

LIVES REFLECTING UPWARDS / THE AMERICAN PORTRAITS

John Zimmerman

January 26, 1896 – November 16, 1988
Maternal Grandfather



On July 29, 1921, John married Margaret Emilie Tuckmantel. Together, they had two children, John (Jack) Howard and Shirley Mae Zimmerman. Jack was born on November 20, 1926.

John and Margaret’s marriage lasted more than sixty-seven years and carried them through the Great Depression, World War II, the postwar years, and retirement. Like many men of his generation, he enjoyed flirting and quietly considered himself something of a ladies’ man, convinced his harmless charm usually went unnoticed.

GAISER / ZIMMERMAN / CONNELLY

JOHN ZIMMERMAN

John Zimmerman was born on January 26, 1896, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the son of German-American parents who made their home in the Brewerytown section of the city. He spent his early years in Philadelphia and came of age during a period of tremendous change in America.

*A Man of Routine,
Responsibility, and
Family Tradition*



LIVES REFLECTING UPWARDS / FAMILY MEMORY

The Quiet Center of the Family

Margaret also expressed her creativity through folk art. During the 1960s she created a collection of hooked rugs and decorative folk-art pieces. Many survived for decades and have since been carefully preserved, allowing future generations to enjoy a tangible connection to her creativity and gentle nature. One of my favorites depicted a small house on a hill with a winding driveway covered in fresh snow. It hung for years in my parents’ dining room overlooking countless Sunday dinners and holiday gatherings, quietly watching over the family as the years passed.

Margaret was an avid reader who always seemed to have a book nearby. Her shelves held popular fiction and contemporary bestsellers rather than literary classics. She enjoyed following new novels and discussing them with friends. Afternoons often included television talk shows hosted by Merv Griffin or Dinah Shore before settling in to watch the evening news.

Margaret died on December 22, 1995, at the age of ninety-six. She lived long enough to witness extraordinary changes in the world, yet remained rooted in family, loyalty, kindness, and tradition.

She rarely sought attention for herself. Instead, she made her impact one conversation, one visit, and one relationship at a time.

