mother never stopped talking about you and Gita. Thank you for all our shared adventures.
Love,
Maria

mariasmith - August 02 at 04:44 PM



“ Anna was a beautiful person whom I had the pleasure to call a friend. Alex and Maria please accept our deepest sympathies



Louis Morse - July 31 at 09:46 PM



“ Hi, Lou,
I'm so glad to hear from you. You were a very special ingredient in the choir and our mother thought the world of you. Thank you for your kind words.
Maria

mariasmith - August 01 at 03:05 PM



“ Karin Abell lit a candle in memory of Anna Barbone Smith



Karin Abell - July 31 at 01:43 PM



“ That means a lot to me, Karin. Thank you.

Maria

mariasmith - July 31 at 05:21 PM



“ To Alex and Maria: So sorry for your loss. Marianne Meliello and Bob Lake

Marianne meliello - July 31 at 12:28 PM



“ Hi, Marianne and Bob. It's a nice surprise to hear from you. Thank you for thinking of us.

Maria

mariasmith - July 31 at 05:24 PM



“ Marianne Meliello lit a candle in memory of Anna Barbone Smith



Marianne meliello - July 31 at 12:27 PM



“ 35 files added to the album LifeTributes



