



## Christine Weisfelder

August 12, 1942 - September 9, 2023

Chris' life was an international adventure. She was born in Washington DC in 1942. When five years old, she, her mother and father, Catherine and Anders Johansson, sister, Bea and brother, Andy moved to Sweden. Chris learned Swedish so well that she had trouble pronouncing English sounds when they returned to the US. In the mid-1950s they all moved to Chile where tragedy struck when her father died in an automobile accident.

Chris spent a gap year after high school in Gothenburg, Sweden where she lived with the Ahlstroms who became her foster family with whom she bonded for the rest of her life. Back in the US, she graduated from the University of North Carolina and then moved to Cambridge, MA. for a new adventure. In October 1966 she accepted a blind date to the Boston Symphony with Dick Weisfelder who had just returned from two years of research in Lesotho in southern Africa. A year later they were married and moved to Athens, OH where he taught at Ohio University. While in Athens she mothered sons, Philip and Carl, and completed her MBA specializing in accounting. She swiftly passed her CPA and CMA exams.

After moving to Toledo in 1975, Chris taught accounting for three years at Adrian College. She and Dick embraced the opportunity to return to Africa in 1978 where he taught at the University of Botswana for three years. Chris made the most of the experience working as an auditor for Price Waterhouse

with clients ranging from banks and small businesses to a small weaving cooperative with no electricity. Goats nearly ate her papers! Our family experienced the beauty and diversity of southern African landscapes and wildlife and the hospitality of the people of Botswana and Lesotho. Tragedy had struck when her mother, Catherine died in a car accident and her brother, Andy, succumbed to cancer. Visits to family in Sweden became even more important.

Back in the US Chris taught accounting at the University of Toledo. When she tired of constantly teaching the basic courses, she began working on her Ph.D. in international business at the University of Michigan and earned that degree in 1991. Luckily opportunity beckoned nearby at BGSU where she taught internationally oriented business courses, especially in the executive MBA program. Her research and interest in the case study method resulted in professional presentations at conferences in Ireland, Korea, and Germany among others. She led groups of students to Hungary and the Soviet Union. She also became active in Toledo Sister Cities International, leading and participating in trips to Lebanon, Tanzania, Botswana and Zambia. She was Volunteer Chairperson when TSCI hosted the Sister Cities International Annual Conference in 2002 attended by 600 participants. At a Woman's Day event at the Inverness Club in 2008, she was recognized as the Ohio International Woman of the Year. Chris served several terms as TSCI treasurer and eventually became its president in 2012.

Upon her retirement from teaching after 2000, visits to her house on the Swedish west coast became an annual pilgrimage with family and friends joining us frequently. Chris especially enjoyed the tours in southern Africa that Dick organized for groups of retirees. Over the years we diversified our destinations, including sister Bea's B&B in Tobago, an excursion through Japan, rediscovery of Chile and a visit to our sister city, Toledo, Spain. She flourished on our many Windstar cruises in areas as different as Iceland,

Indonesia, the Canary Islands, Oman and through the Aleutian Islands from Japan to Alaska. She especially loved our Canadian Thanksgiving visits to her niece Sarah near Ottawa where we celebrated with sister Bea and her husband Win.

What commanded her attention in the past decade was participation in Maumee Rotary and her roles on the Board of the D.O.V.E. Fund. She became fascinated by the values and activities of that organization, founded by Vietnam veterans, to improve the lives of the Vietnamese people and especially children. She prepared a history detailing its achievements and honoring the people who made D.O.V.E. projects possible through their hard work. She had hoped to accompany the group traveling to Vietnam to view the progress of those projects.