TUCKMANTEL / ZIMMERMAN / CONNELLY

TUCKMANTEL / A TANGIBLE CONNECTION

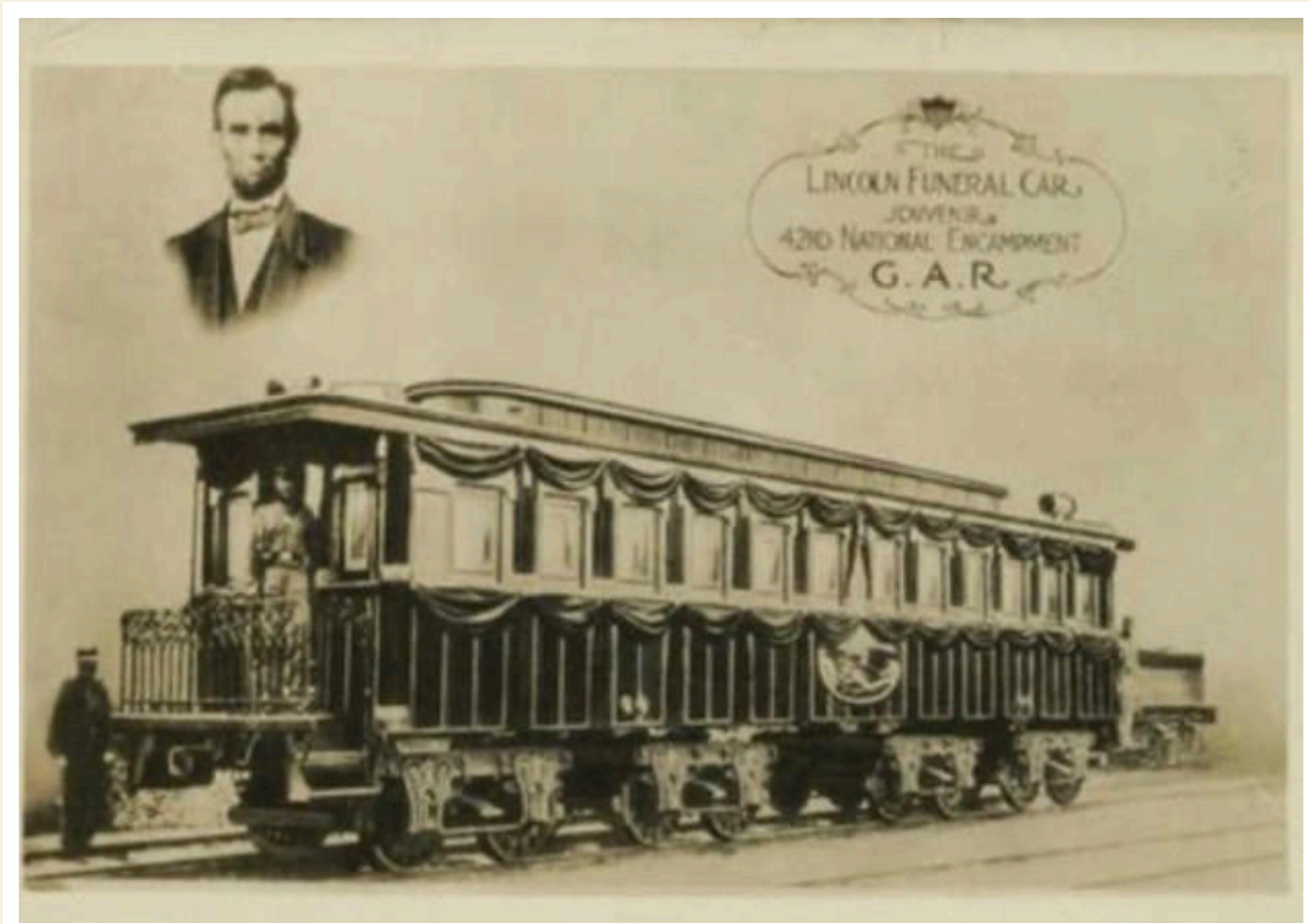


“Crimson Home on the Hill” preserved and framed by Matthew Connelly. The folk-art piece by Margaret Zimmerman resides at Mariann Schwartz’s home in Perkasié, Pennsylvania.

TUCKMANTEL / ZIMMERMAN / CONNELLY

KERRIGAN / A BOY WATCHES HISTORY PASS BY

A Boy Watches History Pass By



One of the most memorable stories preserved in my father’s memoir concerned an event that Bill witnessed as a child. According to the family account, eight-year-old William accompanied his father in April 1865 to see the funeral train carrying President Abraham Lincoln.

KERRIGAN / CONNELLY

THE AMERICAN PORTRAITS / KERRIGAN



Father and son joined the thousands of Americans who gathered along the train’s route to mourn the assassinated president. Although Bill was only a boy, the experience connected an ordinary family moment with one of the defining events in American history. The memory was passed through the Kerrigan family and ultimately preserved in writing by my father.

