



Ann W. Jones

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(Robert H. Jones)

Brighton, NY - Ann Wilcox Jones, 92, formerly of Brighton, New York, passed away June 10, 2018, at the Noble Horizons retirement community in Salisbury, CT. She died peacefully, surrounded by her children and grandchildren, in a room full of love.

Ann was born to Edward Byers and Mary Amanda (Gore) Wilcox on November 21, 1925, in Chicago. Her mother was a school administrator and a Winnetka School Board member. Her father was a prominent Certified Public Accountant. Ann had a brother, Robert Wilcox, and a sister, Lee (Wilcox) Kneerim. The family lived in Winnetka, IL, where Ann attended North Shore Country Day School.

In 1943, Ann matriculated at Smith College. That fall, on a blind date set up by her freshman roommate, she met the young man who would later become her husband, Robert H. Jones. Robert would then deploy to the European theater of World War II, returning in 1945. They were married in September 1947 after Ann received her bachelor's degree in mathematics.

The newly married couple first resided in Williamstown, MA, where Robert completed his studies at Williams College. He would later obtain a medical degree from Harvard Medical School. The couple had six children between 1951 and 1962, during which time they and their growing family moved from Nashville to the Boston area before settling in Brighton, New York in 1965, where Ann and Robert would live for the next 45 years.

Ann embraced her role as daughter, wife, and mother, but as the children grew she dove unstoppably and inspirationally into all her other passions, beginning with math. In 1969, after receiving her M.A.Ed. from the University of Rochester, she launched a decades-long career as a math tutor within the Brighton Central School District. Thousands of students benefitted from what one nephew called her "quiet, easy persistence."

That quiet, easy persistence defined everything she did. From the 1970s through 2010, Ann was incredibly active in community and environmental issues. A long-time member of the Smith College Club of Rochester, she helped organize annual house tours to raise scholarship funds. For decades, she was a passionate advocate for social causes, such as voter education through the League of Women Voters. She served on a number of environmental advocacy committees that focused on water quality and wetlands protection. She also served as a volunteer in WXXI's Reachout Radio program.

Ann was at all times a happy, intrepid explorer. She traveled to every continent, including Antarctica. Once her children were grown, she trekked in Nepal, mule-packed in the Eastern Sierras, rode the Trans-Siberian Railroad, and spent time in Africa, Scandinavia, the Galapagos Islands, Turkey, Samoa, Canada, and other lands. Immensely proud of Rochester she delighted in taking her family on tours of the city's once-bustling manufacturing plants and of facilities such as the U of R's Laboratory for Laser Energetics. She and her husband were also loyal and long-time supporters of GEVA and of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra.

Throughout her adult life and well into her 70s, Ann played a vigorous and skillful game of tennis, hitting the court at least three times a week.

Late in life, with her husband's decline and death, Ann moved to northwestern Connecticut where she received the tight and loving embrace of her daughter, Carolyn. Even in her decline, her passion for current events was unabated. Her stay at Noble Horizons completed the final chapter in a lifelong story filled with upbeat style and clear vision. In her Smith College 50th reunion yearbook, she summarized her convictions:

"1. The best, maybe the only, basis for action is consideration for others. 2. There is no such thing as absolute truth, and so there is no such thing as an absolutely correct action. One can only make better or worse choices. 3. Nothing is certain, but some things are more probable than others. 4. Chance plays a central role in biology, physics and society. 5. In human society, there will always be a struggle between what's good for the individual and what's good for the group. 6. My husband should not quit working unless forced to. 7. Being outdoors is better than being indoors."

Ann leaves behind an enormous community of admirers including six adoring children, namely Christopher, Peter, Carolyn, Diane, Steven, and James; six grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, sons-in-law, and daughters-in-law; and legions of friends from the places her travels took her.

A memorial service will be held in Concord, New Hampshire, at the McLane Center of the NH Audubon Society, on September 8, 2018, at 11:00 AM. In lieu of flowers, donations in her name may be made to The Nature Conservancy.