



## Edwin E Hicks

April 4, 1957 - July 4, 2022

edwin e hicks, 65, died peacefully at home in Chicago, July 4, 2022. At his side was his loving partner, Greg Tabaczynski. edwin was preceded in death by his partner of many years Michael Stanton.

edwin was born, April 4, 1957, to Grace(Dulabahn) and Walter Hicks, in Protection, Kansas and the family moved to Lyons, Kansas, when he was a child. He attended Lyons High School where he developed all the skills and interests which would occupy his future life. edwin became intensely involved in music, playing piano, singing and learning many other instruments. Active in the Lyons High School Band and their performance ensemble, "The Lionaires", he was president of the Band in his senior year and he personally and the ensemble received "One" and "One Plus" ratings in the state music competitions. He played the Wizard in "The Wizard Of Oz" in the high school musical performance. edwin also was active in Journalism and his love of books led him to work at the public library while in high school. Academically he was invited to the Honors Banquet all four years and was graduated as Salutatorian in 1975. He then studied Organ Performance at the University of Kansas, where he lived for a number of years in the Battenfeld Scholarship Hall, gave outstanding junior and senior recitals, and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in music in 1979.

During this time he also began working at B. Dalton Booksellers in Kansas

City and eventually transferred to the Chicago location. Edwin was fond of saying he moved in 1980 to Chicago temporarily -- and never left. From the bookstore scene he moved into the advertising world and enjoyed a successful career as a production coordinator in several well-known Chicago agencies: Leo Burnett, J. Walter Thompson and Bozell.

But Edwin's true passions were always music, literature and language, and gardening. Rarely would he be seen without a book in tow and was known by sight to his local librarians. Often he could be seen about in the late evening pinching seeds from neighbors' plants, trying to get anything whatsoever to grow. He was intensely proud of his farmland roots and worked to recreate a piece of the Prairie on his property in Chicago (to the consternation no doubt of his neighbors), allowing wildflowers to flourish to meet the needs of the birds and butterflies. His love for living things also extended to raising a long series of kittens and cats throughout his adult life. He also loved travelling and notably undertook two solo expeditions to Europe and the Far East.

Besides his advertising jobs, Edwin also pursued his musical vocation as the organist & music director for Gethsemane UCC church in Chicago for many years. He was a patron of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and a fixture at the Lyric Opera of Chicago for many decades, eager to share his knowledge of librettos, composers and musical nuances. His idea of a wonderful evening started with a Rob Roy (or two), a fine Italian dinner, and a really good cry at a Verdi opera.

Edwin's generosity of spirit led him to be involved in many community activities. As an activist during the early days of the AIDS epidemic, Edwin volunteered at hospital in AIDS wards. Adhering to his musical roots, he was an active member in the DePaul Community Chorus and dabbled in other forms such as shape note singing, square dancing, contra dancing... In retirement he learned to "dance Tai Chi", becoming a Tai Chi instructor, and

more recently organizing outdoor practice sessions in Welles Park, Chicago, during the insanity of the COVID lockdown, even as he was bravely living with cancer.

To have known Edwin was a gift. No one could deliver an acerbic comment or some grammar tutelage as lovingly as Edwin. His wit, the deep rivers of his emotions and empathy, and strength of character will be missed by the many that loved him dearly.

Burial will take place in his home town of Lyons, Kansas on Wednesday, July 13, at the Lyons Municipal Cemetery.

