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**Marie Aspell Carley**

May 26, 1926 - August 24, 2021

A Sweet and "Saucy" Philanthropist  
One Fun Friend

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Dear Friend,

Marie Carley was a member and supporter of CU Maurice River for 22 years. But long before that she had a great influence on the way CU conducted itself.

I first met Marie as a teenager and spent many days visiting her middle daughter and family in my childhood neighborhood. Marie was the mother everyone wanted. She was intelligent, humorous, and warm – but nonetheless she inspired respect and maintained boundaries. She didn't get easily rattled and seemed to know what was important. Her daughters were imaginative, lively, but always courteous. The key to her success in my opinion was that she listened, gave regard to others' ideas, and showed affection. She fostered individualism in those close to her. She was cool, lively, but could be stately too.

So yes, many of us wanted to share her. Even as an adult, calling her Marie was not easy for me. And I preferred “Mom Carley.”

My favorite story about Marie was the meatball incident. Marie, middle daughter Joni, youngest daughter Jan, and myself were in the kitchen along with their standard poodle, Buffy. Marie, Joni, and I were seated at the corner kitchenette. As Jan took a boiling pot of spaghetti and meatball sauce from the stove top, the handles broke off the pot's sides and the vessel hit so squarely on the floor that about six meat balls shot out of the pot and stuck to the ceiling. Then each one broke slowly free, and honestly... I kid you not, landed right back in the pot of hot sauce with a plop. All of us were totally slack-jawed. Jan was frozen in the center of the kitchen, with her hands at her side, palms up, eyes gazing upon the ceiling, as the last suspended meat ball found its way back into the boiling pot.

It was one of those accidents that your mind seems to record in slow motion. There was a hush as we looked at Jan to see if she was okay. She clearly was in shock but amazingly unscathed. Then all three of us teens looked at Marie with raised eyebrows that I suspect resembled Alfalfa from *Our Gang*. We were awaiting the cue from the senior representative before reacting. Marie said, “Are you alright, Jan?” Jan replied, “I think so.” Then our silence was finally broken; Buffy, who had been bathed in sauce, shook it from his head so that it dotted the kitchen walls and ceiling with red splatter. And then Marie succumbed to a belly laugh and all of us guffawed so hard that we cried. Buffy looked at the entire affair as an opportunity to sample sauce. I dryly said, “My mom would not have found this funny!” And Marie said, “No, I don't suppose she would.” And we all started laughing that much harder. She and my mother were friends and she knew that my mother's reputation for being “tidy” was legendary.

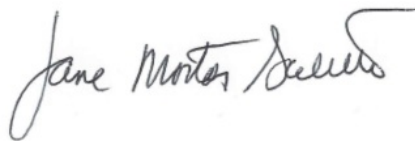
During Covid Pat Witt, one of my other nonagenarian friends, phoned and said, “I'm calling to see how you are doing because on the TV news they said you should call your “older friends” to see if they are okay.” I told her, “Oh go to ...” and we both had a good laugh. So I decided to pay Pat's deed forward and I phoned Marie and said, “Pat Witt called to see if I was okay since we have a serious pandemic, and she was instructed to call her “older friends.” So I'm wondering why you didn't call me! I'm very offended.” Marie laughed and said, “Well, what did you tell Pat?” I said I told her I was fine and she could go to ... To which Marie dryly replied, “I bet you did!” Then I told her I loved her and in typical Marie fashion she said, “I love you more.”

Her love went beyond her family and into the community in all she did. She sought to inspire others to commit to the community too. In every way she was a mentor to all whose lives she touched. Even when being devilish, or bold and saucy she was always kind.

There are things that I have tried to carry into my adult life with CU that were reinforced by Mom Carley. It's okay to tease, but only if you balance it with respect. Giving is more fun than receiving. Life is empty without fun. A good party is a good thing. (First and foremost CU has had to be fun. Things generally happen when work is fun and sharing with others is fun.) Try not to sweat the small stuff. Be kind and loving. Honestly, she could have written *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. Spelling out that book's lessons may seem obvious, but living the lessons - THAT is what Marie did. I can only hope to aspire to such greatness.

Marie passed on to her daughters the same fun spirit that she had for life. She also passed on the care for others and kindness that typified her relationships. She gave them confidence. She passed along her curiosity and her love for the arts. Jan, Joni, Jacalyn and family, please accept our condolences at the loss of a great mother and woman. "Marie rest in peace."

Sincerely,



Jane Morton Galetto  
CU Maurice River Board President

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## Marie Aspell Carley May 26, 1926 - August 24, 2021

Cape May - Marie Aspell Carley, long-time resident and believer in all-things Millville, passed away on August 24 in Cape May, NJ at the age of 95. Marie touched the hearts of everyone who knew her — as the life of every party, a generous supporter of Cumberland County charities, a dedicated member of the Millville Woman's Club, a board member of Wheaton Arts, a news junkie, and above all —a believer in laughter and in people.

She taught her three daughters, Jacalyn Carley, Joni Marie Carley and Jan Carley Randle, to be self-confident women and caring, giving human beings. Her grandchildren were her Seven Wonders of the World: Joseph, Lauren and Spencer Randle, Ian and Ari Yamaguchi, and Alexander and Katy Schaper. Her great grandchildren, Chad and Claire Marie Keller, were her Wonder'fuls'. Marie had a deep and special relationship with both son-in-laws, Chad A Randle and Ruediger Schaper, and with her grandson-in-law, Bill Keller. She was a special aunt to her nieces and nephews, and is survived by a sister, Peggy Raebiger.

Marie Aspell was the oldest of seven and helped the family by working as a Locker Room Girl at Clementon Lake Park. She became a whizz typist who took on two full time jobs to support her siblings. While working at Varitype, she met Joseph Carley. They married in 1952 and moved from Haddonfield, NJ to Millville in 1969 with Duralith Corporation. As President of The

Joseph L Carley Foundation, Marie oversaw help for homeless, food kitchen support and to many organizations dedicated to helping those in need. She cared deeply for women's causes and the general betterment of Millville. Marie made a lasting contribution to the Levoy Theater and the Millville Public Library.

Marie had a quick and wicked sense of humor, few were spared! Only a few years ago she retired her tap shoes and the boombass instrument that entertained family and friends. There was never enough music, never enough dancing or laughter. She always wanted more. There was only this life and she'd still be here if she could.

Marie moved into the house next to her best friend and daughter, Jan, who with her husband Chad, brought the party to her or her to the party. Marie passed away peacefully surrounded by her family. We are grateful for every minute we had with her, and grateful for the opportunities her generosity provided for her children and grandchildren. As much and often that we told her we loved her, she never failed to answer, "I love you more." And she did. In lieu of flowers or gifts, we request you make a donation in her name to the Millville Public Library.

Memories and expressions of sympathy for Marie Aspell Carley may be shared on the Obituary Tribute Wall at [www.christyfuneralservice.com](http://www.christyfuneralservice.com).

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