



Arlene Smith Bernhard

June 24, 2022

Arlene Smith Bernhard, 66, of Allentown, died Friday, June 24, 2022, at Lehigh Valley Hospital – Cedar Crest, Allentown. She was the loving wife of Donald M. Bernhard. Born May 28, 1956, in San Mateo, CA to the late Hal and Renee Smith, she was raised in Emmaus and was a proud resident of Allentown.

Arlene made a difference for the children of the Allentown School District for over thirty years. She began this work as a volunteer at Muhlenberg Elementary, then served as a school secretary at Roosevelt, and most recently in special education administration. She was known in her office as “The Queen of Busing” for the complex work she did to ensure students with disabilities had a means to get to the school that would best serve their needs.

She always had a quick wit and an incredible memory, not just for the details of her work, but for show business trivia. That knowledge was rooted in the fact that dance was a theme running through her life— from her mother who ran Renee’s School of Dance from her childhood home in Emmaus, to raising a daughter who went on to minor in dance at Princeton. Arlene also loved to travel, particularly to Hilton Head Island, SC, where she spent a few weeks every year. Even more than traveling, she loved Maine Coon cats and always had at least one.

She is survived by her husband, Donald M. Bernhard; son, Spencer Bernhard and his husband Steven Fuller of Allentown; daughter, Tess Bernhard and her fiancé Nathan Soffio Jr. of Philadelphia. Also survived by her brother, Patrick Smith and his wife Judi Smith. Arlene was close to Judi's extended family.

Services: 11:00 AM, Friday, July 1st at Trexler Funeral Home, 1625 Highland St., Allentown. Friends and family are invited to call from 10:00-11:00 AM at the funeral home. Interment to follow in Greenwood Cemetery, Allentown.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Allentown School District Foundation at <https://asdf.allentownsd.org/donations>

Cemetery Details

Greenwood Cemetery

2010 W Chew St
Allentown, PA 18104

Previous Events

Calling

JUL 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Trexler Funeral Home
1625 Highland Street
Allentown, PA 18102
(610) 434-9616
info@trexlerfh.com
<https://trexlerfuneralhome.com/>

Service

JUL 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

Trexler Funeral Home
1625 Highland Street
Allentown, PA 18102
(610) 434-9616
info@trexlerfh.com
<https://trexlerfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

PV

“ Don, I am so sorry to hear of Arlene's passing. I always looked forward to seeing her at the many social and community events we all attended. I could count on her wonderful wit and keen observations to lighten the mood. Somehow, she always made me feel like we were allies: That is a gift. May her wonderful soul rest in peace.

Pamela Varkony - July 01, 2022 at 10:27 PM

GB

“ She will forever be loved and forever be remembered.

Germaine & Bob - June 30, 2022 at 02:53 PM

KM

“ Don and family – So sorry to hear of your loss of Arlene. This is the month we would often be gathering at your house for a cookout. Arlene was supremely hospitable at all times through the years and also the life of the party. Her knowledge on sports, movies, comedy, politics was amazing, as others have noted, and she had a great memory for trivia of all sorts.. She always made everyone feel welcome. I knew she hadn't been well this past year but my last memory of her is last June's cookout on your patio. It is a wonderful memory. I lost my Mother and sister in these last few months and now offer my sincere condolences on your loss of Arlene. - Karl

Karl Myer - June 30, 2022 at 01:39 PM

DH

We're so sorry to hear of Arlene's passing. She was so full of life with a great sense of humor and a delight to know. When our kids were little, they always looked forward to watching the fireworks at Don and Arlene's house. Our sincere condolences. David and Regina

Dave & Regina Hausman - June 30, 2022 at 08:46 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Arlene Smith Bernhard.*



June 29, 2022 at 01:45 PM



“ *Really shocked and sorry to hear about Arlene’s passing. Couldn’t really believe it when I first heard about this. I remember all the times I would go over to the Bernhards’ house to hang out with Spencer and he’d come over to mine and she’d be there almost all the time and how she was always so nice. Thoughts and prayers with Spencer and the rest of the Bernhard family.*

Ben Finch - June 28, 2022 at 09:12 PM



“ *Don, Spencer and Tess- So sorry to hear about Arlene. Most of my memories go back to meetings of the fantasy baseball league we belonged to at City Hall. Arlene knew more than I did about baseball personnel and especially her beloved Orioles. She was a gentle soul and I was lucky to have known her. In this time of loss I hope you can draw consolation from the love and joy she shared with you for so many years. My prayers and those of my family are with you. God bless Arlene, her loving family and all of us who’s lives she brightened.*

Tom Smith - June 28, 2022 at 08:10 PM

BS

“ Dear Don and family,
We are so sorry to hear about Arlene’s passing. Please accept our sincere condolences.
We regret that we will be unable to attend the service this Friday, but we will be thinking about you.
Barbara Stader and Gary Gurian

Barbara Stader - June 28, 2022 at 08:09 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Arlene Smith Bernhard.

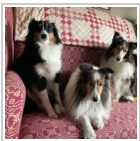


June 28, 2022 at 11:34 AM

RE

“ My deepest sympathy to Donald and family. May the good time memories of Arlene comfort you in your hour of grief.

Ronald Epstein - June 28, 2022 at 11:20 AM



“ I haven’t seen Arlene in over 40 years- but reading this I was overwhelmed with a flood of wonderful childhood memories. We lived a block apart and I remember her house on Ridge street, her classy Mom, and endless hours spent playing in the dance studio. I pray your memories will help you through this difficult time - I am truly sorry for your loss.
Patrice Leiser Allen

Patrice Allen - June 28, 2022 at 06:39 AM

BG

“ Don,

So very sorry for your loss. The two of you have been assets to the community. You may rely on the all the good that you both have done to help you through these trying times. May Arlene Rest In Peace.

Bob Geneczko

Bob Geneczko - June 27, 2022 at 10:58 PM

CD

“ Tess, Don, Spencer and family,

It is of great sadness to learn of Arlene's passing. Have such fond memories of the kids growing up together, Muhlenberg PTA, etc. Arlene was always wonderful to talk to and work with on PTA, dance stuff, and kid stuff. I am so very sorry for your loss. May the love of family and friends help comfort you during this time of such sorrow. Our deepest sympathies, The Dakes family -- Joe, Christine, Devin, & Zakary

Christine Dakes - June 27, 2022 at 08:13 PM

LF

“ Don, Arlene was a good friend and always there for me when I needed her. I will miss our dinners we used to have. If there is anything you need or that I can do, please reach out to me. May she be at peace. Prayers for you, Tess, and Spencer.

Iyn Hartman Frontino - June 27, 2022 at 05:25 PM

DM

“ Don, so sorry for your loss, may Arlene Rest In Peace.

Dennis Murphy - June 27, 2022 at 05:14 PM

DK

“ Growing up in Emmaus, we met in kindergarden at Central School. We have many great yesrs of memories. And i shall always remember her smile. Deepest condolences to the family.

Darlene Krause-Clemence - June 27, 2022 at 04:42 PM



“ I am so shocked and sad to learn of this. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to the entire family. Arlene was so kind and so much fun. She often had to field our calls after hours whether the news was good or bad. May she rest in peace.

Don Stringfellow - June 27, 2022 at 04:24 PM