



Judith Mae Onorato Ashley

May 9, 1947 - August 2, 2022

Judy Onorato Ashley, 75, whose smile and laugh lit her way along life's path, left the world August 2, 2022. Judy passed away from heart failure at Blake Hospital in Sarasota, FL, after a brief illness. She was born in Philadelphia, PA, on May 9, 1947, to her beloved parents, Charles Anthony Onorato and Dorothy Catherine Cain Onorato, she grew up in Wildwood, NJ, where her parents ran a popular restaurant, Chuck's Round Up for many years.

Judy lived life with a passion, making new friends and inspiring all who knew her with her effervescence and good humor wherever she ventured. She loved to travel, and she also loved wine, food, music and teaching. An accomplished keyboardist, she was still playing and working on music in her retirement after over 30 years as a New York City school teacher, the last eight at The High School of World Cultures in The Bronx.

Judy championed education, working as a Spanish teacher early in her career in the 70s in New Jersey. Then later as a teacher in adult education when she first arrived in New York, and finally, her professional first love, teaching music in a high school setting. She loved sharing her devotion to music, especially jazz, with her students and is fondly remembered by legions of them for her enthusiasm and her ability to teach music history and theory in all its forms.

She shared that love with her husband Al Ashley, a professional jazz drummer

who passed away in 2010 in their home in Queens, NY. The two met as students at the University of Miami and were later married in 1977 in Dillon, SC, on their way back north to visit friends and family for the Christmas holiday. They were rarely apart over the next 33 years, the soundtrack of their lives forged in music -- listening to it, teaching it, playing it and traveling the world to do just that. They lived in Miami, Nova Scotia, Montreal, and New York together but traveled all over for music clinics and opportunities and to visit friends and family or just explore. Judy volunteered for a mission trip to Africa two years ago to see and help the underprivileged in that beautiful country.

Judy never stopped learning. She attended Immaculata in Pennsylvania; Marquette University in Wisconsin, where she received a B.A. in 1969, and she earned a master's degree in music from the University of Miami in 1981. She took advanced classes at New York University in the 90s and was repeatedly recognized during her teaching career as an outstanding educator in New York. She also played the organ and piano in church services in New York for many years.

Judy always loved the beach, tanned her lifelong-thin body as much as possible and swam in the Atlantic Ocean her entire life. She retired to Anna Marie Island in 2014 and began swimming in the Gulf and walking the beach there daily. She was well-loved within her Summer Sands community and all along Bridge Street.

Judy is survived by first cousins William Pietrangelo, his wife Loretta; Howard Onorato, his wife Nancy; Frankie Onorato, his wife Dottie; Andy Onorato, his wife Helen; Walt Onorato; Lisa Onorato DiBruno, her husband Rick; Elsie Ann Keehan and several nieces and nephews, including Chuck Nestore, his wife Donna, and their daughter Bria, who is a public school teacher. Also brother-in-law Mike Ashley, his wife Kellie McGinnis and daughter, Kate Dufour and

her husband, Aaron Dufour. She is preceded in death by her loving husband, Al; parents, Charles and Dorothy Onorato and sister, Maryanne.

There will be a Memorial Service held at sunset on the beach in front of the Summer Sands building on September 9, 2022, with a small reception to follow at the complex's pool. Friends and family will celebrate her well-lived life in a memorial at her adopted home on Anna Maria Island in Florida on Sunday, October 9, 2022.

Arrangements are under the care of Gendron Funeral & Cremation Services Inc. located at 135 N Lime Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34237. 941-365-1767 www.gendronfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

A Celebration of Life

SEP **9**. 7:00 PM (ET)

Summer Sands Building
1007 Gulf Drive North
Bradenton Beach, FL 34217

Memorial Service

OCT **9**. 7:30 PM (ET)

Anna Maria Island
TBD
Anna Maria, FL

Tribute Wall



“ *Judith Mae Onorato Ashley*

October 09, 2023 at 02:01 AM



“ *Judith Mae Onorato Ashley*

January 28, 2023 at 12:09 PM



“ *"Smell the sea and feel the sky. Let your soul and spirit fly" (Van Morrison) Condolences to Judy's family. Love Pam*

Pamela S.McConnell - September 12, 2022 at 10:19 AM



“ *Judy was such an asset to St James High School, Carneys Point, NJ. Her laughter, enthusiasm and genuine affection for people always shown through! In Music, the plays, Spanish class, our Senior retreat she was there. Rest In Peace Judy Onorato !*



Carol - September 10, 2022 at 10:20 AM

PM

“ Judy and I were little girls together. She was a wonderful person. Spending time with her was the best. As adults we saw each other infrequently. But, I know that we were always in each others hearts. I will always love you Judy and I thank you for adding beauty to my life. Rest in Peace.

Pamela S. McConnell

pamela s mcconnell - August 07, 2022 at 03:31 PM

Frank-Maryann Monaghan

“ Frank-Maryann Monaghan lit a candle in memory of Judith Mae Onorato Ashley



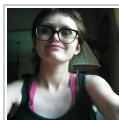
Frank-Maryann Monaghan - August 07, 2022 at 10:28 AM

CM

“ Joyous Judy - always



Carol Molinari monks - August 07, 2022 at 08:09 AM



Q

Judy Noriega - February 21, 2025 at 03:36 AM

CM

“ *Rest In Peace*



Carol Molinari monks - August 07, 2022 at 08:07 AM

AF

“ *Sending my deepest condolences to the family. I have fond memories of "Miss Onorato" when I was in high school (St James Class of 1977). She was my homeroom teacher and my Spanish teacher. She was great fun and and made school enjoyable. RIP Miss Onorato!*

Anna Filmyer - August 07, 2022 at 08:02 AM