



Paolo Cherchi

May 10, 1937 - April 4, 2026

Si prega di scorrere verso il basso per visualizzare la versione in lingua italiana.

Paolo Cherchi, 88, of Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood, passed away at home on April 4, 2026.

He was born and raised in Coghinas (province of Tempio-Olbia) in Sardinia, Italy. After receiving his undergraduate degree at the University of Cagliari, he travelled to the USA where he earned a PhD in literature at the University of California at Berkeley.

Following graduation, Paolo took a faculty position at the University of Chicago. Soon after he met his future wife, Judy. The couple married in 1968 and raised their son Marcello in Hyde Park.

A prolific scholar, Paolo held a successful 40-year career as a Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures at the University of Chicago. He subsequently taught at the University of Ferrara for several years. In 2016 he was elected Socio Straniero in the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, the highest academic recognition in Italy. In 2024 he was bestowed an honorary

degree from the University of Rome La Sapienza.

Paolo will be remembered for his sense of humor and his ability to share a story.

Beloved husband of Judith for 58 years. Loving father of Marcello (Joanna Weinstein), and adoring Nonno to Isaac and Michael. Brother of Raffaella, Elisa, and Maria, all of Italy.

He was preceded in death by his parents Antonio and Leonarda, and his brother, Placido.

Services will be private; Paolo's wishes were to have his body donated to science.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, please consider donating to your preferred charitable organization.

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

Paolo Cherchi, necrologio

Paolo Cherchi, 88 anni, residente nel quartiere di Hyde Park a Chicago, si è spento nella sua abitazione il 4 aprile 2026.

Era nato e cresciuto a Coghinas (provincia di Tempio-Olbia), in Sardegna. Dopo aver conseguito la laurea presso l'Università di Cagliari, si trasferì negli Stati Uniti, dove ottenne un dottorato di ricerca in letteratura presso l'Università della California a Berkeley.

Dopo la laurea, Paolo ottenne una cattedra presso l'Università di Chicago. Poco tempo dopo, conobbe la sua futura moglie, Judy. La coppia si sposò nel 1968 ed educò il figlio Marcello a Hyde Park.

Studioso prolifico, Paolo ha svolto una brillante carriera quarantennale come professore di Lingue e Letterature Romanze presso l'Università di Chicago. Successivamente, ha insegnato per diversi anni all'Università di Ferrara. Nel 2016 è stato eletto Socio Straniero dell'Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, il massimo riconoscimento accademico in Italia. Nel 2024 gli è stata conferita una laurea "honoris causa" dall'Università di Roma La Sapienza.

Paolo sarà ricordato per il suo senso dell'umorismo e per la sua abilità nel raccontare storie.

Amato marito di Judith per 58 anni. Affettuoso padre di Marcello (con Joanna Weinstein) e adorato nonno di Isaac e Michael. Fratello di Raffaella, Elisa e Maria, tutte residenti in Italia.

È stato preceduto nella morte dai genitori, Antonio e Leonarda, e dal fratello Placido.

Le esequie si svolgeranno in forma privata; secondo le volontà di Paolo, il suo corpo è stato donato alla scienza.

In luogo di fiori o doni, si prega di considerare una donazione ad un'organizzazione benefica di propria scelta.

Tribute Wall

RB

“ *Paolo was a great friend and colleague of my husband Paolo Giordano. My condolences to the family, Rosa*

Rosa Bellino-Giordano - April 18 at 10:01 AM

DP

“ *Ricorderò sempre la tua generosità, il tuo speciale senso dell'umorismo, momenti magici in classe e da Jimmy - un raro esempio di intellettuale e di essere umano. Un saluto speciale a tutti quelli che, come me, hanno avuto la fortuna di incontrarti sul loro cammino, nella speranza di rivederci un giorno in Cielo, anche se forse tu non ci credevi... My condolences to Paolo's family*

