



Shirley Mushinsky

December 13, 1933 - December 30, 2011

Obituary of Shirley Mushinsky Shirley Mushinsky, 78, died Friday, Dec. 30, 2011 at Munroe Community Medical Center, Ocala, FL from complications of lung disease. Shirley was born Dec. 13, 1933 to Stephen J. and Elizabeth A. Gargaly in Wallingford, CT., where she was raised. She moved to Mystic, CT for most of her adult life where she was a librarian and aide in the Stonington school system. Upon retirement, she became a snowbird, settling year round in Ocala in 2001. Two life-long passions were music and reading. Blessed with a beautiful soprano voice, she sang with many choirs and choruses, winning an individual Connecticut All State Chorus award. Her love of reading was shared with both her children and hundreds of youngsters during years working in schools and volunteering at libraries. She read every children's book in "her" library, giving her a wealth of knowledge in many subjects. Raising a son and four daughters close in age was not easy, yet she loved being a mother. With four daughters, Shirley became an accomplished seamstress, sewing clothing that was always perfect for the occasion and for which she and her daughters were justifiably proud. Shirley taught her children well, instilling in them strong values. Respect, honesty and integrity, fairness and open-mindedness are all part of her legacy, not just for her own children, but for many others whom she mentored. Shirley loved entertaining and companionship. A bond in relationships with people of any age was games, whether it be sports, board games, cards or puzzles. She will be remembered by many for large summer parties, Mystic Seaport Carol Sing

open houses and parties in Ocala, all with great food, drink and a welcoming, warm atmosphere. In her golden years, Shirley viewed age as a badge of honor, including the privilege of being more outspoken. Always a good debater, in later years her strong opinions and sharp mind made her quite the conversationalist. Survivors include her daughters and spouses, Audrey J. Mushinsky of East Lyme, CT Susan E. (David) Rogan of Saratoga, CA. Ruth A. (Brian) Mushinsky-Dirlam, of Gales Ferry, CT, and Elizabeth A. (John) Pisaretz of Bridgeport, CT and their father, Robert F. Mushinsky of Mystic; sister, Joan Gattilia of Wallingford and six grandchildren (Stephanie, Christopher, Andrew, Jesse, Sunshine and Hannah) who affectionately called her Gramma Charlie. She was predeceased by her parents, sister, Elizabeth Gerosa, and beloved son, David S. Mushinsky. The family would like to acknowledge with sincerest gratitude all her friends and professionals who helped both her and her family especially during recent years of declining health. At Shirley's request, there will be no services. She was a charitable person and gave generously to causes she supported. The family requests that donations in her honor be made to: The Salvation Army PO Box 3628 Ocala FL 34478; Mystic & Noank Library 40 Library St. Mystic, CT 06355, or Leslie E. Buck Memorial Fund, c/o Deans Mill School 5 Deans Mill Road Stonington CT 06378.