KERRIGAN / CONNELLY

SPECIAL TRIBUTE / THE GRANDCHILDREN

Special Tribute

Through the Eyes of Shirley and Jack’s Grandchildren



Jenna Schwartz



Collin Cusick



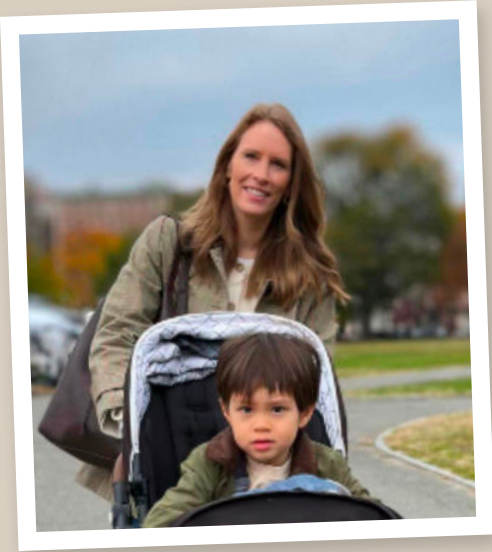
Claudia Gilmore



Kyle Phillips



Katie Plagianakos



Christine Hsieh

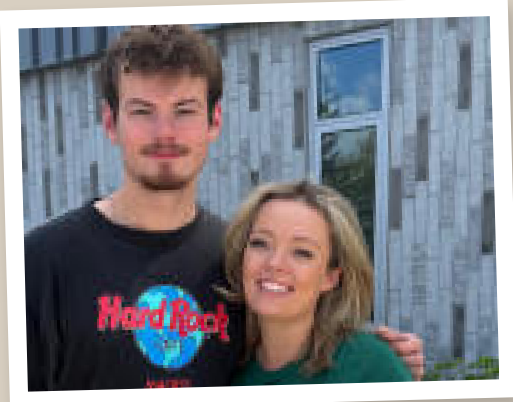
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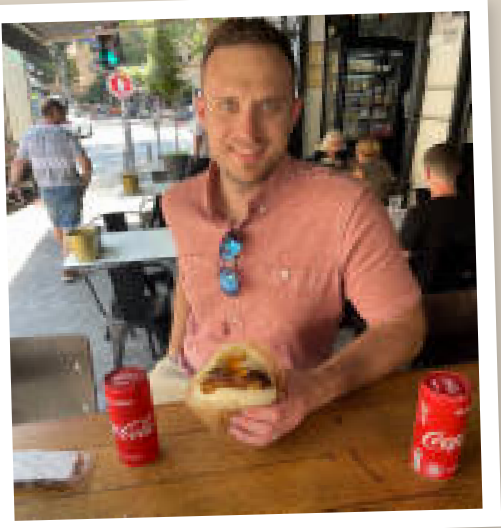
Jenna Schwartz



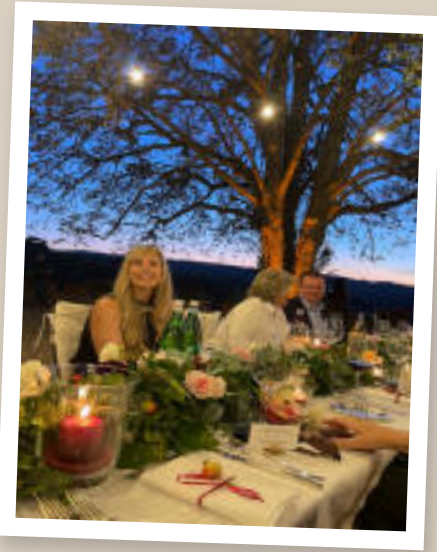
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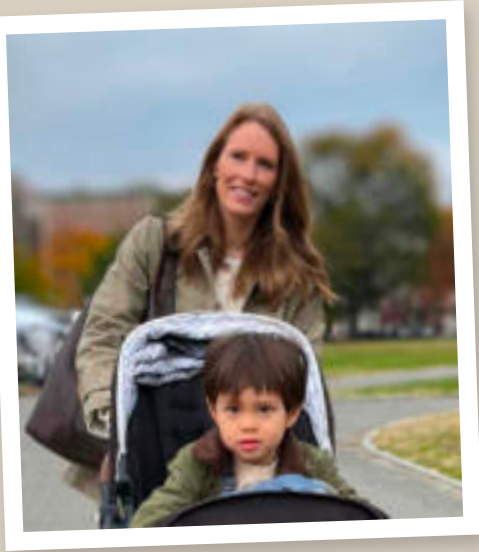
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SPECIAL TRIBUTE / THE GRANDCHILDREN

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Through the Eyes of Shirley and Jack’s Grandchildren

The greatest measure of a life is often found in the memories left behind. These reflections from Jack and Shirley’s six grandchildren preserve the gestures, sayings, traditions, and quiet moments through which Mom Mom and Pop Pop made each of them feel loved.