Most important of all, Chris was totally committed to her families here and in Sweden. She adored her five grandchildren, Matthew, Jonathan, Holly, Justin and Greta. She was proud of the many achievements of her sons, Philip and Carl, and their respective spouses, Melissa and Denise. She loved her lifelong relationship with her sister, Bea Sargent, and husband, Win, and with their children and grandchildren. She cherished our long-term relationship with our close friend, Hydie Ralston, and with countless other friends who supported her over the years and especially at the end. In Sweden, she remained especially close to Gunnar Ahlstrom and Kisse Sjölander, her much loved foster brother and sister, but those relationships also extended to their spouses, children and grandchildren. She valued her deep friendships with so many others in Sweden that mentioning some would wrongly exclude others.

Chris warded off B cell lymphoma for 19 years but suffered devastating side effects from a chemo drug that led to multiple systemic issues. However, she remained bright and optimistic until just before her death. She died peacefully

with her husband, Dick, at her side on September 9, their 56th wedding anniversary.

A visitation celebrating her life will be held from 2-5 P.M. on Sunday, November 5, 2023 at Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Road. In lieu of flowers, donations in Chris' memory should be given to the D.O.V.E. Fund, the Toledo Symphony or the Ohio Living Foundation: Swan Creek. Please leave a condolence message for the family at [CoyleFuneralHome.com](http://CoyleFuneralHome.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 5. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home  
1770 S. Reynolds Road  
Toledo, OH 43614

# Tribute Wall

CV

“ 2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



**COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS** - November 06, 2023 at 12:32 PM

SO

*Thank you Chris for many years of friendship! It has been a delight to meet you. / Sonja and Curt at the farm close to your Swedish house*

**Sonja** - July 17, 2024 at 04:56 PM

AK

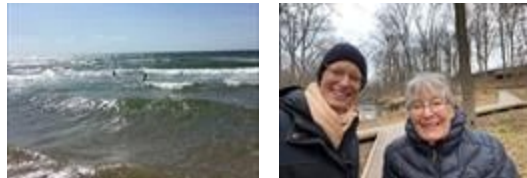
“ *Anna Kimming lit a candle in memory of Christine Weisfelder*



**Anna Kimming** - November 05, 2023 at 04:22 AM

KF

“ It was pleasure getting to know you! I didn't know you very long but I did feel your kind sprit and your loving and curious personality. Thanks for all the help and inspiration - showing first hand how one person can really make a difference to many people!  
Kristin

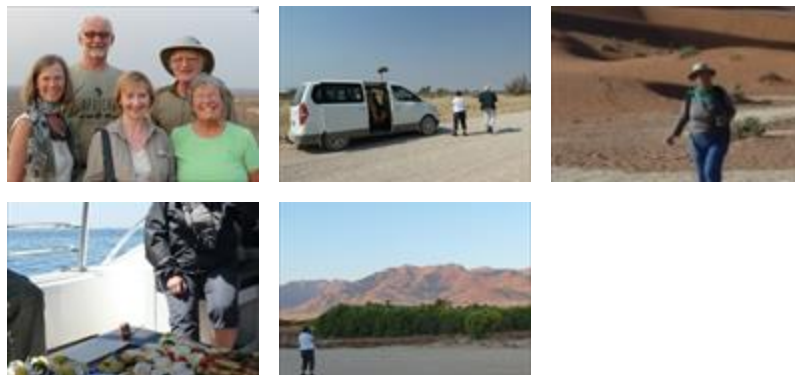


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**Kristin Forsberg** - November 03, 2023 at 09:53 AM

AN

“ 17 files added to the album Swedish memories



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**Anna** - October 16, 2023 at 04:24 PM

AN

“ Dear Dick, Phil and Carl with families,



*Back in 1969 when I was an exchange student in the Stitt family in Memphis, Tennessee, I met Catherine Johansson, Chris mother. We had very interesting talks and she gave me her book. Catherine was the sister of my fantastic American mother Marjorie Stitt.*

*I'm so grateful that Chris called me in Sweden, I think it was in 1997 the first time, when she was in the family house in SärDAL. We never met in the US but now we met in SärDAL and I got her life story. We drove around the area, she told us about life when she was young and all dear connections that she had in Sweden. We also visited the cemetery.*

