



Jean Shaw McHale

April 9, 1944 - November 14, 2015

Jean Shaw McHale, designer, entrepreneur, musician, charitable leader, daughter, wife, mother, and grandmother passed away due to complications with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) on Saturday, November 14, 2015. Never one to approach life at less than maximum speed, she continued to work, play, and stay active in her Easton and Baltimore communities until the very end. She died peacefully at home in Easton early Saturday morning surrounded by her family.

Born in Stewartstown, PA, Jean spent her early years on her family's fruit farm, Shaw Orchards, where she inherited an appreciation for music and a deep-seated sense of resourcefulness from her parents, Clay and Anna Shaw. After graduating from Kennard-Dale High School, she pursued an academic career in music at Lebanon Valley College and later earned a Master's degree in music from the University of Maryland.

Upon completion of her Master's, she began sharing her gift of music and talent of teaching by forming a Benjamin Stoddert Middle School singing group, the Peppermint Pipers. Over several years, she led the group on national performance tours and recorded two albums. As in most areas of her life, she made a huge impact on the kids she led. In 2010, over 40 years later, the group reunited and gave a live performance at the Avalon Theater in Easton.

Jean started Gaines McHale Antiques in Cockeysville, MD, in May of 1980. As the business grew, and later moved to downtown Baltimore, she expanded into interior design, historic renovation, and complete interior and exterior redesigns of remarkable private residences and businesses.

Jean left an impact everywhere she went and contributed to her communities for decades. During her service to the Junior League of Baltimore, she led the Larks Singing Group (recording yet another album) and chaired numerous Holiday Pops extravaganzas in conjunction with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for charity in the process. A long-time member of 2nd Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, she directed the youth choir and orchestrated the annual Christmas pageant for many years.

After moving to Maryland's Eastern Shore shore in 1996, she immediately got involved in the local community. She served on the board of the Chesapeake Chamber Music for many years, chairing numerous annual fundraisers. She also dedicated her time and energy to the Talbot County Historical Society, serving as Secretary on the Board of Directors and helping the move and expansion of the Tharpe Antiques and Consignment charity.

Jean fought a multi-year battle with ALS, but never let the terminal diagnosis slow her down. With incredible and selfless care from the team at the Johns Hopkins ALS Clinic, she and her husband Mike learned to make the best of life under the cloud of an ALS diagnosis.

Over the past year, Jean and her husband visited 21 foreign cities and nine in the U.S., embarked on two multi-week international cruises, traveled to Hawaii, and drove thousands of miles to visit friends and family. She loved what she did, she loved her friends, she loved her family, and wasn't willing to

let ALS dictate the terms of her life. She is survived by both of her parents, two of her siblings, her husband, three sons, and six grandchildren.

A celebration of Jean Shaw McHale's life will be held at Christ Church in Easton, MD, Friday December 11, 2015, starting at noon.

ALS is a horrendously cruel disease that debilitates strong and healthy people like Jean to the point where they can no longer move, eat, or breathe. With no cure or treatment on the horizon, ALS families need help right now for the resources and care to help them live out their days to the fullest. Honoring Jean's wishes, the family requests that, in lieu of flowers, consider a donation to the Johns Hopkins ALS Clinic to provide much needed real-time support to other families battling ALS. Online donations may be made to <https://secure.jhu.edu/form/als> or by mail, Hopkins ALS Clinical Care & Education Fund, C/O Lora L. Clawson, CRNP, Suite 5070A, 601 North Caroline Street, Baltimore, MD 21287.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

celebration of life

DEC 11. 12:00 PM (ET)

Christ Episcopal Church, Easton
111 S. Harrison Street
Easton, MD 21601

Tribute Wall

RO

“ Living with ALS has been one of the hardest challenges of my life. The muscle weakness, fatigue, and gradual loss of mobility were heartbreaking. Conventional treatments offered little more than temporary comfort, and I was starting to lose hope. That's when I discovered NaturePath Herbal Clinic. Skeptical but desperate for relief, I decided to try their herbal therapy. To my surprise, by the fourth month, I began noticing steady improvements less muscle twitching, better coordination, and renewed energy. It wasn't an overnight miracle, but the progress felt real. For the first time in a long while, I felt a sense of control returning to my body. Today, I move more freely, sleep better, and most importantly I feel hopeful again. This journey with NaturePath has been life changing. If you or someone you love is battling ALS or any other neurodegenerative condition, I genuinely encourage you to explore natural alternatives. You might be surprised at what's possible. I'm truly grateful I gave them a chance. www.naturepathherbalclinic.com

