



Virginia A. Fenley

June 26, 1942 - January 5, 2024

Virginia “Ginny” Anne Allen Fenley, 81, passed away peacefully at Chicago’s Admiral at the Lake, January 5, 2024.

Ginny was born in Nashville TN to Leavitt Oran Allen and Geraldine Seiver Allen. Leavitt’s job as a salesman for Swift & Co. took the family from Nashville TN to Mason City IA to Chicago IL where Ginny graduated from Morgan Park High School.

The Allens finally settled in Greenville IL where Ginny attended college at Greenville College and studied sociology and history. Ginny moved to Chicago (and never left) after a difficult illness. She finished her sociology degree at The Illinois Institute of Technology. It was at IIT that she met John Carr Fenley III, who impressed her so much by reading the “Lord of the Rings” trilogy on a single weekend, she married him.

Unfortunately, love doesn’t always last and so three kids, a dog, a skunk, and umpteen cats later, Ginny and John divorced. Nevertheless, Ginny soldiered on with the Herculean task of raising 3 rambunctious children! Ginny held various jobs during this time from driving a cab to working as a legal secretary. Later in life, she found job stability with the Chicago Department of Aging and Disability where she managed several senior buildings on the northside of

Chicago. Ginny loved Chicago, the performing arts, WTTW, and was an avid gardener. A voracious reader and bibliophile, Ginny spent her life accumulating and cataloguing a massive library.

Ginny had an undeterred moral compass and was honored to sponsor many recovering persons over her 43 years of sobriety.

Beloved Mother of John Carr (Natalie) Fenley IV; Shelly Elizabeth Fenley; and Logan Weyl Fenley. Adoring "Grandma Ginny" of Paloma Fenley, twins Oliver and Noah Fenley, Tyler Hatter, Ariana Fenley, and Winter Coble. Dear sister of Adrienne (the late Marvin) Zahniser and the late Barry (Rati Najai) Allen.

Ginny has chosen a green cremation and has asked for no services.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to Collaboraction <http://www.collaboraction.org/> (bringing the performing arts to all corners of this city she adored).

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care 773-370-2959, www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com

Tribute Wall

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“ My deepest sympathy to Ginny's family. I was fortunate to have a brief visit with Ginny the day before she died. Though I realized she was not well, I had no idea her passing was imminent. She was softspoken and aware of who I was, an Admiral resident neighbor. I will never forget when, 10 1/2 years ago I toured through The Admiral at the Lake for the first time with my friend Carol, I asked Ginny who was on the stationary bike, "How do you like living here?" She replied without delay, "I moved in and have never looked back!" May Ginny enjoy deep everlasting peace in her Eternal home.

Helen Shidler - January 14, 2024 at 01:29 PM

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“ I fondly remember Ginny from the NBS meeting at St. Michael's in the early 1980s. My sincere condolences to her family.

Susan Richter - January 13, 2024 at 12:26 PM