



Dian Rae Shivers
Spouse, Friend, Singer, Golfer, Outdoors Gal

March 31, 1942 - April 24, 2025

Dear Citizens,

On April 15 Ferne Detwiler reached out to let me know that Dian Shivers had been diagnosed with acute leukemia. Only ten days later Dian had passed.

My husband Peter and I were shocked by Ferne's news of the loss of her partner of 51 years. We've known them since 2014, as Ferne and Dian have spent their winters in Jensen Beach, Florida and the rest of the year in Cape May.

On a few occasions when we visited our daughters in Florida we would get together

with Dian and Ferne, introducing them to Green Cay and Wakodahatchee wetland boardwalks and the fantastic birding to be had there. Afterwards we enjoyed a few stone crab claws.

When I think of Dian it is impossible for me not to think of Ferne; they were a duo to be sure. In fact recently I admitted that, when I still reported to the office, Doreen would continually have to straighten me out on who was Shivers and who was Detwiler. I would wave my hand and say, "Right Ferne and Dian," always in that order. And so it was... reach out to "Ferne and Dian," for any number of things.

Dian always had a knowing smile. She was an observer. In her memorial booklet a friend posted, "She had a quiet strength." And I thought to myself, "Exactly." She made you feel safe and comfortable and her eyes twinkled when she was amused by her observations.

I think it may have been a police person attribute: observing others. At times Dian would finally break her silence and inquire about something. I remember that when preparing sweet potatoes for the shorebird recovery team she said to me, "What are you doing?"

"Hmmm," I replied, "piercing the sweet potatoes so they don't burst."

"Not necessary; they will only leak. Never poke them. Do you have oil and salt?"

And she oiled and salted the skin. I've been making them like that ever since. And they don't burst and are far tastier.

After that she always made them for the scientists, when we celebrated Spring Thanksgiving as an example of an all-American meal for our international visitors.

I remember back in 2016 when Karla had the bright idea that chefs should wear a funny hat to cook for the Chili Bowl. I was being a bit of a stick in the mud about the idea. "Can't we just cook?" I asked. But Karla was gung ho, "AJ, it will be great." I pursed my lips in skepticism.

Then weeks later when I entered the Chili Bowl kitchen, I saw Dian and Ferne and they were priceless, and all IN. Dian's hat had what looked like a big rodent on it and just to top things off, the furry devil was wearing a chef hat too. Good gravy, you couldn't help but smile. She had a great sense of humor.

In 2026 I hope Karla will bring back the crazy hat madness in honor of Dian.

As I pen this, today will be the Thanksgiving celebration at Reed's Beach, and we will all lift a glass in Dian's memory, and I will be thinking of her all-knowing smile, and yes, sweet potatoes.

Ferne, know that you are in many members thoughts. We wish to express our condolences to you and Dian's other family members.

Dian, you will be missed! Rest in peace.

Sincerely,

Jane Morton Galetto

Jane Morton Galetto
CU Maurice River Board President

Dian Rae Shivers

March 31, 1942 - April 24, 2025



Dian Rae Shivers passed away peacefully in Jupiter, FL on April 24, 2025. She was the cherished wife of Ferne Detwiler with whom she spent 51 years of her life.

She was born in Camden, NJ to the late Isabelle Bevis and the late Worth Shivers. She grew up in Green Creek, NJ, attended Middle Township High School but graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in Camden.

Dian was an avid golfer and was a member of the Avalon Country Club. She was especially proud of the Albatross she got at Green Tree Golf Club. She was also a member of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River. Dian enjoyed the

varied nature programs and was especially interested in bird watching. She loved to travel and hiked many of the National Parks. She climbed Half Dome in Yosemite and made it to the top! She loved to fish and loved to clean the fish and have a fish fry for family and friends. She was a member of Cape Shore Chorus Sweet Adelines International for 20 years. She enjoyed gardening, biking and fixing things.

Dian was a member of the Rio Grande Rescue Squad; a volunteer for the Dennis Township Fire Department and completed Fire Fighting School 1 and 2.

At one point she drove a school bus and then worked at Middle Township Police Department as a dispatcher after which she became a special police officer. She graduated from the police academy in 1987 and became a Sheriff's Officer where she worked until she retired in 2001.

In addition to her parents, Dian was preceded in death by her sisters Janet Bright and Sandra Hoffman and her brothers Walter and Edmund Shivers. She has a half-sister,

Terri Guthrie. She leaves behind nieces and nephews as well as grand nieces and nephews who she loved dearly.

Dian's legacy of love and kindness as well as her integrity will live on in the hearts of those who had the privilege of knowing her. Dian's life was well lived and well loved.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, PO Box 22324, New York, NY 10087 or to Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River, 17 E. Main St, Millville NJ 08332.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Radzieta Funeral Home, 9 Hand Avenue, Cape May Court House, NJ on Saturday, May 31, 2025. Visitation will begin at 9:00 a.m. followed by a memorial service at 11:00 a.m.





CU ON THE RIVER
www.CUMauriceRiver.org



Citizens United To Protect the Maurice River and Its Tributaries | P.O. Box 474 | Millville, NJ
08332 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!