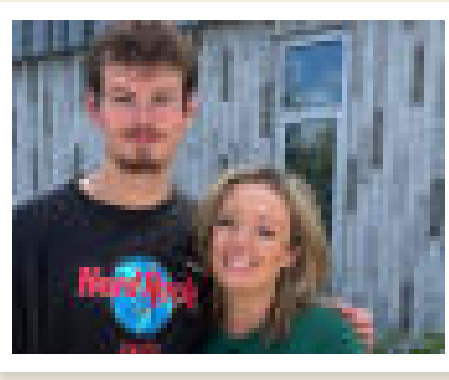


Jenna Schwartz

“Who loves you?”

“Pop Pop.”

Without hesitation, that was always Jenna’s answer, spoken with a smile.

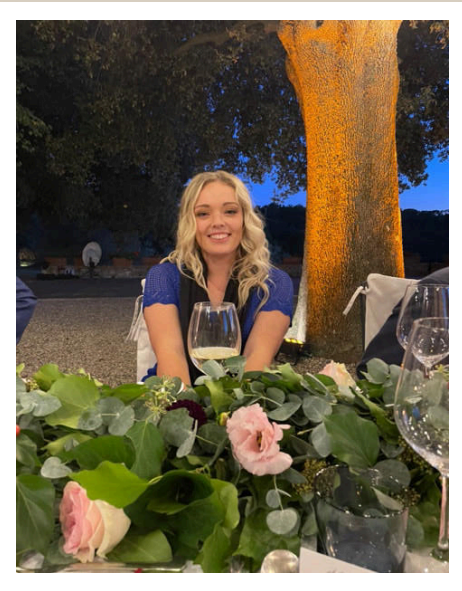


Collin Cusick

“Pop Pop always gave me half dollars and two-dollar bills. I still carry some of those two-dollar bills in a secret place in my wallet.”

SPECIAL TRIBUTE / THE GRANDCHILDREN

Through the Eyes of Shirley and Jack’s Grandchildren



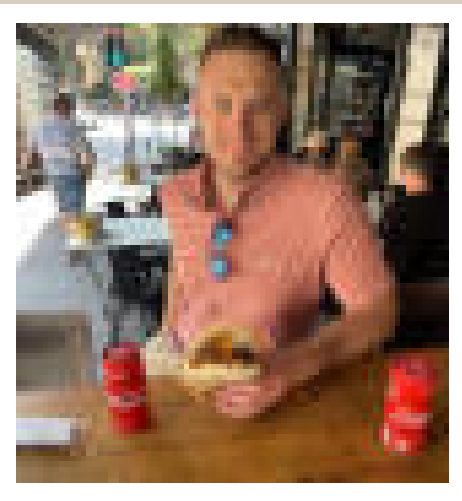
Claudia Gilmore

“He was the kind of grandfather I wished everyone could have.”

“He would tell amazing stories and always had a little something to give you that came with a back story.”

“Sometimes I’d sneak sugar into the hospital and hide it in his shoe because that’s where he told me to put it.”

“Mom Mom always had those little seashell candies.”



Kyle Phillips

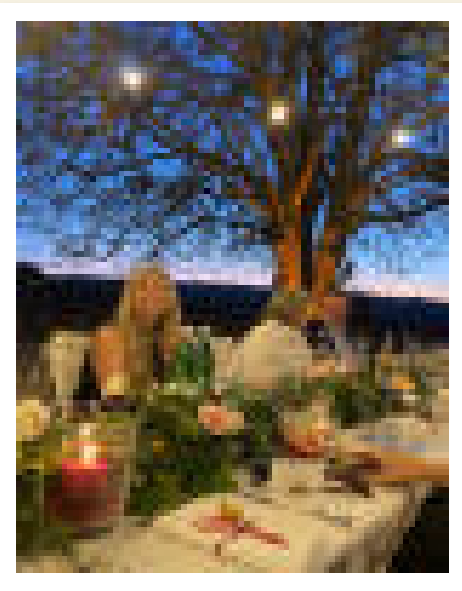
“No matter what, Mom Mom always made sure I was taken care of.”