*When Chris called we lived 200 kilometres from SärDAL and after that we met almost every summer either in our town, Växjö, or in SärDAL.*

*In 2010 we had a great week in Toledo after your wedding, Carl and Denise. We have so many great memories from the wedding and from this tour in your country. One is an early morning walk with friends of Chris.*

*In 2011 my husband Kenneth and I got the opportunity to go on a tour to Namibia with Chris, Dick and their friend Ellie. In 15 days we had such a good time together. The nature, all the animals, the people, and the food – everything was so well planned and organized by Dick and we used our cameras the whole time. We appreciate our discussions and all sharing of experiences from life. Chris interest in so many things, her ability to start talking to everybody (almost) that we met, taught us more about the situation in Namibia than we expected when we planned the trip. Nothing was too hard to do for her – everything was possible. And in Vingerklipp she showed how to take a picture through Heaven's Gate! When it didn't work sitting down , she lay down...*

*Even if we know that the life in the family house at the Swedish west coast had come to an end, we looked forward meeting you again in Stockholm (where we now live).*

*Chris will be remembered as a good and positive person. Open-minded, interested in everything and solution oriented.*

*We treasure our friendship and we will miss our meetings.*

*Anna and Kenneth Kimming*

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**Anna** - October 16, 2023 at 04:01 PM

DA

“ *Chris was a really interesting person and so easy to talk with. I'm glad I got a chance to know her. I will miss her very much.*

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**Dave** - September 20, 2023 at 02:09 PM

EM

“ *Aunt Chris will be so very missed. For me, her superpower was inviting conversation. In any conversation, she was present- always and absolutely fully present. I smile as I think of her and how she would lean in and simply ask. Ask questions that made it so very clear that the smallest of details exchanged in past conversations were not only remembered but were reflected upon. And as she engaged, the space between felt protected from distraction. I have no doubt that she gave her full self to so many who read this news with such sadness. I will miss her full self and when I miss her, I will also smile. She wouldn't have it any other way. xo*

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**Emily** - September 18, 2023 at 12:20 PM

RO

“ Please accept my heartfelt sympathy and prayer on Christine's death. I remember her so well; she and Richard were so much a part of our school and my life. I regret I am unable to be with you on November 5; it is the afternoon of our school Open House. Christine and all the family, especially Dick, are in my prayer.

Rev. Ronald Olszewski - September 18, 2023 at 09:10 AM

GA

“ GUNNAR Ahlström lit a candle in memory of Christine Weisfelder



GUNNAR Ahlström - September 18, 2023 at 03:36 AM

BM

“ Boel Mattsson lit a candle in memory of Christine Weisfelder



Boel Mattsson - September 17, 2023 at 08:25 AM

SM

Dear Dick, Phil, Carl and Families, I'm so sad for your loss! Throughout her illustrious life Chris remained a down-to-earth Wife, Mother, Grandmother and Friend. She had a way of making you feel that you just saw her yesterday regardless of the gaps in our lives. We used to catch up in the 10 minutes between our pilates sessions and in the lunches with "swimming" friends. I treasure our friendship over the years including GTAC swim meets and SFS water polo meets. I also loved her wonderful email letters from Sweden telling us about her life there and the Swedish culture. Please accept my condolences! Sally Miedler

sally miedler - September 17, 2023 at 11:30 AM

WK

*Dear Dick, Phil, Carl and families. I wish I could have met her. I see the look in the eyes of people around me, and hear the love in their voices as they remember her. She was obviously a blessing to those whose lives she touched, and I wish she had touched mine. May you find peace and comfort in the treasure of your time together...Have a blessed day...Bill Knegendorf, Vice president Programs, Toledo Sister Cities International Serving Northwest Ohio.*

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**William Knegendorf** - September 17, 2023 at 08:18 PM