

NORMA SCHATTKE OBITUARY

An undeniably kind and joyful woman, Norma Louise Schattke passed away in Boulder, CO on January 2, 2021. She was 87. Norma was born in Springfield, IL to John Clifford Brooks and Lucille Brooks. She received her bachelors' degree with a major in music, and a minor in English, from the University of Illinois in 1955 where she met her husband of 62 years, Rudy Schattke, who preceded her in death in 2017. Rudy and Norma married in 1955, and then moved to Tempe, Arizona in 1958, and settled in Boulder in 1961, where Rudy was a professor at the University of Colorado for 36 years. Norma was a talented pianist and started taking piano lessons at seven. Her family did not own a piano, so her grandmother picked her up everyday after school to practice at her house. Her parents recognized that she was not only serious about practicing but was also very gifted, so they bought her a piano the next year. That was the beginning of a life-long love and commitment to music. Norma performed in numerous concerts as a soloist or as part of a larger group and accompanied well renowned vocalists at both small and large venues. Norma instilled her love of music into generations of students and taught her final piano lesson at 85. She was active in many music groups including BAMTA, (where she also served as president for several years) and performed for the last time in February of 2020. Norma dedicated her talents for many years as church Organist with her congregation at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church. Despite the decline in her health, she was able to play Shubert and Brahms duets with her son in October of 2020. Her love of music and her talent had a profound impact on all that knew her. Being active in social groups and the community gave Norma immense pleasure.

She befriended nearly everyone she met. She was part of numerous Bridge groups (with Rudy and without), gourmet foods groups, church groups, clubs (including the University Women's Club) and other volunteer opportunities. She had a very wide circle of friends, and she was diligent and purposeful in cultivating their relationships. The thing she did best was sharing good food whether at home or at a restaurant, with both friends and family. There were weeks when she went out to lunch four or five times - all in the name of friendship AND a great dessert. Norma had wide variety of interests. She loved baseball and would rarely miss a Rockies game (attending her last game in person in 2019). She was an avid reader enjoying mysteries and comedy. She loved walking or merely petting her beloved beagle, Jackson. A passion she shared with Rudy was travel. They enriched their lives with travel to 6 continents, 58 countries and 49 states (missing only Alabama). They were lucky enough to take sabbaticals and live in Hawaii, Australia, the Netherlands, and New Zealand. The artwork they collected, and Norma's jewelry kept the memories of their travels alive. Norma's love of her family was second only to her family's love of her. She made all of us feel loved and cherished. She was undeniably kind, extraordinarily generous, ever optimistic, and a beautiful person inside and out. She taught not only her family, but many others, that kind actions, a benevolent attitude, an infectious laugh, an unwavering positive attitude, and of course, a large dollop of whipping cream can indeed, make the world a better place. She will be deeply missed. Norma is survived by her son Robert Schattke (Lisa), daughters Kathryn Bingman and Jean Neumann (Glen), grandchildren Matthew Bingman (Samantha), Brooks Bingman, Jacqueline Neumann (Justin), Zachary Neumann and great-granddaughter Chloe Cobb. We will all be better people having been part of

her life. We are planning a celebration of Norma's life at the end of April when we can be together in person and honor her joyful life with the music and flowers she so loved and deserves. Contributions can be made to: The Music Department Westview Church (formerly Mount Calvary) 6710 Arapahoe Road Boulder, CO 80303

Published by The Daily Camera on Jan. 17, 2021.