In Memoriam

Sharon Ann MacQuiston Brazel

8 June 1943 – 8 September 2022

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Sharon Brazel, a long-term Patron Member of the Society. She was born in Darby, Delaware County, and was a resident of Berwyn since moving into their home at 702 Bair Road with her husband James Brazel and their thirteen month-old daughter Kathryn on 2 January 1976.

She was the daughter of the late Norman and Kathryn MacQuiston. Her father owned and operated Darby Esso Auto Repair and gas station. Sharon graduated from Darby High in 1961 and followed in her father's athletic footsteps there by winning varsity letters in field hockey and band front. After two years working as a secretary at Sherwin-Williams in Philadelphia, she returned to school at Bloomsburg State Teachers College, majoring in Business Education. Following student teaching at Louis E. Dieruff High school in Allentown, state certification and graduation in 1967, she answered a recruiting advertisement for American Airlines she heard on her car radio and became a flight attendant in 1967. She was based in New York and travelled American Airlines routes across the United States on the job, and all over the world on vacations with American Airlines passes. She flew at least one MAC (Military Airlift Command) round trip to Vietnam, taking fresh U.S. Army troops there and bringing veteran GI's back, when commercial airlines were contracted to support this USAF service.



In the late summer of 1974, Sharon Brazel spotted these zinnias and wildflowers growing by the roadside of Route 9 outside Avalon, New Jersey. She carried the tools in her shoulder bag to harvest them. *Photo by James Brazel*

James and Sharon met the weekend after Labor Day, 1971 at The Shelter Haven Bar in Stone Harbor, NJ. They were both dating someone else then, but reconnected in Avalon, NJ on Memorial Day weekend, 1972. They dated over the summer, became engaged over Labor Day weekend and married on February 3, 1973.

Sharon's first job, during high school, was at Carroll's Florist Shop in Darby. She loved arranging flowers, whether red roses in a Valentine's Day bouquet or roadside wildflowers and weeds scavenged during rides down backroads at the Jersey shore. In Berwyn, she was a long time member of the Woodlea Garden Club, serving two one-year terms as president, enjoying the work and, especially, the friendship of the women of the club. For ten years or more, she "managed" the nursery as a volunteer at Berwyn United Methodist Church Sunday services. She was a Berwyn-Paoli Little League coach and manager.

The other loves of her life were her children and grandchildren. If you knew Sharon, you know she talked about her kids and grandkids more than about herself. She loved just hanging out with them, watching them play sports, march in the Conestoga High Color Guard at football games and in the Miss America Parade on the Atlantic City Boardwalk, seeing them go off to and graduate from college, planning their weddings and going out to eat with them at local restaurants.

She is survived by her husband James Brazel, her two daughters Kate Stickel (Sean), their children Erin and Ryan, and Jeanne Lane (Nate). She is also survived by her cousin, Irene Parsells, whom she considered a sister, as well as Irene's son and her godson Frank (Kathy) and their daughter Alexa, and by sister-in-law Monica Kurtz (Mark) and brother–in-law Dr. Joseph F. Brazel (Barbara).

Her funeral was conducted at The Marvill Funeral Home in Darby, PA on September 13, 2022. Interment was private at St. Monica Cemetery, Berwyn on September 14, 2022.

— *James Brazel*

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