Robert - July 15, 2025 at 10:38 AM

SI

“ I Almost lost my Mom to this horrific disease. She battled it for 9 year's diagnosed, but we believe she had it even before that. but all thanks to Aknniherbscentre .com for their Als protocol. She is the strongest person I have ever known and thanks !!!! to aknni herbs centre

sima - July 23, 2024 at 06:24 AM

CM

“ My first ALS symptom occurred in 2016, but was diagnosed in 2018. I had severe symptoms ranging from shortness of breath, balance problems, couldn't walk without a walker or a power chair, i had difficulty swallowing and fatigue. I was given medications which helped but only for a short burst of time, then I decided to try alternative measures and began on ALS Formula treatment from Aknni herbs centre, It has made a tremendous difference for me (Visit ww w. aknniherbscentre.c om). I had improved walking balance, increased appetite, muscle strength, improved eyesight and others.

Cory Meron - February 01, 2024 at 04:05 AM



“ Jean Shaw McHale

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ Jean Shaw McHale

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM

TA

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Thato amelia - April 16, 2022 at 08:14 AM

TA

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Thato Amelia - April 13, 2022 at 01:29 AM

TA

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Thato amelia - February 21, 2022 at 01:38 PM

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Thato amelia - February 21, 2022 at 01:32 PM

MH

“ I just learned of Jean's passing through an associate in Baltimore. I met Jean and Mike in the wonderful days of Gaines McHale, having purchased many a beautiful antique or vintage piece from their shop. In recent years my husband and I met Jean and Mike for Sunday brunch and had a chance to visit the Easton shop. Jean provided design consulting services to our home in Butler MD and I was always amazed at her ingenious ability to make something beautiful by reinventing a drapery, fabric, wood, or other element no longer in use but could effectively be used in a new way. Just like the early days of creating the media entertainment cabinets in the Gaines McHale shop from the vintage wood from Ireland and England....it was a theme ahead of its time.....that was part of Jean's vision and magic. She recycled and reinvented way before it became vogue to do so.....
My condolences to Mike and family....I know she is missed, but her legend lives on in many homes and businesses where she made her artistic mark. Melinda Hayes

Melinda Hayes - February 25, 2016 at 11:53 AM

CJ

“ Christine, Greg, Brynn and Jack purchased the Garden of Memories for the family of Jean Shaw McHale.



Christine, Greg, Brynn and Jack - December 09, 2015 at 06:22 PM

SA

“ To Mike and family, I knew when I first met Jean in 1980 at her little antique shop in the Cockeysville fire-house that she was a very special person. I followed her career the next 35 years and was amazed at her incredible enthusiasm for whatever she undertook. We shared a common interest in design and all things beautiful. She will be sorely missed by all whose lives she touched. My deepest sympathy on your great loss. Sally Anthony

sally anthony - December 05, 2015 at 12:52 PM

JB

“ I've known Jean Shaw since I was 10 years old. I first met her at our local 4-H club when Jean and her mother helped me with my first sewing project. She was a positive motivator in so many ways even when she was a teenager. Later when I played in band with her she inspired me and so many others to audition for district band and to always do our very best in all things musical. Years after I lost touch with her I just happened to wonder into her antique shop in Cockeysville. Of course it was run by Jean. So many beautiful English period pieces, so artfully displayed. We spent about an hour catching up after so many years and she was still the same Jean. She was an inspiring person who will be missed by so many people and in so many ways. Sincere sympathies to the entire Shaw family. Jane Theophel Brown

Jane Theophel Brown - November 22, 2015 at 01:52 PM



“ *With Our Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Jean Shaw McHale.*



November 18, 2015 at 02:43 PM



“ *What can you say about a person who gave so much? Jean shaped many young lives with her love of music and her passion for life. The Peppermint Pipers are forever in her debt for shaping our lives and giving us so many wonderful, long lasting memories. Mike and family, my heartfelt condolences for your loss and ours. Love, Kathi*

Kathi Mingo - November 16, 2015 at 07:57 AM



“ *The Anderson family is very sad to hear of this loss. Mrs. McHale held a special place in our hearts for many reasons. We love her, and pray for her family during this tough time.*



Nina Casgar Anderson - November 15, 2015 at 10:42 AM



“ *Mary Miller lit a candle in memory of Jean Shaw McHale*



Mary Miller - November 14, 2015 at 11:41 PM

MM

“ *Prays and thoughts for your family. Ron and Mary Miller*

Mary Miller - November 14, 2015 at 11:40 PM