



## Shirley A. Wagner

October 24, 1947 - May 7, 2020

Dateline Indianapolis, Indiana

Shirley A. Wagner, age 72, of Indianapolis, Indiana, passed away at 9:35 a.m. on Thursday, May 7, 2020 at home.

Shirley was born on October 24, 1947, in St. Anthony, Indiana, to Urban and Anna Mae (Schmitt) Wagner.

She worked in the jewelry industry for over 50 years. Her career began at Rochester Department Store in Jasper, Indiana, and then she worked for Newman's Diamond Center for 25 years, Olinger Diamond Center for 10 years, and Reis Nichols in Indianapolis for 18 1/2 years, retiring in 2018.

Shirley was an avid traveler of the world, loved working out with friends and going out to dinner, and enjoyed customer parties and her clientele.

Surviving are her mother, Anna Mae Wagner, Jasper, IN, four sisters, Marie Berry (Mike) Dolletzki, Rosalie Hartwick, both of Jasper, IN, Ruth Wagner, Ferdinand, IN, Mary (Terry) Birk, Jasper, IN, seven brothers, Gary (Marcia) Wagner, Don (Joni) Wagner, Paul Wagner, all of Jasper, IN, Bernard (Rita) Wagner, Roman (Sheila) Wagner, both of St. Anthony, IN, Chuck (Shari) Wagner, and Amos Wagner, both of Jasper, IN, 20 nieces and nephews, 3 step nieces and nephews, 40 great nieces and nephews (with one on the way), 12 step great nieces and nephews, two step great-great nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death is her father, Urban Wagner.

Private funeral services will be held at the Becher-Kluesner Downtown Chapel in Jasper, IN.

In lieu of flowers, Shirley would appreciate donations to be made to the Riley Children's

Hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Online condolences may be made at [www.becherkluesner.com](http://www.becherkluesner.com).

# Comments

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“ Shirley, you were part of my life from 1st grade: my very first friend, and through high school. We shared a seat on the school bus for 12 years, We had a lot in common since we were both the eldest of big families. As we grew older our lives went separate ways, but i knew you were still a friend I could always depend upon. I always admired and loved your beautiful smile and your energy, but most of all your genuine friendship.  
I miss you Old Friend,  
Margie Jeffries

Margie Jeffries - May 28 at 09:10 AM

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“ A beautiful warm smile. A twinkle in her eye. Happy. Kind and caring. Always happy to see us. Patient. Listening. Understanding. Always doing what is right...always!  
Total trust.  
Shirley will be missed so much, and we were so blessed while we had her, in Jasper and in Indianapolis. May she enjoy the rewards she has so graciously earned.  
  
Mike and Janet Thyen

Mike and Janet Thyen - May 18 at 09:58 PM

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“ What a unique and special woman!! I will always fondly remember Shirley for her boundless energy and enthusiasm, eternal optimism, fierce devotion/love of the jewelry industry, passion for her customers, her exceptional work ethic . . . and of course, her delicious coffee cake.

Shirley was a rare, irreplaceable, precious gem, and it was a true blessing to have her for so long as a valued member of the Reis-Nichols team. It was my honor and privilege to have worked with Shirley . . . where we weathered together the good times, the challenging times, many laughs and some tears for over 18 years!

While it is our loss here on earth not to have Shirley with us any longer, heaven can now boast of gaining one very, very special angel!

Cindy Nichols - May 15 at 10:54 AM

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“ Please accept our condolences on the passing of Shirley. My husband and I had many dealings with her at Reis-Nichols. Shirley was always so friendly and gracious and a beautiful lady inside and out. We have missed her since she retired and will

now think of her often. Our thoughts and prayers to her family.  
Kay and Larry Nichols

**Kay and Larry Nichols** - May 11 at 03:45 PM

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“ To Shirley's family,  
I'm sorry for your loss! I know Shirley touched many lives! I worked with Shirley for over five years at Newman's Diamond Center. She was my manager and I was a young teenager working my first job. She was such a great example of not only teaching me about a good work ethic such as never be standing around not doing something, if nothing else clean the display cases, straighten rings, sweep the floor, etc. She was an energetic, happy, beautiful person and I'm glad to see through others comments, that she didn't lose that! I was just thinking about her last week and wondering how she was doing! I wish I had taken the time to try to locate her and let her know how much she meant to me and how much I appreciated knowing her and working with her! I wish you eternal peace Shirley; I will never forget you!

Cathie Bolden Fromme

**Cathie Fromme** - May 11 at 01:55 PM

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“ Always loved talking to Shirley at Rochesters and Newmans. She was so sweet! And always so friendly and cheerful. My sympathy to the entire family.

**Shelley Otto** - May 11 at 12:18 PM

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“ To all  
So sorry for your loss. I know Shirley was a beloved sister and sister in law to you.  
You have our sympathy

**Karen and Mark Beckman** - May 11 at 11:16 AM

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“ Thank you everyone for your kind words. I really appreciate it.

**Rosalie Hartwick** - May 11 at 09:24 AM

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“ Your family has our sympathy. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Shirley was a great lovable person.

Uncle Butch and Aunt Betty Schmitt

**Butch and Betty Schmitt** - May 10 at 01:05 PM

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“ Wagner Family,

You have our sympathy. Shirley was a real "jewel" . I remember her for her great attitude towards life and the energy she had . She was always so friendly and a joy to talk to, even if it has been a few years .

