



Antonio Benecchi

February 20, 1963 - February 18, 2026

Scorrere verso il basso per leggere il necrologio in italiano.

Antonio Benecchi, 62, of Chicago, passed away after a courageous battle with cancer, leaving behind a life that seemed to hold several lifetimes within it.

Born in Busseto and having lived in Parma and Milan, Italy, Antonio moved through the world with an elegance that was unmistakably his own. He was intellectually curious, stylish and striking, and had an instinctive appreciation for history, architecture, beauty, and the culinary arts.

He began his career in Milan with companies including L'Oréal and Roland Berger Strategy Consultants. In 1999 he moved to the United States, where he built a distinguished career advising automotive giants before dedicating his talents to public sector work at Civic Consulting Alliance in Chicago. There, he spent more than a decade helping leaders shape initiatives that strengthened Chicago's economy and cultural institutions. He believed deeply in practical solutions and efficient action. Colleagues knew him as brilliant, incisive, and disarmingly direct – a man who spoke plainly and pointedly not out of severity, but because he valued clarity, momentum, and results.

Antonio's life was full in every sense. He loved spy novels, action films, and

especially the James Bond series, whose lines he could recite with theatrical precision. He traveled widely and often adventurously. Yes, he almost became a skydiving instructor. He equally loved being home reading in his “sun spot” or discussing politics and policy, cinema, or Italian culture and cuisine.

Antonio’s proudest title was not principal, strategist, or advisor. It was husband. In 2013 he met his soulmate, Azar Alexander. Their meeting was simple and almost cinematic: a glance across a room, a shy smile behind a beer, and a hello that became the love of a lifetime. They married in May 2025, sealing a partnership defined by devotion, laughter, tenderness, Azar’s homecooked meals, and a deep mutual respect and understanding. Friends often remarked that the two seemed to speak a private language all their own.

Antonio is survived by his husband Azar; his mother Ada; his siblings Francesca, Guglielmo, and Danila; his cherished nieces and nephews Antonio “Toto,” Adele, Lucia, Tommaso, Giulio, Andrea, Agnese, and Danilo; and a wide constellation of family, friends, and colleagues across continents. Antonio is preceded in death by his father, Danilo (d. 2006).

Antonio lived vividly, spoke honestly, loved deeply, and left the world measurably better than he found it.

The celebration of life ceremony for Antonio Benecchi will be held on Thursday, February 26, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Chicago Cultural Center’s Preston Bradley Hall, 78 E. Washington St., Chicago, Illinois. Doors will open at 2:30 p.m., and remembrances (open tributes and reflections) will occur between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. The celebration program will begin promptly at 4:00 p.m. A reception will follow from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Chicago Athletic Association, Second Floor, in the Drawing Room (name of the nook located inside the Library), 12 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

Livestream the service here: <https://www.asimplestreaming.com/abenecchi/>
All times are stated in Central Time (CT).

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-318-1305 or www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com.

Antonio Benecchi, 62 anni, di Chicago, è mancato dopo una coraggiosa battaglia contro il cancro, lasciandodietro di sé una vita che sembrava racchiudere in sé diverse vite.

Nativo di Busseto e vissuto a Parma e Milano, Antonio si muoveva per il mondo con un'eleganza inconfondibilmente sua. Era intellettualmente curioso, elegante e distintivo, e aveva un'istintiva passione per la storia, l'architettura, la bellezza e l'arte gastronomica.

Ha iniziato la sua carriera a Milano in aziende come L'Oréal e Roland Berger Strategy Consultants. Nel 1999 si è trasferito negli Stati Uniti, dove ha costruito una brillante carriera come consulente per i colossi dell'automotive, prima di dedicare il suo talento al settore pubblico presso la Civic Consulting Alliance di Chicago. Lì, ha trascorso più di un decennio aiutando i leader a dare forma a iniziative che hanno rafforzato l'economia e le istituzioni culturali di Chicago. Credeva profondamente nelle soluzioni pratiche e nell'azione efficiente. I colleghi lo conoscevano come brillante, incisivo e di una schiettezza disarmante: un uomo che parlava in modo chiaro e diretto, non per severità, ma perché dava valore alla chiarezza, allo slancio e ai risultati.

La vita di Antonio era piena in ogni senso. Amava i romanzi di spionaggio, i film d'azione e soprattutto la serie di James Bond, le cui battute sapeva

recitare con precisione teatrale. Viaggiava molto e spesso in modo avventuroso. Sì, era quasi diventato un istruttore di paracadutismo. Amava altrettanto stare a casa a leggere nel suo "posto al sole" o a discutere di politica, cinema, cultura e cucina italiana. Il titolo di cui Antonio andava più fiero non era preside, stratega o consigliere. Era marito. Nel 2013 incontrò la sua anima gemella, Azar Alexander. Il loro incontro fu semplice e quasi cinematografico: uno sguardo dall'altra parte della stanza, un sorriso timido dietro una birra e un saluto che divenne l'amore di una vita. Si sposarono nel maggio 2025, suggellando un'unione caratterizzata da devozione, risate, tenerezza, i pasti fatti in casa di Azar e un profondo rispetto e comprensione reciproci. Gli amici spesso osservavano che i due sembravano parlare una lingua tutta loro.

Antonio lascia il marito Azar; la madre Ada; i fratelli Francesca, Guglielmo e Danila; i suoi amati nipoti Antonio "Totò", Adele, Lucia, Tommaso, Giulio, Andrea, Agnese e Danilo; e una vasta costellazione di familiari, amici e colleghi in tutti i continenti. Antonio è stato preceduto nella morte dal padre Danilo (morto nel 2006).

