



Bonita Marie Sanchez

October 18, 1947 - May 25, 2025

Albany, NY-Bonita Marie Sanchez passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 25th, 2025, at Albany Medical Center Hospital. Born in Chicago, Illinois on October 18th, 1947, Bonita was preceded in death by her husband, William J. Silverman, parents Boniface and Mary Sanchez, brother Joe Sanchez. Surviving Bonita are sisters Gloria Lindahl, Michelle Sanchez, Kelly Michael, Valerie Sanchez Lucco, Lisa Sanchez and brothers Duane Kelly, Alan Kelly, and her son Willie Sanchez.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Bonita's family Friday, June 6, 2025 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm at McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen Street, Albany, NY 12206. A Prayer Service will begin at 6:00 pm. Please enter the funeral home from the rear parking lot entrance only.

Bonita graduated from Illinois Wesleyan with her bachelor's degree. Later, she attended the University at Albany and obtained her master's degree in social work. Early in her professional career Bonita made her mark working with those less privileged and later helped to shape the next generation of social workers through her employment at Siena College and for over 25 years at the University at Albany School of Social Work as the field coordinator for the graduate social work program. After her retirement she stayed active with the social work graduate program by becoming a student liaison because working with students and helping them learn is what she really loved to do. She also

served as treasurer for the NYS chapter of the National Association Social Workers, was on the board of Living Resources, and was president of the Whitehall Station Homeowners Association.

She enjoyed going to the symphony, attending plays at the capital rep or proctors, bowling, eating out with friends and family, and watching movies, especially when the Oscars were approaching, Bonita would make sure to watch every nominated movie so she could make sure they got the voting right. However, what she enjoyed most was not the activities she participated in but the people who were part of her life. Bonita could light up a room with her smile, make a joke even funnier with her laugh, and she had an uncanny ability to make every person in her life feel special, loved, and at ease when things got rough because she was the calm in the storm, dedicated to helping anyone in any way that she could. Her spirit will live on in so many people and she will be sorely missed but never forgotten.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Living Resources Foundation at 300 Washington Avenue Ext. Albany, NY 12203-7303.

To leave a message for the family please visit www.McveighFuneralHome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 6. 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.
208 N Allen St
Albany, NY 12206
(518) 489-0188
info@mcveighfuneralhome.com
<http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com>

Service

JUN 6. 6:00 PM (ET)

McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.
208 N Allen St
Albany, NY 12206
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Tribute Wall

TH

“ I initially knew Bonita when I was in social work graduate school; I interacted with her as both a student and for my graduate assistantship job. After graduating I continued to interact with her both professionally as a field instructor and personally on social media. She was always so pleasant to interact with and she plays a role in so many positive memories in my early career and beyond. She will absolutely be missed!

Tyleia H - June 06, 2025 at 12:28 PM

ML

“ Bonita was my corner person during the challenges I faced in my MSW and PhD programs at UAlbany. I still remember visiting her office on the first floor to share my struggles. Her wisdom shaped my path, and her encouragement gave me strength. She also introduced me to American culture—I'll never forget my first Thanksgiving dinner with her and her family at her home. Thank you for everything, Bonita. I will carry your lessons with me always.
Mingun Lee

Mingun Lee - June 06, 2025 at 11:38 AM

MO

“ Mingun & Jinhwa Lee from Athens, Ohio purchased the Pink Potpourri Bouquet for the family of Bonita Marie Sanchez.



Mingun & Jinhwa Lee from Athens, Ohio - June 06, 2025 at 11:30 AM

LM

“ Bonita knew EVERYONE and not only knew everyone but knew something meaningful about them. She always had time for a kind word or a funny antidote. She also loved and filled her life with things that brought her joy - like a nice pen! Her contributions to the social work community here in the Capital Region are boundless. And I can never thank her enough.
Linda Mertz

Linda K Mertz - June 06, 2025 at 09:02 AM

VB

“ Voorheesville Soccer Boosters purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Bonita Marie Sanchez.



Voorheesville Soccer Boosters - June 06, 2025 at 08:57 AM

VB

“ Voorheesville Soccer Boosters planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bonita Marie Sanchez.

Voorheesville Soccer Boosters - June 06, 2025 at 08:57 AM

SC

“ I’ve known Bonita prior to 1990 and when I was an MSW student at SUNYA from 1990-1992.

I took a Developmental Disabilities class that she taught actually earlier than 1990 when I took a few courses before I decided to apply for the MSW program. The class was so interesting and inspiring. Plus she was very supportive of both of my SW internships as she was so encouraging throughout. We both kept in touch intermittently throughout the years. I will miss her kindness and her incredible smile! God Bless Bonita. RIP. You will be forever remembered.

Susan Cote-Burke - June 05, 2025 at 10:14 PM

JT

“ I had the privilege of working with Bonita for over twenty years as she worked in the capacity as a field liaison at the School of Social Work at SUNYA. Her love for her work, compassion and professional commitment toward master level social work students will always be remembered. May her memory be a blessing.

Janice Thompson

Janice Thompson - June 05, 2025 at 06:54 PM

DA

“ I worked with Bonita at UAlbany and my entire world was made richer because of her kindness and compassion. My condolences.

