



## Amber Shannon Bonnet

March 4, 1940 - May 2, 2021

Shannon Bonnet (nee Rafferty) passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family on May 2, 2021 at the age of 81 having fought an incredibly courageous battle against an aggressive cancer. Shannon was born on March 4, 1940 in Newark, NJ. She met her soulmate, Robert Bonnet, when they were children in the Roseville United Methodist Church in Newark, in which her grandparents, Rev. Dr. Edson R. Leach and Rev. Louise Knowles Leach, were pastors. Shannon was a lifetime United Methodist Church member. The oldest of six children and loving daughter of Martin James Rafferty and Amber Leach Rafferty, Shannon married Bob on November 17, 1962 and they would share a lifelong adventure and incredible love story together for the next 53 years until his passing five years ago. Shannon represented the best in all of us and passionately embraced her 31 year teaching career in Commercial Township Public Schools where she was loved by her elementary school students. She was a wonderful role model and was always nurturing a love for learning. She worked to instill confidence, kindness and self esteem and encouraged every child to dream big, work hard and pursue their full potential. She loved the more than 800 students she taught as well as her colleagues, some of whom would become lifelong friends. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Drew University and her Master's Degree in Educational

Counseling from Rowan University.

Shannon lived a beautiful life filled with love, kindness, generosity, and happiness. Throughout her life her family and friends were her pride and joy. She always lifted up everyone around her with her caring joyful spirit, great sense of humor and her exuberant passion for living. Shannon and Bob enjoyed their summers at the beach swimming, sailing and having fun with family and friends. They could be found riding the waves on their kayaks, scootering around the local communities, playing bridge and backgammon, and enjoying food at many of their favorite places. She loved poetry and music. The world is a far more beautiful place because of the wonderful person she was and the life she lived.

She is survived by her son, Robert Bonnet and his wife Susan, her daughter Marjorie Bonnet and her five grandchildren (the joy of her life) Martin, Carly, Kaitlyn, Rachel, and Lily of whom she was so proud and loved so dearly. She is also survived by her sisters Sondra Rafferty and Amber Wiltsie and her brother Edson Rafferty, as well as her sisters in law Joan Adair, Carol Walsh and Joanne Rafferty Boogaard. She was predeceased by her sister Dietra Anne, brother Martin and brothers in law Edward Wiltsie and Orrie Adair. She is also survived by numerous cousins, nieces and nephews whom she so loved and enjoyed.

Out of respect for all amidst covid, only family and close friends will gather for a small intimate memorial service to celebrate Shannon's life in early June. A zoom link will be provided on the Perinchief Chapel website for all others who would like to participate remotely. In addition, all are invited to share their thoughts and memories about Shannon on the Perinchief Chapel website. Shannon had a great love of all animals and throughout her life always had a dog or cat as a loving member of her family, most recently their dog Sunny. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Shannon's name to the Ocean City

Humane Society –1 Shelter Road, Ocean City, NJ 08226  
Alison Perinchief is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Shannon Bonnet Memorial Service

Time: Jun 5, 2021 10:45 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84256934346?pwd=WmJ0ZIR1SExURTNENTBEYVFdTjV1dz09>

Meeting ID: 842 5693 4346

Passcode: 127323

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUN 5. 11:00 AM.

Zoom link in obituary

# Tribute Wall



“ *Amber Shannon Bonnet*

October 29, 2022 at 11:57 AM



“ *Amber Shannon Bonnet*

October 29, 2022 at 09:53 AM

“Morning was almost breaking. The smell of saltwater and the crisp moist cool humid air embraced your senses as a knock came at my door and the sweet soft voice of my sister Shannon said, "Amie, Marty do you want to walk to the jetty and watch the sun come up before it comes over the horizon?" "Yes.! hold on let me get my clothes. Marty, Wake up! Come on . We are going with Shannon.". We would both jump out of bed and with no shoes or socks, just shorts with a tee shirt and sweat shirt, we would rush out of the house to go with Shannon to watch the sun rise over the jetty in Manasquan.

As we would walk down the beach, she would tell us stories about her life or about the sunrise, or why she loved that time in the morning. She would say, "After the sun comes up, we go to the bakery and get a cookie or a doughnut and maybe some fresh sweet rolls for the house. ( we always rented a beach house every summer on the beach from for 10 days to two weeks in September. We would go just before Labor Day and miss the first week of school . Marty and I always loved that . Anything to get out of school was a God send.

As we walked quickly down the beach, because we were rushing to beat the sun before it came up, the smells of the ocean, the sounds of the waves crashing upon the shore, the feel of the air as it caressed your body, these are the things we embraced with my sister. She taught me about the silence of the morning , the beauty of a new day, the appreciation of each moment and the glory of God in all things. I learned to listen for God in the beauty of Gods creations. It was because of Shannon I learned to love and find God in my life. She taught me about silence, no thought and love.

There are very rare people that come into this world who carry the love and kindness of God in their every step. This was my sister Shannon. There was never so kind and so gentle a woman as she. Never ever would she hurt another. Never ever would she say a mean thing. Never ever would she sink into the realms of darkness. This was a woman of quality. She loved her husband. She loved her children. She loved her family . She loved the world and did everything in her power to lift everyone up and set them upon the

*path of the divine. But never try to hurt anyone or do a wrong deed against another, for in her you would find a fierce adversary and a protective warrior.*

*I know she is fine and is happy right now. It is more that I will miss this beautiful reflection of God realizing itself in a beautiful woman and I will dearly miss my gentle, loving and kind sister who was a great gift to me and to the world. I Love You Shannon and I pray we will not only continue to communicate but we will meet again in the golden fields of God that will be manifesting here on this earth.*

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**Amber Rafferty Wiltsie** - June 05, 2021 at 09:33 AM

JR

“ *Shannon was like an older sister to me. She showed her love of and joy for life by her words and actions. She loved people & always made them feel comfortable in her presence. She was a devoted wife, mother and teacher. The lessons I learned from Shannon (and her amazing extended family) live with me daily. Sending my love, empathy and sympathy to the Raffertys, Bonnets, Wiltsies and other friends and relatives. RIP dearest Shannon.*

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**Judy Rosenstein** - June 04, 2021 at 11:24 AM

RC

“ *We are so very sorry for your loss. Your mom was an intelligent, caring, joyful and positive person who was a bright light in our our lives. We had many a round of trivial pursuit with your parents and Shannon was a VERY competitive player! We also had a few laughs when we would quiz her about her FOUR favorite football teams. She was never unhappy because at least one of them generally won. So many good times-we will miss her and cherish our memories.*

*Beth and Rick Champion*

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**Rick Champion** - June 03, 2021 at 03:45 PM

CN

“ To Shannon's Family, my sincere condolences. I had the fun of knowing Shannon through the Ocean City Senior Center where, along with my mom, Suzanne, we played bridge. Shannon was always so sweet to my mom, who died two years ago at the age of 96. Shannon always wore a bright smile. I'll remember her fondly.

*Camille Nickle*

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**Camille M Nickles** - May 17, 2021 at 10:35 AM