Daniela Pastina - April 16 at 01:58 PM

SE

“ *Judy Marcelo and family. I am deeply saddened by Paolo's passing.*

Serpil Emre

Serpil Emre - April 08 at 10:18 PM

SS

“ *It was always a pleasure to encounter Paolo in the library, on the Quads, or out an about in Hyde Park.*

Sem C Sutter - April 08 at 02:50 PM

DN

“ With heartfelt sympathy, we would like to express our deepest condolences on the loss of your husband/father. Dr. Cherchi clearly was a remarkable person, and we are sure his memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

Marcello, please remember that your department colleagues are thinking of you during this time.

*Sending warmest thoughts and deepest sympathy,
Your Neurology Family*

Dept Neurology - April 08 at 11:31 AM

PN

“ *Ci mancherai profondamente Paolo. Chi ha avuto il privilegio di conoscerti conserverà il ricordo della tua immensa cultura, della tua grande generosità, del tuo fine senso dell'umorismo e della tua sincera amicizia. Le mie più sentite condoglianze alla famiglia.
Paola Nastri*

Paola Nastri - April 08 at 09:38 AM

GM

“ *Paolo Cherchi's extraordinary intellectual depth and the refinement of his scholarship have left a lasting mark on Italian and Spanish studies.*

His work has long been a source of insight and inspiration.

I remember with gratitude a semester

In Chicago, where his wit and irresistible charm made every encounter a pleasure. Grazie di tutto, grandissimo Paolo, ci mancherai.

Ganeri Margherita - April 07 at 06:23 PM

RA

“ *Cari Judi e Marcello, siamo Roberto Antonelli e Serena Sapegno; pur sapendo che Paolo stava male siamo rimasti profondamente colpiti dalla sua scomparsa: era una persona straordinaria, un grande studioso e un vero amico; lo ricorderemo sempre e con lui anche voi; presto sul sito dell'Accademia dei Lincei sarà pubblicato un suo ricordo; vi siamo vicini, Roberto e Serena*

Roberto Antonelli - April 07 at 02:21 PM

SC

“ *Dear Judy and Marcello.
As you know Paolo and I were friends since our arrival at the University of California Berkeley in 1962. We became close friends and continued our friendship during the years he was at the University of Chicago and I at the University of Michigan and then at the Ohio State University. We kept in close contact by phone and by mail and met different times over the years. In the last year, as his health was deteriorating we spoke frequently. And in the last two months I called him almost every day. The last time we spoke was a few days before his death. Although his demise was expected, it has affected me deeply. He was my best friend in this country and his absence has left a great void. I admired him for his deep philosophical and philological knowledge of classical Italian and Spanish literature. I send you my most heartfelt condolences.
Salvador García Castañeda*

Salvador Garcia Castañeda - April 06 at 07:39 PM

AC

“ *Grazie per essere stato un Maestro a distanza, ma continuo nel tempo, una distanza che tu annullavi con la tua immensa cultura e l'impareggiabile umorismo. My sincere sympathies to the family.
Andrea Ciccarelli, Indiana University*

Andrea Ciccarelli - April 06 at 05:56 PM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Paolo Cherchi.*



April 06 at 05:47 PM



“ *Marcello, I am so sorry to see the loss of your father. May his memory be for a blessing.*

Susan H. Shapiro - April 06 at 05:10 PM



“ *Paolo was a wonderfully learned colleague and presence at the University. The world of learning will miss him greatly.*

Robert Kendrick - April 06 at 04:04 PM



“ *Grazie, Paolo, della grande lezione spiritosa e cordiale e della bella amicizia. Il mio più affettuoso cordoglio a Judy, Marcello e Raffaella*

Gonaria Floris - April 05 at 11:46 AM



“ *I am deeply saddened by Paolo's death. My loving sympathies to Judy, Marcello, and the entire family. Rebecca*

Rebecca West - April 04 at 11:05 PM