“If she didn’t have my favorite snacks, we’d go to Henning’s to get them.”

“Every shift at Emil’s I’d look through the kitchen door and see Pop Pop sitting at the bar. We didn’t have to talk. His quiet presence spoke volumes.”

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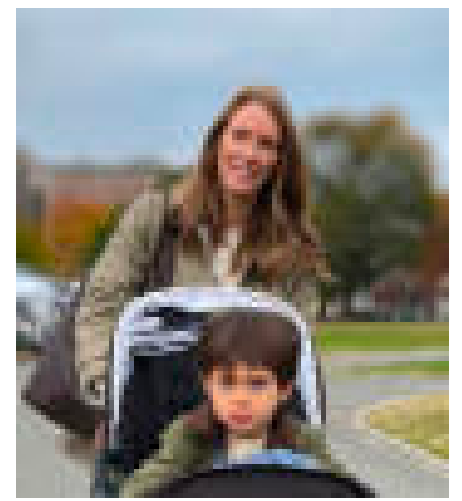
Katie Plagianakos

“Sunday dinners, birthdays, Christmas Eve—that’s what togetherness looked like.”

“Mom Mom made me feel seen.”

“Looking back, they were honestly the parent figures we needed.”

“Pop Pop was the definition of a man—a dedicated worker who loved his family.”



Christine Hsieh

“One night after my shift at Montgomery Mall, Pop Pop was waiting in the parking lot just to make sure I got safely to my car.”

“Summer mornings meant pastries, bacon, scrapple, and breakfast with Pop Pop.”

“Mom Mom’s advice was simple: ‘Never turn your back to the ocean.’”

“I can still remember her Birkenstocks, her lipstick, and listening to ‘Midnight Train to Georgia’ together.”