# Previous Events

## Visitation in Church

JUL 8. 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Church of the Atonement  
5749 N. Kenmore  
Chicago, IL 60660

## Funeral Service

JUL 8. 12:00 PM (CT)

Church of the Atonement  
5749 N. Kenmore  
Chicago, IL 60660

# Tribute Wall



“ *Edwin E Hicks*

October 08, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *We were thrilled at being the mixed couple by the lake. So many years of fabulous memories. A true one of a kind that we loved so much. You will be missed my friend.*

*Jules and Jason Banks*

**Julianne Banks** - August 04, 2022 at 10:24 AM



“ *I grew up with Edwin in Lyons, Kansas and have many happy memories. Ed was an old soul and a caring person. We stayed in sporadic contact throughout the years, and it was always as if no time had passed when we connected. We shared confidences and laughed and cried together.*

*I will remember Ed's wit and intelligence, his eccentric manner and passion for life. The world is a better place because Ed was here.*

*Rest in peace, old friend.*

*Gregg Ratzloff*

**gregg Ratzloff** - August 02, 2022 at 07:44 PM

SH

“ I met Edwin through my brother Roland. I visited Chicago many times and when my brother was working full time, I would meet Edwin for lunch or for a drink or just hang out at his house. He was a good friend and I have many fond memories of our times together. Rest well dear friend!

---

**Steve Hansen** - July 26, 2022 at 11:54 AM

MS

“ I just heard about Edwin's passing, and I was so sorry to hear about it just now. I have many memories of Edwin, always involving laughter. Once at Ravinia we almost got thrown out of the Pavillion during a performance by the Chicago Symphony. Mahler was on the program. In the printed program was a picture of Mahler's cottage, which looked like a shack with one window. After the music started, Edwin pointed it out to me and whispered some comment about it, which started us laughing hysterically and trying to suppress it. It was worse in that we were in about the 5th row!

Another time Edwin and a woman friend had Lyric Opera tickets on Halloween evening, sometime in the early 1980s. Since it was Halloween, Edwin and his friend came up with a plan to cross-dress in formal attire to attend the opera. At the time I had a black Cadillac Seville, and Edwin asked if I would chauffeur them to the opera and let them off at the front door. Edwin was in an evening gown with elbow-length white gloves, and his woman friend was in a tux. At that time the Lyric had uniformed Andy Frain doormen. When I pulled up in the "limo," the Andy Frain doorman opened the back door, and Edwin daintily extended his white-gloved hand, and the doorman took his hand to help "her" out of the car. As I pulled away, I was laughing so hard I could hardly drive!

*Rest in peace Edwin, it was great fun!*

*Mike Shawgo*

---

Michael Shawgo - July 22, 2022 at 01:34 PM

MW

“ Edwin was a sweet man and I have fond memories of the time we knew each other at LeoB.

---

Mary Winkler - July 11, 2022 at 10:31 PM

SH

“ I grew up at Gethsemane UCC and Edwin and I were close for many years after. He helped me through my daughters death in 2003 and showed me it was ok to be me no matter my sexual orientation. Even though we lost touch a few times over the last decade I loved him with all my heart. My condolences to everyone who had the please to know and love him.

sharity Breen Holley - July 11, 2022 at 06:31 PM

PM

I worked with Edwin at an ad agency in Chicago. I was just thinking of something that he said that was so funny. I thought I would look him up and I came upon this. I am so sorry. I so enjoyed working with him. Rest In peace , Edwin.

Patricia McDonald - July 28, 2022 at 08:50 PM

PG

“ 1 file added to the album Summer Singers



Paul Glick - July 09, 2022 at 09:04 AM

 William Bergfalk

“ William Bergfalk lit a candle in memory of Edwin E Hicks



William Bergfalk - July 08, 2022 at 10:40 AM

PA

“ 1 file added to the album DePaul



Paul - July 08, 2022 at 09:55 AM

BO

“ Bozell/Chicago purchased the Simply Elegant Sp  
athiphyllum for the family of Edwin E Hicks.



Bozell/Chicago - July 07, 2022 at 04:01 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased  
for the family of Edwin E Hicks.



July 07, 2022 at 03:07 PM

RW

“ Ray Wang purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet  
for the family of Edwin E Hicks.



Ray Wang - July 07, 2022 at 02:20 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Edwin E Hicks.*



---

July 07, 2022 at 10:19 AM