



## Mrs. Martha Anne Sherman

January 14, 1925 - January 16, 2016

Born in Smithfield, North Carolina on January 14, 1925, Martha Anne Crutchfield Sherman died peacefully during the night of January 16, 2016. Just two nights before, she had celebrated her 91st birthday with champagne, feted by her family: her daughter Denise, her son Roger and his wife Margie, her deeply loved grandchildren Grant and Anna and Anna's boyfriend Rob. Martha Anne was the daughter of the late Angus L. Crutchfield and Anne Hasseltine Crutchfield (nee Greene), and the impish and most likely imperious older sister to Carolyn Padlog and Allen Crutchfield.

Spending her early childhood on the banks of the Tappahanock River in Virginia, she became a practicing artist at age 9, moving on to oil painting at 11. She graduated from Averett College and moved to New York City to seek her fortune. During her short time there, she became good friends with Janet Sherman. After introducing Janet to her cousin Billy Hart, Janet returned the favor and introduced Martha Anne to Janet's brother Minot. Both couples married, creating children, who, to their amusement, were both first and second cousins.

After moving from New York the family moved to Maryland, where Martha Anne became active in local theatre. She was one of the original members of the Baltimore Actors' Theatre, working as production manager, scene painter and set designer. After she and Minot divorced, she worked in public relations and recruitment for the Campfire Girls. Bossy independence being a family trait shared by both the Shermans and the Crutchfields, Martha Anne left the

structured employment of Campfire and created Responsive Learning Center Inc with her close friend Harriett Anderson. In that environment as a reading teacher, Martha Anne became a mentor to both children and adults, guiding some of them into better reading and study habits, and guiding some from illiteracy into literacy. She was magical with children, and remained very close with many of her students and their families. When she retired, she enjoyed traveling, and in her 80's made a year long cross-country road trip (becoming outraged at the plight of the California redwoods) with her friend Harriett. Besides her children and grandchildren, Martha Anne is survived by her brother and sister, her much loved nieces Marsha Padlog and Susan Thayer and Jane Sherman, nephews Allen Jay Crutchfield, Malcolm, Alden and Duncan Hart, and her cousin Nancy Boyle.

A memorial service will be held at 2.00 PM on Sunday, January 31, at the First Presbyterian Church of Bel Air, 224 N. Main St, Bel Air, MD 21014. Donations may be made to the Save the Redwoods League, 111 Sutter St. fl. 11, San Francisco CA 94194-4541. (415) 362-2352 [info@savetheredwoods.org](mailto:info@savetheredwoods.org) [www.savetheredwoods.org](http://www.savetheredwoods.org)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 31. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church of Bel Air  
224 N. Main Street  
Bel Air, MD 21014