



## Anita Louise Martinez

December 2, 1939 - February 4, 2025

Anita Louise Martinez, December 2, 1939 - February 4, 2025

Anita was born at 11:00pm on a crisp, clear, beautiful Saturday night in Fort Erie, a small border town in Ontario. Some of her fondest memories from her early childhood were spending time with her Nannie and Nampie Pelley from Newfoundland, and also her best friend Gail Lam at The Red Dragon, the Lam family restaurant there in Fort Erie.

Anita embarked on her journey into motherhood at a young age. She traveled globally and lived in Michigan, New York, Japan and Canada, before ultimately settling in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she singlehandedly raised her six beloved children.

After moving to Nova Scotia in 1983, Anita became a pillar in the feminist and queer communities, dedicating four decades to social justice, activism, and documentation. Anita was a proud ex-resident of Bryony House and with their permission, took photographs of hundreds of women and their children who came through the shelter. After being unjustly fired, she helped lead a movement to unionize the shelter's staff, later serving as union president.

Anita was an avid photographer and documentarian, using her gift to capture life's pivotal moments—births, weddings, protests, demonstrations, and

community gatherings. Her photography work is in the Nova Scotia Archives and other historical repositories.

Anita was a member of the Lamplight Housing Co-op for many years and opened her home to friends and family because she loved feeding people. An extraordinary cook, many people remember her pozole and guacamole dishes, all of them spiced with her “Gramanita Spice”, which she readily gave away.

In her later years, Anita remained deeply involved in the lives of her children and grandchildren, always eager to stay connected and share in their milestones. She often traveled to Texas and New York for extended visits, cherishing every moment with her family. Through FaceTime, she bridged the distance, attending births, weddings, and special occasions from afar. Her unwavering presence, whether in person or virtually, strengthened the bond she shared with her loved ones.

Anita’s devotion to family was matched only by her dedication to the countless people she empowered, supported, and fought for. Her passion for justice, her love of storytelling, and her commitment to community will continue to inspire generations to come. Above all, she was a devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She is survived by daughters Kathryn Pearl Laura Martinez (Mike), LeeAnne Margaret Teal (Leta), Kimberley Rose Teal (Nelson), Lori Anne Lillian Teal-Goldammer (David), and sons James Austin “Chip” Teal (Martha), Darius Harrison Martinez, 22 grandchildren, and 43 great-grandchildren.

May we all carry forward Anita’s strength, kindness, and unwavering belief in a better world—one shared meal, one story, and one act of love at a time.

Anita’s celebration of life will be held on February 22, 2025 at 2:00pm in the Activity Centre at Northwood (2615 Northwood Terrace, Halifax, the corner of

Northwood & North). Anita's Celebration of Life will be on Feb 22, 2025 at 2pm. Please see the Wayves article for address and Zoom link.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Elderberries via Dan McKay, 3247 Union Street, Halifax, NS, B3K 5H2 - [atlanticcanadaelderberries@gmail.com](mailto:atlanticcanadaelderberries@gmail.com). For a more detailed overview of Anita's life and accomplishments, please visit <https://gay.hfxns.org/AnitaMartin>  
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# Tribute Wall

SM

“ Anita was a great person. Her sense of humour was something else. I used to laugh so hard at her jokes. My God she was a sweetheart. I will miss her so so much. God bless her soul.

Sara M - April 26 at 08:07 PM

LS

“ I met Anita in the late 80s and she was a very important part of my life for the years I was connected to Nova Scotia. She later visited my home in Alberta and we stayed in touch until life circumstances caused us to lose contact. It was lovely to reconnect about 8 years ago. She was a pioneer in so many ways but most importantly, a rock for so many and definitely a light on my own path in my 20s.

Lori Seeley - December 28, 2025 at 05:11 AM

DA

“ Anita has been my friend since I was in High School. (50 years) I had the pleasure of working with her for several years at the Golden-T restaurant in Albuquerque. I worked there for six years with a handful of ladies, but Anita was the best by far. It was a very fast paced job with its fair share of stress, but working with Anita made the nights so much more enjoyable. She was always making us laugh with her bubbly personality and her beautiful smile. I will never forget this fine pretty lady. May God bless your beautiful soul!

Dave Aguilar - February 24, 2025 at 10:45 PM

LG

Thank you for sharing Dave.

Lori Anne L Goldammer - April 11, 2025 at 12:38 AM

AB

“ We have known Anita since the 1980s and she played a really important role in so many communities in Nova Scotia. We are also Jeremiah’s original mothers and could not have been happier when he and Anita almost fell into one another’s arms when we introduced them. He had found a loving and devoted home. We joined the memorial by ZOOM and although the sound problems made it hard to hear we could feel the warmth.  
RIP Anita. Anne Bishop and Jan Morrell

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**Anne Bishop** - February 22, 2025 at 02:47 PM

LG

Anne,  
Mum had many happy years spoiling Jeremiah and he in turn, loved her. Thank you for sharing Jeremiah with mum.

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**Lori Anne L Goldammer** - April 11, 2025 at 12:38 AM

RW

“ I met Anita when studying photography at the Halifax NSCC back in the early 90's. I've never met someone who was so caring and vibrant and had such a passion for creativity and kindness towards others in the way she did. Our whole class loved her. She looked after each of us as her own and it literally made our year. A friend for life since. Wishing her family and loved ones the very best. Celebrate her life. So many people who had the privilege of knowing her have. I know that I have many fond memories of speaking to her over the years and will always cherish our friendship.

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**Richard Ward** - February 22, 2025 at 06:26 AM

DM

“ I knew Anita through Lamplight Housing Co-op. Anyone meeting Anita would be struck by her joy, caring spirit and radiance; I certainly was and I treasure my memories of her. She was (and is) widely beloved and will be greatly missed by so many. My deepest condolences to her family and many beloved friends.  
-Detta Morrison-Phillips, Halifax

Detta Morrison-Phillips - February 20, 2025 at 09:41 AM

VS

“ To LoriAnne, LeeAnne, Kimberley, Chip, Kathy and Darius. Anita was a beautiful friend. I am indeed blessed to have known her. I think of her daily. Go softly and gently and know she is always with you. Peace, Verona Singer

Verona Singer - February 18, 2025 at 05:38 PM

LG

Thank you for being such great friend to mum. I wish everyone had a friends like you along with the Stop and Smell the Roses group. We should all be so blessed.

Much Love,  
Lori Anne

Lori Anne L Goldammer - April 11, 2025 at 12:44 AM



Rest in peace, old friend 💕💕

Shelley Casmey - May 03, 2025 at 11:31 AM