Special Tribute

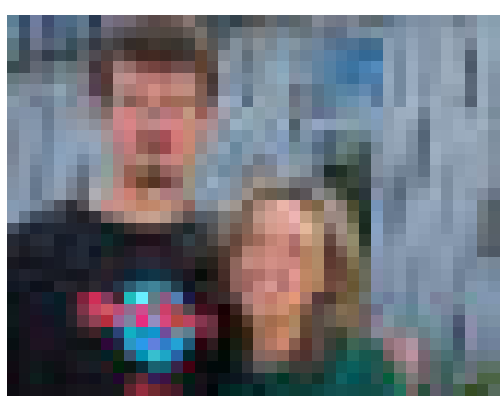
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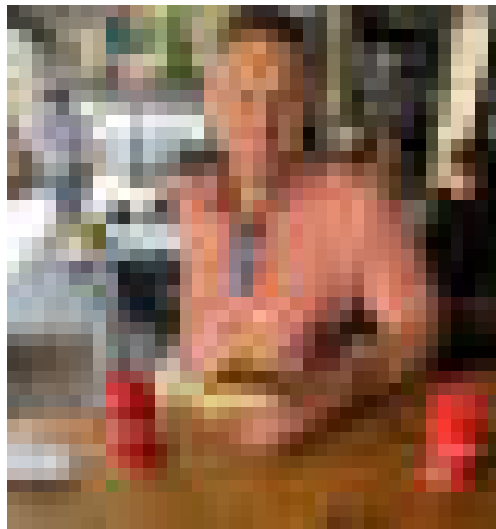
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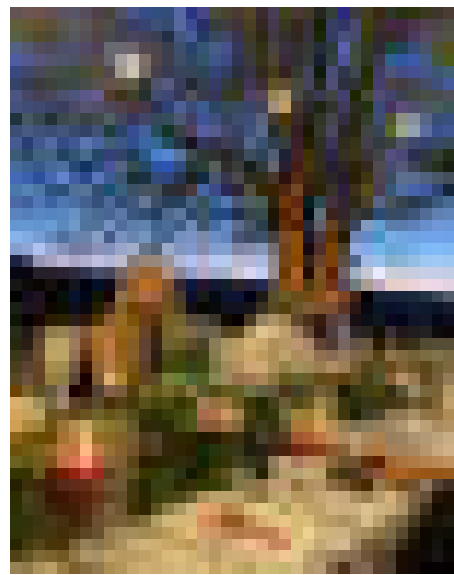
“He was the kind of grandfather I wished everyone could have.”
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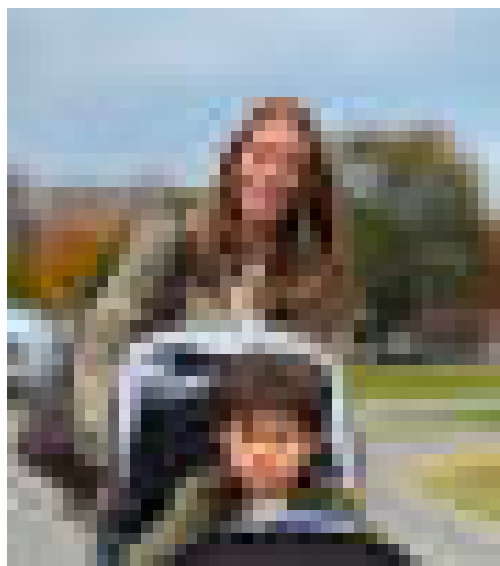
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V. The Living Generations



Margaret Jane (Connelly) Phillips



Matthew David Connelly



Mariann (Connelly) Schwartz



Jan Alice (Connelly) Cusick

Margaret Jane (Connelly) Phillips



ZIMMERMAN
CONNELLY

Margaret was named after our grandmother, Margaret Zimmerman. She was born on July 9, 1958, at Presbyterian Hospital in West Philadelphia. Marge was Jack and Shirley’s firstborn child, arriving while they were living in a small apartment in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania.

From an early age, Marge was a gifted athlete. She excelled in organized sports at Indian Valley High School and later Souderton High School. Shirley enthusiastically supported her athletic pursuits, creating scrapbooks filled with newspaper clippings, varsity letters, awards, and other memories of her accomplishments.

Marge later settled in Hatfield, Pennsylvania, where she raised her three children—Christine, Katie, and Kyle. During her career, she worked at the Main Line Times and Roy Lomas Carpets before joining Altec. There, she managed a team that supported adults with developmental disabilities, helping them live more independently within their community.

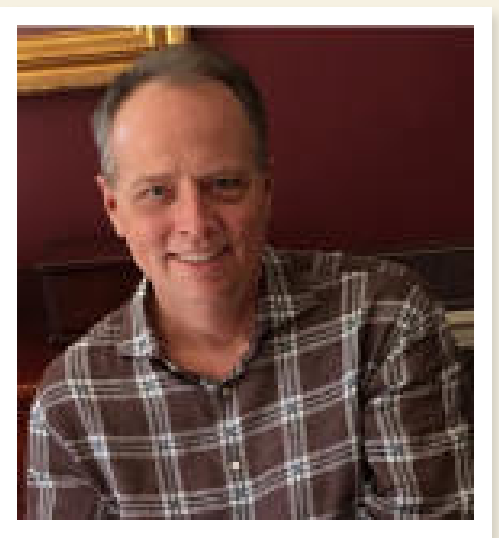
Marge has always been someone who keeps moving. Whether competing on the athletic field, supporting her clients, or keeping pace with her children and grandchildren, her energy has remained one of her defining qualities.

