



Sharyn Heiland Shields

OCT 30, 1945 - DEC 31, 2022



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Sharyn Heiland Shields

OCT 30, 1945 - DEC 31, 2022

Sharyn Elizabeth Heiland Shields, 77 of Tallahassee, passed away Saturday December 31, 2022, with her loving family by her side. She was born in Atlantic City, New Jersey to Ted and Margaret Wallace Heiland on October 30, 1945.

Sharyn holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and a Master of Arts degree in Dance from Florida State University. She has held faculty positions in dance at the University of Florida and at Kirkland (now Hamilton) College in upstate New York. She has also held adjunct teaching positions in dance at Tallahassee Community College and at Florida State University.

After a lifelong involvement in all phases of dance, Sharyn decided to quench her curiosity about archaeology by enrolling in the FSU Department of Anthropology graduate program where her emphasis was in Historic Archaeology. Her interest in Benjamin Charies, his family and plantation began in a research project for a seminar final project and has continued unabated since. Her graduate thesis was entitled *The Verdura Place: A Historical Overview and Preliminary Archaeological Survey*. Which was published into a book *Whispers from Verdura: The Lost Legacy of Benjamin Charies*.

After receiving her second Master of Arts degree in 2001, Sharyn worked as an Exhibit Manager for the Institute of World War II in the FSU History Department and as Historic Preservation Grants Supervisor for the State of Florida. She was a lifelong friend to dogs.

She is survived by her loving husband John Thomas “Tom” Shields, her cousins Kirk Heiland, Ellie Holden, Mike, and Dan Wallace. She is preceded in death by her parents.

A funeral service will be held 10:00AM Monday January 9, 2023, at Lifesong Funerals and Cremations 20 South Duval Street Quincy, Florida 32351, with the burial following at 2:00pm at Andersonville National Cemetery, 496 Cemetery Road Andersonville, Georgia 31711.

In Lieu of flowers the family asks that you make donations to Best Friends Animal Society (bestfriends.org) or The Elephant Sanctuary(elephants.com)



Events

Sharyn Heiland Shields

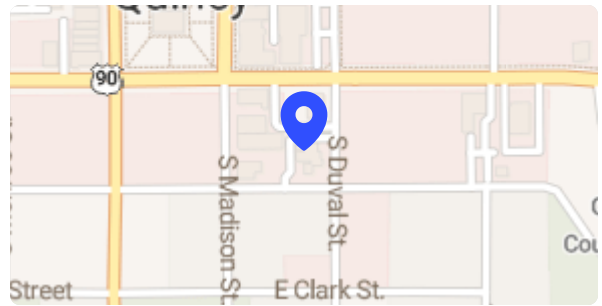
OCT 30, 1945 - DEC 31, 2022

Service

 **Monday**, January 9, 2023

 10:00 AM ET


 **Lifesong Funerals & Cremations - Quincy**
20 S Duval St, Quincy FL 32351

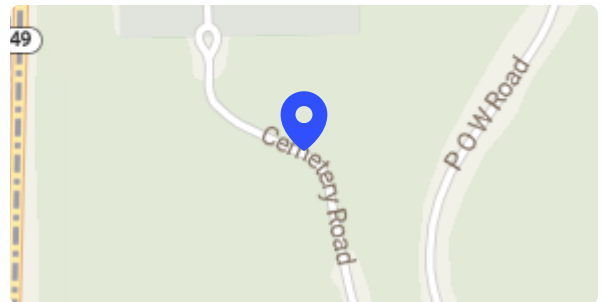


Graveside Service

 **Monday**, January 9, 2023

 2:00 PM ET

 **Andersonville National Cemetery**
496 Cemetery Road, Andersonville GA 31711





Tribute Wall

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SD

Sonia Deville lit a candle in honor of Sharyn.



January 9 at 2:12 AM

AM

Anthony Morgan posted:

Hey Sharyn! I remember my first Fall at FSU, August 1983: you showed us around Montgomery Gym and had a mnemonic for that alarm pad outside 403. The switch to set it was left or right and Richard Sias's office was just there on there on the left, so "Richard is alarming" set the tone most effectively. We made some good dances together. Remember Three Boys Dancing Solo? Fever? And your well crafted and inspired choreography that I had the pleasure to watch from the house. You were so generous with your thoughts and lesson plans when I took on the Dance Composition course. I was so impressed at the way you reinvented your career path after Dance and delved into local history. A great role model! Also enjoyed those few visits to you and Thom out at Lake Talquin. I think you can be satisfied with a life well lived. Peace.

