



Carol Ann Scharf

December 25, 1940 - February 28, 2026

Carol Ann (Crook) Scharf was born December 25, 1940, in Logansport, IN, daughter of Lucille (Clancy) and Myron Crook. She died February 28, 2026, in Fort Collins, CO, where she had made her home since 1971. Carol spent her school-age years in Longview, Washington, where she was a student, musician, and student government leader. She was Queen of the May, Girls Club President, and Dance Band Pianist.

Music was Carol's first language. As an accomplished pianist, she played the Classical and Baroque canon, Jazz, Broadway musical scores, and Pop. She loved it all. Carol earned a BA in Music at Colorado State University in 1976. She did her student teaching at Stove Prairie School, substituted at Timnath Elementary, and assumed her position as Music Teacher at Tavelli Elementary in 1978. Her Christmas and Spring Music Concerts were joyous events for students, staff, and parents.

Carol was an intuitive naturalist who loved the sights, sounds, smells, and textures of the natural world. She loved people deeply and could not bear an unkind word. She attenuated sorrow and amplified joy. Carol was quick to smile, with blue eyes that sparkled, and a hug that healed. Quite simply a beautiful person.

Carol was at heart a homemaker. She was happiest at home with her family.

She loved to play her piano, cook, sew, garden, and putter contentedly around her house. She was born to be a mother and a grammy. She raised her children to understand that family is life's most important asset. She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Louis, her children Greg Scharf (Margaret), Heidi Scharf Donovan (Sam), grandchildren Nathalie Scharf Crawford (Cody), Caley Donovan, and Max Scharf, great-grandchildren Ellison and Malcolm Crawford, and her dog little darlin' Suzy-Q.

Carol's favorite nonprofits were Audubon Society, World Wildlife Fund, Food Bank of Larimer County, and NOCO Humane.

Tribute Wall

WF

“ Carol and I were in the same CSU Music Ed student block in the mid 1970s. We became close friends and my late wife Janet and I were dinner guests on several occasions at Scharf's home on West Oak. I accompanied several of Carol's programs at Tavelli in the mid-70s, which was always a great experience both rehearsing and performance. Although I had lost touch with her since moving to California in 2004, I'll never forget her or the great times and performances we had. RIP my dear. Thanks for the memories.

Wendell Frey - April 14 at 09:44 PM

RP

“ I knew Carol for nearly all of my adult life and never in that time met anyone whose presence brought such an unresistable and joyous uplift in human spirit. Thanks, Carol, for that. Unmatched.

Rex Page - March 11 at 10:17 AM

AH

“ My family (wife Inger, kids Sarah and Isak, and myself) met on several occasions with Carol when I spent a wonderful sabbatical year at CSU in 2001/2002 working with Louis. Later, we met in Tromsø, Norway, when Carol and Louis stayed with us while on voyage with the Coastal Steamer ("Hurtigruten") along the Norwegian coast. I also met Carol several times later while visiting Fort Collins, and on numerous conference travels around the world.

She was a genuinely warm, social, and intelligent human being. Our kids loved her, and we cherished every moment we spent together with Carol and Louis. However, I don't think she approved of our old sub-par piano in Tromsø, and she was of course absolutely right. It did definitely not meet her high musical standards!

We will forever cherish our fond memories of Carol, and we extend our condolences to Louis and the rest of the Scharf clan.

Alfred Hanssen - March 10 at 02:54 PM

PS

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Carol a few times when visiting Louis and Carol at their home for dinner. She struck me as a genuinely kind and gracious person, and it was clear how much she loved and cared for her family. I feel fortunate to have met her.

My heartfelt condolences to Louis and the entire family.

Peter Schreier - March 09 at 01:48 PM

BV

“ I first met Carol around 1985 when she and Louis had CU graduate students and spouses over to their home for a cookout. Since then my wife Kathy and our three children have had the pleasure of her company on many occasions when visiting Fort Collins. Carol was exceptionally warm and kind, and made everyone feel welcome. She made our children feel loved and special. Kathy and I are grateful to have known her.

Kathy and I extend our sympathies to Louis, Greg, Heidi, the grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Barry Van Veen

Barry Van Veen - March 08 at 09:53 PM

WM

“ I carpooled with Carol and Mary Ann Custer to Tavelli Elementary where we all taught. She was a great music teacher. Her programs were terrific and kids at Tavelli looked forward to music class. Our rides always had laughter as we recounted the funny things that kids said and did.

My deepest sympathies to Louis, Greg and Heidi.

Take care!

Bill Miles

William J. Miles - March 08 at 03:29 PM

IS

“ I met Carol when I was visiting Louis at CSU in 2015. She was a lovely, kind woman who welcomed my family and me into her home. I especially remember a visit to her retreat in Poudre Canyon, where we discovered what a great cook and person she was. That is how we will remember her. One of those people who makes the world a better place.

Ignacio Santamaria - March 08 at 01:01 PM

LG

“ Carol was one of the kindest, sweetest and genuine persons, I’ve encountered in my 75 years. One of the best things about marrying Tom Grip was that he brought Carol and Louis into my life. She was a treasure and will be greatly missed.

Liliana Grip - March 07 at 05:13 PM

MA

“ Mahmood Azimi lit a candle in memory of Carol Ann Scharf



Mahmood Azimi - March 07 at 04:13 PM

MA

I will never forget her sweet smile and warm hugs whenever I visited them. I wish our world was full of people like Carol Scharf. It would have been a peaceful and wonderful place to live with love and respect. I miss you very much.

Mahmood Azimi - March 07 at 04:15 PM

EW

“ I grew up in the same neighborhood with the Scharfs and our families often socialized together. Carol was always so warm and inviting that she made you feel like the most important person in the world. The world lost a wonderful person.

Erik Wilmsen - March 04 at 08:01 PM

PS

“ I met Carol through Heidi on a trip to England and she made her first impression on me there. I was fortunate enough to see her from time to time when she would visit Pittsburgh. Her smile was infectious, her laughter like a salve, and her genuine nature a true gift. She made her part of the world a much better place. My love to her family, Paula Sherwood

Paula Sherwood - March 02 at 05:39 PM

YJ

“ I will always remember how Carol greeted me with such a bright smile. She was so warm and sweet to me, and I feel grateful to have known her. I will miss her very much.

Young Ji - March 02 at 05:20 PM