

In Loving Memory



Allwyn Ann Abey Gray

November 5, 1932 - April 1, 2018

Celebration Of Life

Saturday, April 14, 2018 at 2:00 pm

*Sheridan Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
1950 E. Brundage Lane, Sheridan, WY*

The Gray family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to everyone who supported Allwyn throughout her journey. Sheridan has amazing, compassionate, loving caretakers.

Thank you.

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Allwyn, the youngest of Harry and Margaret Abey's five children, grew up and graduated from high school in Baltimore, MD, then went to work for the Canton Railroad Company. She excelled at sports throughout her life. In fact, it was at a basketball game against a Women's Army Corp team in 1955 that she met an Air Force serviceman who later became her husband.

Allwyn and Larry were married on December 15, 1956, in Baltimore. Despite being in high demand as a carpenter in Baltimore, Larry was determined to return to his hometown of Buffalo, Wyoming. When Allwyn agreed to go with him, she began a life of new experiences and adventures that she likely never imagined, starting on the cross-country trip to their new home. On this journey she unexpectedly learned to drive when a very tired Larry handed the wheel over to her somewhere mid-USA! The couple lived in Buffalo for the duration of their 42-year marriage.

There, like the good sport that she was, Allwyn courageously overcame culture shock, found friends among strangers, and learned the peculiar pastimes of westerners: hunting, fishing, horseback riding, skiing, sledding, hiking, backpacking and camping. She took on new roles, some she expected and cherished, such as motherhood; some that were expected of her that she never particularly liked, such as cooking; and some that came her way as a result of the businesses she and Larry ran throughout their lives: interacting with demanding campers ("if you don't like it, get on down the road"), butchering venison, keeping books (where, much to the dismay of her accounting tutors Larry, Wayne and Susan, she continued to try to force the bank to balance to her!).

Like many of her generation, Allwyn was deeply affected by the Great Depression. Her ability to pinch pennies and save was legendary, so much so that she was Larry's first stop when funds were needed to finance a new venture.

Though at first achingly lonely for her tight-knit Maryland family, especially her sister Norma, Allwyn eventually came to treasure the slow pace, quiet, solitude and wide open spaces of Wyoming. However, the city girl never completely disappeared and she often left her children puzzled when she shared her street smarts. Her greatest joy was her family; she loved it when everyone was together.

She is survived by her four children--Janelle Gray and spouse Phil Gilmore, Wayne and wife Margi, Zachary and wife Tanya, Susan; eight grandchildren--Dustin, Alli, Brenna, Ben, Aaron, Isaac, Maya, Deana; and great granddaughter Eliana.

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