January 8 at 5:36 PM

RV

Richard Vernon posted:

My heartfelt condolences to Tom and Sharyn's family and friends. I met Sharyn in the mid 1990's when she was in the midst of pursuing her second career as an archaeologist. She began work with us at the National Park Service Southeast Archeological Center and quickly established herself as a very productive member of the team who were upgrading the storage of our collections. She became the leader of the team and a valued colleague for all of us. Her dedication and creativity were awesome. She became a valued friend during her years there. I followed her research on Verdura Plantation with great interest and was really pleased and impressed when she got her book published. I feel very fortunate to have known such a talented and caring person. Rest In Peace. Richard Vernon

January 8 at 3:18 PM



Tribute Wall

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Jack Clark shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

FROM Odette Salvagio -----Sharyn was a good friend and colleague while I was at FSU - always ready to celebrate or commiserate! She sometimes had a sharp tongue but she also had a good heart and a willingness to "go the extra mile" to guarantee that all were treated fairly. She was unafraid of speaking truth to power and was willing to suffer the consequences-though she seldom found that burdensome. She lived life fully and with great vigor-and generally in shorts. She loved to plan events, keep secrets, and enjoyed surprises-though not if she was the one surprised. And never, never, never, never deviate from the route of a planned road trip. We all were truly affected by her. I was always a bit more earthy, but Sharyn was always glowing.



January 8 at 9:40 AM



Janet Hughes posted:

I first met Sharyn in 1964 when I returned to FSU's dance program for "one year only" (famous last words). She was one of a small group of dancers who seemed remarkably committed to the art itself and to the discipline it required and the joy it yielded. Although she had successful professional experiences at other institutions, her life led her back to FSU where she contributed her significant talent and creativity as a performer, a choreographer, a teacher, a thinker and innovator to the developing dance program at FSU for many years. I cannot think of the evolution of the program into one of the country's major dance centers without thinking of Sharyn as a memorable and valuable asset to its history. I share with the many who knew her our strong sense of loss and our gratitude for all she gave to us. Our love and sympathy to Thom, Nancy Smith Fichter

January 6 at 10:42 AM



Tribute Wall

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Jack Clark shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Sharyn was a innovative force-or-nature. She devised a summer concert series, furthering opportunities for part-time faculty to showcase work. We called it June Dances; beloved nickname, "Who's June?" by Sharyn. We sang "Taking a Chance on Dance" to Taking a Chance on Love at the beginning. A chameleon and consummate performer herself, Sharyn's inventive choreography could reveal the multifaceted bonds of human relationships in the abstract. I remember how MOTHER RING, for Dr. Fichter and Kathy Eggent, explored the tensions of fidelity within a world ruled by family ties. I also remember her as a wonderful friend/listener/sounding-board for my own work. She gave well-grounded observations to consider. Richard Sias adds his memories of her skillful and generous work mentoring undergraduate choreographers for 12 Days of Dance. She was constantly in a studio with them, inspiring their imaginations. And, she had a wicked sense of humor. I will miss her spirit on earth.



January 6 at 10:18 AM



Janet Hughes shared 3 photos to the **Remembering Sharyn** album.



January 4 at 12:59 PM



Dan And John shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Always vibrant with a smile to say all are welcome in my world. Sharyn, you were sweet and kind and will be terribly missed by us, but colorfully remembered! You were our little trendsetter here at the lake. The night you walked into happy hour with a bright purple streak in your hair, was the night we knew you were the coolest! We love you and you'll always be in our hearts. We too will look after Thom as I know you will as well. May you rest in peace.



January 4 at 7:01 AM



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LD

Lynda Davis posted:

Sharyn's creative mind was constantly moving full speed ahead !! I first met Sharyn during the Bella Lewitzky Dance Co.summer residency at FSU and can remember her watching our rehearsals , later becoming involved with various company residency logistics in Florida and some on Lewitzky Co. tour.As my time at FSU became more frequent , so did opportunities to work together on various dance projects.Sharyn had so many interests, talents and an unlimited creative energy. Nothing seemed unsolvable !!!!! I admired her sense of intent and drive in revealing unknowns.Performing with Sharyn in the reconstruction of Doris Humphrey repertory was a definite dance highlight . Sharyn was a performer, choreographer ,teacher and published author. It seemed her appetite to search, research and know more spilled over in so many art forms.....a gift to all who might be included in her process.Sending much love to Thom , Sharyn's family and friends.....The Sharyn spirit resonants in many wonderful ways.....Lynda Davis

January 4 at 4:26 AM

PP

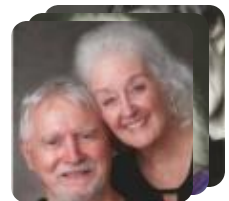
Patricia Phillips posted:

I would like to send thoughts of comfort and condolence to Tom and Sharyn's family and friends at this time. I enjoyed and admired Sharyn's creativity, discipline, and wry humor (we shared many wicked laughs) from the time we shared an apartment during graduate school at FSU over 50 years ago, and though we went our different paths over the years, I was so impressed with her most recent pursuit that led to the really interesting publication of her Chaires project work! She was both an artist and a scholar throughout all of her contributions. I know she will be missed by many. Patty Howell Phillips

January 2 at 3:48 PM

JH

Janet Hughes shared 3 photos to the **Remembering Sharyn** album.



January 2 at 12:17 PM



Media

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Jack Clark shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 8 at 9:40 AM





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Joe Taylor, Jack Clark as ugly step-sisters; Sharyn as step-mom: Tallahassee Ballet's Cinderella



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January 4 at 12:59 PM



Sharyn the Publicist



Sharyn the Dancer



Sharyn the Dancer



Dan And John shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

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January 2 at 12:17 PM



Thom and Sharyn



Media

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Thom and Sharyn



Sharyn



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Sharyn by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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