



Shirley J. Abriola

November 23, 2024

Shirley J. Abriola, 61, of Monroeville, Pennsylvania, passed away peacefully on November 23, 2024, surrounded by her loving family. A devoted daughter, sister, aunt and friend, Shirley leaves behind a legacy of compassion and dedication to others.

Shirley was preceded in death by her step father John Kuhn. She is survived by her mother, Shirley J. Kuhn, and her siblings: Michael Abriola (Lori), John J. Kuhn Jr. (Gina), Michael W. Kuhn (Sandy), Linda M. Finney, and Lori A. DiPalma (Dennis). Shirley was cherished by her nieces, nephews, and her great-niece Sofia, who held a special place in her heart.

Shirley was a proud alumni of the University of Pittsburgh, where she earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in Social Work. Her career was marked by her commitment to healthcare and advocacy for individuals with disabilities. Through her work at UPMC, she played a pivotal role in enhancing the understanding and care provided to those with disabilities, leaving a lasting impact on the medical community.

Known for her generous spirit, Shirley was always ready to lend a helping hand or a listening ear to those in need. Her love for music and her beloved cat, Pekoe, brought her joy and comfort throughout her life.

Shirley's memory will be cherished by her family, her many friends, and all those whose lives she touched. Her compassionate nature and loving presence will be deeply missed. Friends are invited to pay their respects on Saturday, November 30, 2024, from 6 - 9 p.m. and Sunday, December 1, 2024, from 1 - 4 p.m. and 6 - 8 p.m. at GENE H. CORL FUNERAL CHAPEL INC. AND CREMATION SERVICES OF MONROEVILLE, 4335 Northern Pike (412-372-2100). A funeral mass will be held on Monday, December 2, 2024, at 12 p.m. at Christ the Divine Shepherd Parish at St. Bernadette Church. Condolences may be shared at www.corlfuneralchapel.com

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 30. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Gene H. Corl Funeral Chapel Inc.
4335 Northern Pike
Monroeville, PA 15146
(412) 372-2100
ghcorl@comcast.net
<https://corlfuneralchapel.com>

Visitation

DEC 1. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Gene H. Corl Funeral Chapel Inc.
4335 Northern Pike
Monroeville, PA 15146
(412) 372-2100
ghcorl@comcast.net
<https://corlfuneralchapel.com>

Visitation

DEC 1. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gene H. Corl Funeral Chapel Inc.
4335 Northern Pike
Monroeville, PA 15146
(412) 372-2100
ghcorl@comcast.net
<https://corlfuneralchapel.com>

Funeral Mass

DEC 2. 12:00 PM (ET)

Christ the Divine Shepherd Parish at St. Bernadette Church
245 Azalea Drive
Monroeville, PA 15146

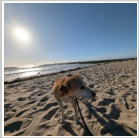
Tribute Wall

ME

“ As a staff member in the School of Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh, I was fortunate to befriend Shirley when she began her undergraduate work, and we continued to be friends for many years afterward. She was a very caring person with a beautiful soul, and she will be greatly missed.

Mary Pat Campbell Elhattab

Mary Pat Elhattab - December 08, 2024 at 06:22 PM



“ So very sorry to hear of my friend who shared my birthday. She will be missed by many. Sending you all peace.

John Highberger - November 30, 2024 at 06:57 PM

“ Sincere condolences to Shirley's mother, brother, and everyone whose life she touched.

Shirley was a very special friend to me and my son Mark Steidl, who has cerebral palsy. Mark and I met Shirley in a serendipitous way some 25 years ago. It all started with an unforgettable hat.

I was out shopping in Monroeville (Shirley's neighborhood) with Mark, who, at age four, had recently graduated from a supportive stroller to his first official wheelchair. That day, both Mark and I were not only getting used to a new way of moving around but also a new way of being in the world. Visible. Cute kid in a wheelchair. Special, like it or not. We stopped at Panera for lunch.

As we approached the counter to order, there in line was Shirley, who was then in her mid-30s. It was as if a teacher had been placed in our path. Shirley, decidedly fashionable, was rocking her own wheelchair visibility from head to toe. Atop her head was a velvet pillbox hat -- flat crown, upright sides, no brim -- subtly decorated with a few embroidered flowers. Stunning.

Although we had never met, we recognized each other immediately. Mark was the child Shirley had been decades earlier. I was the doting, dutiful mother. And Shirley -- she was the powerful, self-assured adult who instantly informed my vision of what I as a parent could foster.

We talked for quite a while that day -- and we became part of each other's lives for years to come. Not long ago, Shirley counseled Mark about whether to continue his education after getting an associate's degree. "It's your choice alone," Shirley told Mark. "Don't let anyone tell you what to do. Do what is right for you."

As always, Shirley spoke from a deep place: A person is not defined by their condition, their assistive equipment, or what others think they should be or do.

In her career and in her personal life, Shirley touched many lives. She empowered and strengthened others. We miss her dearly.

Tina Calabro - November 28, 2024 at 09:37 AM