She also enjoys cooking and preparing family recipes, especially for Thanksgiving and Easter gatherings. Her specialties include baked scalloped potatoes, coleslaw, and Thanksgiving stuffing—and I admit those are my favorites.

Jack and Shirley lived with Marge for a time, and Shirley spent the final year of her life in the Hatfield home. Surrounded by the activity of family life, her children, and her grandchildren, Shirley found great happiness there.

Today, Marge lives in Perkasio, Pennsylvania, near Mariann and her family. She enjoys spending several days each week with her nearby grandson, Waylon, and her face lights up whenever she talks about her grandchildren. Above all, she is proud of the lives her three children have built.

Matthew David Connelly



ZIMMERMAN
CONNELLY

I was born on October 6, 1960, at Haverford Hospital. I know it was a Thursday morning because my father always enjoyed telling the story of going out for eggs with the doctor who delivered me after my birth.

I spent my career working in advertising before joining AT&T and later JPMorgan Chase, where I held corporate leadership positions in marketing and finance. After thirty-four years, I now enjoy my next life adventures in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

More than any professional accomplishment, I hope those closest to me will remember me as thoughtful, adventurous, generous, and grateful for the family that shaped my life. I will always treasure the once-in-a-lifetime adventures shared with my sisters, nieces, and nephews. Preserving our family’s history through this book has been a meaningful project in my life.

Mariann (Connelly) Schwartz



ZIMMERMAN
CONNELLY

Mariann was born on May 1, 1962.

Mariann married Kurt Schwartz, and they reside in Perkasio, Pennsylvania. They have one daughter, Jenna, who lives with them. Jenna is autistic, and no one has been a stronger advocate for her than Mariann. Together, Mariann and Kurt have devoted themselves to providing Jenna with every opportunity to succeed.

Driven by determination and love for her daughter, Mariann fought for better educational support and behavioral services within the public school system. When those services fell short, she educated herself on Jenna’s educational rights and worked alongside Kurt to establish clear expectations and goals. Their perseverance led to the creation of a well-structured, in-home program tailored specifically to Jenna’s needs.

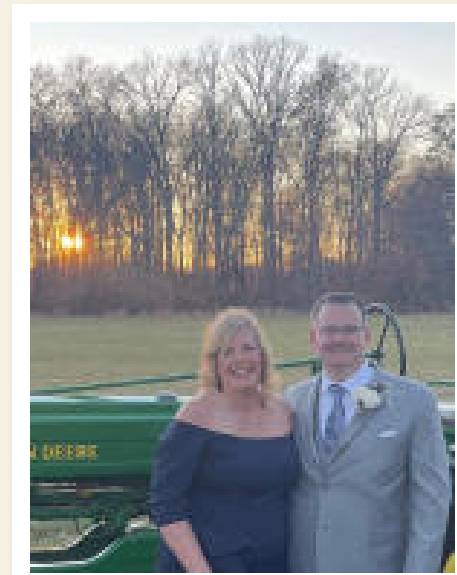
Working with experts throughout the community, Mariann developed a program that provides Jenna with educational, social, and life-skills experiences designed to strengthen her independence and prepare her for the future. What began as a necessity has grown into a small business managed from their home with a dedicated staff.

While overseeing Jenna’s program, Mariann also built a successful career with several large national banks, concluding her career at JPMorgan Chase in the Auto Finance line of business. She has always possessed a talent for managing people and solving problems.

Jack and Shirley lived with Mariann for many years, and Jack spent the final years of his life in the Perkasio home.

Today, Mariann and Kurt continue to share their home with Jenna and Kurt’s sister, Lynda. Through years of perseverance, Mariann created a supportive environment that has given Jenna opportunities to learn, grow, and experience life in ways that once seemed uncertain. It is one of the accomplishments of which she can be most proud.

