



Barbara Jean Dias

July 9, 1940 - February 20, 2023

Barbara Dias passed away on February 20th, 2023. Her parents were Phoebe and Harvey W. Turner. She was born and spent her childhood in Honolulu, