



Mrs. Shirley Jean (Arcuri) Cannistra

March 13, 1935 - July 29, 2021

UTICA - Mrs. Shirley Jean (Arcuri) Cannistra, age 86, passed peacefully on Thursday, July 29, 2021 with her devoted family by her side.

Born in Utica on March 13, 1935, Shirley was the daughter of the late beloved Dominick “Babe” and Elvira “Mollie” (Tutino) Arcuri. She was a graduate of Utica Free Academy/Class of 1953. On April 28, 1956 she wed James R. “Jim” Cannistra with whom she shared a loving marriage for over 65 years. Shirley was employed by the New York Telephone Company, worked as a proofreader for a local firm, and for the Jewish Community Center for many years. A friend of the New Hartford Public Library, she was a treasurer, fundraiser, and supporter, for the library for over 40 years. She always claimed she got the job because no one else wanted it, but the truth was she was good at it and enjoyed doing it!

As the matriarch of her family, her main job was caring for her husband and their four boys; she was a fabulous role model for which her family is eternally grateful, and it was a labor of love that fulfilled Shirley’s life. In her spare time, she enjoyed reading, cooking, socializing, and planning annual vacations which were never missed over 65 years. Their vacation travels included trips throughout New York State as well as Myrtle Beach, Bethany Beach, Cape Cod, and overseas to England, Ireland, China, and her favorite destination ~ Italy! Shirley was of the Catholic faith.

She is survived by her beloved husband, her honey, Jim. She was a dear Mom to her sons and daughters-in-law, James “Jim” and Veena Cannistra,

David Cannistra, Dan and Julie Cannistra, and the memory of her son Matthew J. Cannistra who she took care of for over 18 years after he became ill and prior to his passing on October 28, 2005. She was Grandmother to eight wonderful and caring grandchildren: Sarah, Sharon, Daniel, Molly and her husband Brian Szmak, Ethan, Jake, Zachary, and Michael; two grandchildren by marriage, Leila, and Toby; and former daughters-in-law, Mary Kate Bland, Jayne Gilbert, and Justine Coffey.

She was proud of them all, and they all loved her and appreciated spending time with her, and particularly enjoyed her special chocolate chip cookie recipe. Everyone will miss her cookies, but those who loved her most will miss her as a wife, mother, and grandmother, as well as her sister, JoAnn (Arcuri) Wald (and her late husband George Wald Sr.); and the memory of her brother and sister-in-law, Joseph J. Sr. and Jeanne Arcuri who preceded her; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Patrick and Ronnie Cannistra; as well as extended family members of the Cannistra, Arcuri, Tutino, and Olivadoti families.

The family would like to thank the nurses and staff at MVHS at St. Luke's Healthcare for their compassionate care and support.

Visitation will be held Tuesday morning, August 3, 2021 from 10-11:30 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., followed by her Celebration of Life at 11:30 at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the New Hartford Public Library online at <https://www.newhartfordpubliclibrary.org/gift-form/>. Envelopes will also be available at the funeral home. Interment will take place in St. Agnes Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

"We love you and you will always be with us."

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery at the convenience of the family

601 Arthur Street
Utica, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 3. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

Celebration of Life

AUG 3. 11:30 AM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Mrs. Shirley Jean (Arcuri) Cannistra.*



August 02, 2021 at 07:08 PM



“ *Dear Jimmy,
I was so saddened to read Shirley's beautiful obituary this morning. The sadness I feel brings me back to my childhood as a 5 year old. Wow that's how long I have known you both, since you were dating and then married and moving to that 3rd floor apartment on Rutger St. I warmly remember climbing those beautiful staircases to come visit with you and Shirley. The memories and visions are permanently etched in my mind and on my heart. I felt so welcomed and loved. It has been so heartwarming to reconnect in recent years. Please know that I send my heartfelt love and sympathy to you and your family. I am currently out of town. Sending you my hugs, love and prayers and praying that Shirley is at peace eternally. You will always be Shirley and Jimmy to me.
With all my heartfelt sympathy and love.
Joann Cavo Campbell*

Joann Cavo Campbell - August 02, 2021 at 02:32 PM

RE

“ *Mr. Cannistra and family,
I am sending my sincerest condolences at this most difficult time in the loss of a most remarkable woman. She was so caring and one of the strongest, genuine , and dedicated woman I had the pleasuring of meeting in the hardest of her times. Her family was her priority .
I hope you can find some comfort knowing Matthew welcomed her with open arms and they are now together. I was blessed to be able to care for Matt over the years of his illness and local hospitalizations. May God bless you and keep you close at this time.*

Renee' Azzarito

Renee' - August 02, 2021 at 10:29 AM

AE

“ *Ann and Dave Efimetz purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Shirley Jean (Arcuri) Cannistra.*



Ann and Dave Efimetz - August 02, 2021 at 09:43 AM

JB

“ *Jim and family...anyone that knew Shirley Cannistra knew her dedication to all of you. Kind, direct and always a lady, her memory will be eternal through those who loved her.
No matter who lives there, your Tudor home in NH will always be known as Shirley and Jim's to me. Rest In Peace.*

john brown - July 31, 2021 at 06:34 AM

JC

My very deepest sympathy to you Jim and your entire family. Shirley truly was one in a million. Her genuine love of family and friends was a blessing I was fortunate enough to receive. She had a kindness and calming manner that made anyone in her company feel like family. I will miss her.

May God bless you all and help you throughout the days ahead.

*Love and Prayers,
Jeanne Castronovo*

Jeanne Castronovo - July 31, 2021 at 09:33 AM

DA

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to you all Uncle Jim and family. Aunt Shirley was a wonderful woman and a treasure that will remain in our hearts. We know she will continue to guide and shine bright for you in all the days to come.

*God bless you all.
Babe, Meriam and Sebastian*

Dominic Arcuri - August 01, 2021 at 06:02 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Mrs. Shirley Jean (Arcuri) Cannistra.*



July 30, 2021 at 09:57 PM