Jan Alice (Connelly) Cusick



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Jan was born on May 15, 1968. Shirley gave Jan the middle name Alice so that her initials would become J.A.C. – after my father, Jack. It was one of the many ways Shirley expressed her love for her husband and family.

Jan married Eric Gilmore, and they had one daughter, Claudia. She later married Clinton Cusick, and together they welcomed their son, Collin. Today, Jan and Clinton reside in Lansdale, Pennsylvania, where family remains at the center of their lives.

Jan worked for many years at the pharmaceutical company Teva. Her ability to understand medications, treatments, and the language of medicine would later prove invaluable.

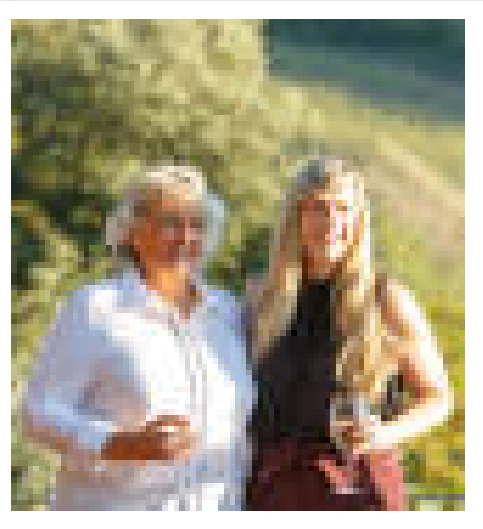
Throughout Dad’s illness, Jan became his strongest health advocate. She quickly learned his medications and treatment plans, carefully managed appointments and follow-up care, and ensured that no important detail was overlooked. When physicians asked questions, Jan often filled in the information Dad had forgotten. She approached every challenge with optimism, compassion, and determination, turning difficult news into practical next steps.

Modern medicine undoubtedly extended Dad’s life, but so did Jan’s unwavering advocacy, careful attention to detail, and loving commitment. She helped ensure that he received the best care possible throughout his illness.

Today, Jan enjoys family life as she and Clinton prepare to watch Collin begin his university education while continuing to celebrate Claudia’s accomplishments.

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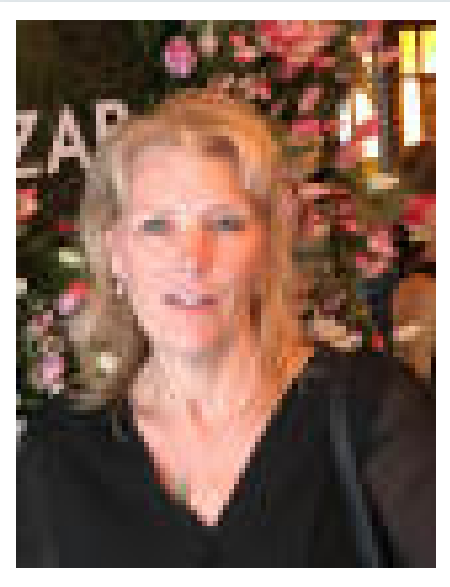
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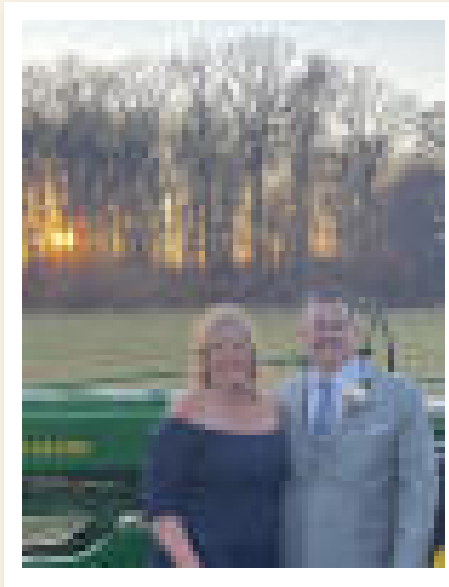
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