DawnMarie - June 04, 2025 at 09:18 PM

NC

“ Bonita was a wonderful colleague with incredible insight tempered with humor and caring. Nancy Claiborne

Nancy Claiborne - June 04, 2025 at 03:02 PM

SR

“ Sending love & light to the Sanchez family--Bonita will always be in our hearts '09, '10

Shavina (Shay) Richardson - June 04, 2025 at 12:47 PM

TD

“ Bonita and Bill were my friends from my earliest days working with the developmentally disabled. Bonita was a uniquely warm and caring person who I always enjoyed spending time with. Deepest sympathies to Willie and family and Bonita I wish you a peaceful sleep. You will be missed. Tobie Dorn

Tobie Dorn - June 04, 2025 at 12:16 PM

JP

“ Bonita was an incredibly kind and loving person, a fantastic social worker, and a loyal friend. May her memory be a blessing to all those who knew her

Jonathan Pollack - June 03, 2025 at 08:50 PM

BF

“ Bonita and I knew each other early in our careers. She, Bill and I lived together in Guilderland. She later worked with me at the Early Childhood Education Center. I always enjoyed her intelligence, friendship and compassion for others. It was great to know her. Rest in Peace Bonita
Bettye Fedor

Bettye Fedor - June 03, 2025 at 04:15 PM



“ *Bonita will be missed dearly. I are so grateful she was in my life. I will miss her kindness, sense of humor, and love! My condolences to Willie and everyone who was touched by this magnificent woman.*
~ Brian Freidenberg

Brian Freidenberg - June 03, 2025 at 04:04 PM



“ *I remember Bonita fondly from my time as an MSW student at Albany from 1992-1994. Sending deepest condolences to all whose lives she touched.*

Linda Agajanian Hill

Linda Hill - June 03, 2025 at 03:58 PM



“ *Bonita, as director of the field office at the School of Social Welfare, oversaw the field educations of three social workers in my family spanning two generations. We are indebted to her for her leadership and her passion for educating students. I will also personally miss catching up with her from time to time at Albany Symphony concerts. Thank you for your service, Bonita!!*

Young Do - June 03, 2025 at 02:58 PM



“ *Willie,*
Joe and I are so sorry to learn of your Mother's passing. We have so many memories of working together on the Bethlehem Soccer Club. She worked tirelessly for all the kids. You will be in our prayers. Denise and Joe Gisotti

Denise Gisotti - June 03, 2025 at 11:06 AM

JH

“ *Bonita was the first colleague I met when she and I began working at the School of Social Welfare in 1984. She was delightful then and continued to be over the 40+ years I knew her. Bonita was a special person, always welcoming and giving a sense of grounding and well-being to those in her presence. She will be missed and remembered fondly by the many whose lives she enriched.*

Jan Hagen - June 03, 2025 at 09:13 AM



“ *It is so sad for Willie and the social work community to lose Bonita. As a long time liaison for the School to field instructors, I depended on Bonita's assessments of student issues in field. I also appreciated her commitment to and empathy for both students and field instructors and her integrity and rigor in helping to maintain standards for the profession of social work. Working with Bonita as a colleague was also a very positive experience. .She and I had so many productive collaborations; she represented the best of our profession and was a "mensch" as well. Julie Abramson*

Julie Abramson - June 02, 2025 at 08:20 PM

FF

“ *From the Lindahl and Lopez Families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bonita Marie Sanchez.*

From the Lindahl and Lopez Families - June 02, 2025 at 05:44 PM

FF

“ From the Lindahl and Lopez Families purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Bonita Marie Sanchez.



From the Lindahl and Lopez Families - June 02, 2025 at 05:44 PM

CR

“ A CHANGE AGENT, A CATALYST, A WOMAN of CHARACTER, A ROLE MODEL, A ONE-OF-A-KIND SOUL! My life changed for the better when I met Bonita. Her name fits her so well as she was immeasurably beautiful inside and out. The world is better because of the impact she made in people's life and the trickle effect it had in society as a whole. She will forever be part of my life! THE LEGACY she is leaving is invaluable and alive for generations to come. Gracias Bonita por el llamado incondicional a servir y a bendecir todos los que tuvimos el placer de haberte conocido y encontrarnos en el camino. Dios bendiga a la familia - oramos por fortaleza y paz!

Claritza Reyes-Malave - June 02, 2025 at 04:37 PM

TM

Bonita oversaw many field placements of mine over the years. She often gave me struggling students because she saw their potential as well as my own in helping them find their way. She seemed to always be smiling. She is also the person who taught me that email contacts could replace the contents of a rolodex back when computers were new. That was a long time ago!

I imagine the angels welcomed her with open arms.

Tracey Martin - June 02, 2025 at 07:05 PM

SW

Wille –

I have so many warm memories of your mother but the most important one is how very proud she was of you. She had an absolutely incredible internal compass that helped her quickly find the heart of any situation. Then -she worked toward the solution with such beautiful grace and caring. I will never, never forget her. And I know she will always be with you.

starr

Starr Wood - June 05, 2025 at 04:32 PM



I first met Bonita when we served together on the Board of NASW-NYS, and we quickly became friends. She was always smiling , calm, insightful , and up to any challenge....and we just had so much fun together through it all. Her smile held you close. She was the absolute best social worker and human being. Farewell dear friend, I will miss you. Willie, she never stopped talking about you. May her memory be a blessing.

Marcia Levy - June 12, 2025 at 10:37 PM

CS

“ Willie-

I am so incredibly sorry for your loss. Knowing that you were so blessed to have such a wonderful relationship with your mom doesn't bring comfort right now but I pray it brings you years of comfort in the future. My thoughts and prayers surround you and your family and I wish you strength in the difficult days to come. If you need a friend who understands, I am here.

Colleen Scott (Economides)

colleen scott - June 02, 2025 at 03:13 PM

SD

Bonita and I were friends at Argo high school and we double dated to the senior prom held at McCormick Place in Chicago. We had many fun memories during the 1960's. I was so sad to hear of her passing and wish her family my deepest condolences.

Susan Budde Duron - September 18, 2025 at 02:30 AM