



Betty A. Barclay

May 26, 1925 - May 14, 2017

Betty A. Barclay, 91, died May 14, 2017 at her home after a long illness. Born in Detroit, MI to Earle H. and Laura (Fordice) Tracy, Betty moved to Elmhurst, IL at a young age, attended York H.S. and graduated from Elmhurst College with a degree in Economics. Finding the suburbs boring, she commuted to her job as a market researcher in downtown Chicago during young adulthood. After her marriage, she lived in Lincoln Park until moving to her home in Edgewater in 1959. Wife of the late Bill Barclay and mother of Mark Barclay, Ann (Bruce Rovner) Barclay-Rovner and Jane (Mike) Gillespie.

Betty was a lifelong volunteer in service to her community until her failing health made it impossible to participate. Founding member of the Edgewater Community Council (ECC), the Edgewater Glen Association (EGA) and the Friends of the Edgewater Public Library, she served in many capacities including longtime member of the ECC Board of Directors and corporate secretary, co-chair of the EGA garden walks, and coordinator of the Friend's book sales. A supporter of public education, she served in leadership roles for the PTSA at the local and regional levels. She advocated for building a local Chicago Public Library branch for Edgewater which opened in 1973 and later took up a long and persistent campaign for a larger branch for Edgewater which finally opened in 2013. The Chicago Public Library honored her with their Volunteer of the Year award. She was also a member of the inaugural class of the Living Treasures of Edgewater.

In addition to her community service, Betty enjoyed the arts, especially theater, gardening, weaving and other fiber arts and of course her many cats.

The family expresses our sincere gratitude to Betty's caregivers, especially Carol, Tanya, Sylvia and Bola, to her dear neighbors for their kindness, to Ellen Ferro for motivating Betty to do her exercises and providing a constant supply of chocolate and to Tori Wakefield for generously making house calls to cut Betty's hair. You all made it possible for Betty to remain in her beloved home as she wished.

The family will receive visitors at Barr Funeral Home from 2 pm until a memorial service at 4 pm on Wednesday, May 17. Betty donated her body to science to support research on multisystem atrophy. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Friends of the Edgewater Public Library, Felines and Canines, Inc. or the Edgewater Historical Society.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 17. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Barr Funeral Home

6222 N. Broadway

Chicago, IL 60660

(773) 743-4034

info@barrfuneralhome.com

<https://barrfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Betty A. Barclay*

October 08, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *As the Branch Manager of the Edgewater Library, I can only say what a difference Betty made in the lives of the people in the Edgewater Community! Because of her tireless efforts hundreds of story-times were possible, thousands of books have been checked out and read, people have met at the library to find things that have changed their lives. All this would not have been possible if people like Betty did not believe what the library does is absolute essential. It was from her support that the library gained a Friends group that continues today as a source of strength and advocacy. She will be missed but not forgotten.*

*Joanna Hazelden, Branch Manager
Edgewater Branch, Chicago Public Library*

Joanna Hazelden - May 17, 2017 at 01:54 PM