Antonio ha vissuto intensamente, ha parlato con sincerità, ha amato profondamente e ha lasciato il mondo sensibilmente migliore di come lo aveva trovato.

La cerimonia di celebrazione della vita di Antonio Benecchi si terrà giovedì 26 febbraio, dalle ore 15:00 alle 17:00, presso la Preston Bradley Hall del Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., Chicago, Illinois. Le porte apriranno alle 14:30 e i ricordi (tributi e riflessioni aperte) si svolgeranno dalle 15:00 alle 16:00. Il programma della celebrazione inizierà puntualmente alle 16:00. Seguirà un ricevimento dalle 17:00 alle 19:30 presso il Chicago Athletic Association, nella Drawing Room al secondo piano (nome dell'area situata all'interno della Library), 12 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

Trasmetti in streaming il servizio qui: <https://www.asimplestreaming.com/abenecchi/> Tutti gli orari sono indicati nel fuso orario centrale (CT).

Organizzazione a cura di Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-318-1305 o www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB **26**. 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Preston Bradley Hall, Chicago Cultural Center

78 E. Washington

Chicago, IL 60602

https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/chicago_culturalcenter.html

2:30pm doors open. Remembrances begin at 3:00 pm. Reception to follow at The Chicago Athletic Association. Light food and beverages available until 7:00pm, however guests are welcome to mingle until 7:30pm. Cash bar after 7:00pm.

Reception

FEB **26**. 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

The Chicago Athletic Association, Second Floor Library

12 South Michigan Avenue

Chicago, IL 60603

<https://www.chicagoathletichotel.com/>

Light food and beverages available until 7:00pm, however guests are welcome to mingle until 7:30pm. Cash bar after 7:00pm.

Tribute Wall



“ *Inclusive Funeral Care created a Livestream Antonio’s Service in memory of Antonio Benecchi*



Team Inclusive Funeral Care - February 19 at 11:33 PM

FC

Rest in peace my dear friend we will all miss you ❤️❤️❤️❤️

Federica Calzetti - February 20 at 08:24 AM

HH

“ *I always enjoyed working with Antonio. I’m heartbroken he is gone, and I’m sending love to his family.*

Hilary A Holbrook - February 27 at 11:56 AM

AF

“ I had the honor of working with Antonio on an important project I led on Chicago's south side. He used his reputation and relationships to bring resources to our community project. Being the same age, we shared smirks, side eyes and lots of laughs while doing meaningful work in changing times. He was dashing and gallant. He was a great colleague in our village, Chicago that is disguised as a city.



Angela J Ford - February 26 at 12:20 PM

SL

“ Sanita Lewis lit a candle in memory of Antonio Benecchi



Sanita Lewis - February 25 at 07:40 PM

CF

“ I am so sorry to hear this news. I have known Antonio for over ten years. He was pleasure to be around and a good friend. He will always be remembered. I will keep in my prayers Antonio, Azar, and the Benecchi family.

Chris Feldman

Chris Feldman - February 25 at 02:33 PM

PA

“ I was heartbroken to learn of Antonio's passing. I had the pleasure of working with him at the Civic Consulting Alliance, and I will always remember him as a competent and gracious team player. Beyond his skill and professionalism, he brought warmth and generosity to every interaction. I always looked forward to seeing him.

Antonio added enormous value to the mission of CCA. His contributions made a meaningful difference that will live on as part of his legacy.

He will be deeply missed. My prayers are with his family.

*Dr. Paula Allen-Meares
Chancellor Emerita
John Corbally Presidential Professor Emerita
Professor of Medicine*

Paula Allen-Meares - February 24 at 11:35 AM

JW

“ I had the true privilege of working with Antonio at CCA, and I will always be grateful for that time. He was genuine, instinctive, and an absolute pleasure to work alongside. Antonio demonstrated great passion for his work. I deeply valued his perspective and his insights.



Antonio will be missed beyond words. My heart goes out to his family, friends, and all who had the honor of knowing him. May he rest in peace.

Jill Willis - February 24 at 09:09 AM

AU

“ *Alessandra Urangi lit a candle in memory of Antonio Benecchi*



Alessandra Urangi - February 23 at 07:04 PM

AU

“ *Negli anni 80 ho abitato a Parma ed eravamo amici. Abbiamo fatto molte risate, condiviso momenti con la "compagnia "dei suoi amici del liceo . Ha partecipato al mio matrimonio, mi ha fatto piacere. Sapeva ascoltare. Era dolce e affettuoso. Pregheró per lui. Un abbraccio a chi resta, a chi gli ha voluto bene.*

Alessandra Urangi - February 23 at 07:03 PM

PB

“ *I had a chance to work with Antonio for many years as part of the Civic Consulting Alliance. His commitment to helping our community was unparalleled. He always provided inspiration to me personally to contribute time and energy to help solve the challenges the Chicago area faces. His direct work, and the work he helped catalyze with his vast network, will leave a lasting impact.*

My thoughts are with Antonio's family during this challenging time.

Peter Bresler - February 22 at 09:45 AM

RL

“ *Antonio was truly a special person — not just an incredibly thoughtful and impactful professional, but a genuinely good human being. I always appreciated working with him and will remember his insight, his candor, and the way he showed up for others.*

Robb Soles, KPMG LLP - February 21 at 01:03 PM

CA

“ *Cinzia Alviani lit a candle in memory of Antonio Benecchi*



Cinzia Alviani - February 20 at 08:12 AM