Myron, Shelly, Natalie and Nathan Schmitt

**Myron U Schmitt** - May 10 at 12:58 PM

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“ Shirley Wagner, was a great woman that really mentored me when she hired me at Reis-Nichols. She reminded me of my old defensive coordinator Mr.Montgomery, you had to listen to what they said and not how they said it. If you did, you would make lots of sales and plays because they broke down the strategy in the most simple way. She had more energy than anyone half her age. She would take care of you or discipline you just like your mom because she wanted the most out of you. Thank you for always pushing me to do better and thanking me for my hard work. Shirley was as tough as nails with a good heart to help/ welcome anyone. We will miss you Shirley but we know you're pain free now.

**Aaron Bennett** - May 09 at 09:40 PM

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“ To all Shirley's family and Aunt Anna Mae, you have our sympathy. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Love and hugs to all. Your cousin Rosemary Schmitt Heim and Ken.



**Rosemary Schmitt Heim** - May 09 at 09:35 PM



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“ I am so sorry for this news. I always liked Shirley, ever since our families connected thru Gary and Marcia. The older I got, the more I thought I was a lot like Shirley. I'm sure she will be terribly missed. Prayers of comfort for all the family

Rachel "Lee" Clark - May 09 at 12:27 PM

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“ Shirley Wagner was one of my closest friends at Reis Nichols. She was always there for me whether I needed to cry, vent, or laugh. We had many fun dinners together at Seasons 52, and I loved listening to all her exciting life and love stories. We opened up to each other on such a personal level. My last text to her was on April 30th, reaching out to tell her I was thinking about her. My heart is so sad. I will always cherish my friendship with Shirley. Heaven is so lucky to gain such a special angel. RIP Shirley, I love you.



Valerie Sequeira - May 09 at 12:14 PM

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“ My dear friend Shirley, I will miss you so much. We have been friends for over 55 years, and never lost touch. We had so many fun times over the years. I will never forget you. God Bless the family and you have my deepest sympathy. Love Sandy Dearing Norris



Sandra Norris - May 09 at 10:42 AM

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“ I've met Shirley a few times over the past several years as she works with my sister-in-law Therese at Reis-Nichols. She has been to my house more than once for bridal and baby showers. Shirley was such a warm and fun person to be around. I'm sure she will be deeply missed.

Sara Reifenberg - May 09 at 10:15 AM



“ Shirley was one of the great matriarchs of Reis-Nichols. She had more energy and vitality than the entire staff put together. As a mentor she was tough and held the highest of standards, which made us all better people. Shirley loved to laugh, was a great listener and always ready to have a good time, rarely refusing an invitation. She was the sunshine and energy at every event. We'll always be grateful for her involvement in bringing up our daughter and nephew and countless other young people in the jewelry business. Shirley treated them all as if they were her own. Shirley will be greatly missed but will never be forgotten. May we continue the great work she began. We trust she is in heaven laughing and dancing on the streets of gold!

**Lori Nichols** - May 09 at 09:35 AM

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“ RIP Shirley! As cousins in a crew of many, we did not see each other very often but you were always pleasant & smiling! Praying God's blessings on your Wagner family as they all deal with this sadness. Love & hugs to all!

**Betty Schmitt Huelsman** - May 09 at 09:16 AM

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“ Shirley was a fun loving and energetic person!! She brightened every room she walked into. The world is a better place because of her. You'll be deeply missed.



**Mandy Souers** - May 09 at 09:14 AM

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“ I didn't know Shirley very well, except through Olinger's Jewelry store. She was a very sweet lady, and I Always enjoyed her help while I was shopping. She always had a smile.

**Allan Bradley** - May 09 at 08:50 AM

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“ Lori Smuckler lit a candle in memory of Shirley A. Wagner



Lori Smuckler - May 08 at 10:13 PM

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“ RIP Shirley. This was a life cut too short. She was someone who was always so much fun to be around- upbeat, happy, and full of energy! She will be greatly missed.

Lori Smuckler - May 08 at 10:13 PM

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“ To the entire Wagner family..... I have known and loved Shirley for over 50 years. Her passing is a terrible loss for me and for all of the Newmans, as we considered her to be a part of our family as well as yours ! Shirley and I shared a lot of laughs.....one of which was that Lenny called us both Shirley! She will be remembered in my heart for as long as I live. I share in your deep sadness.  
With love,  
Shelley Newman Smuckler

shelley smuckler - May 08 at 08:27 PM

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“ Shirley lit up any room she entered. She wore a perpetual smile, displaying how much she loved her life, her family, and her friends. She was my first boss, as the longtime manager of my parents' store. Despite my being a lousy teenage employee, she was a kind mentor who shared her experience, skills and strong work ethic, and our deep friendship continued throughout our adult lives. The Newmans loved Shirley and we'll all miss her more than words can express. We send heartfelt condolences to all her dear family, and we hope you know how much we share in your loss.

Heidi Newman - May 08 at 07:03 PM

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“ To all Shirley's family, you have our sympathy! Shirley was one sweet lady, she taught all of us to dance when we where in grade school. We had so many laughs trying the different steps.

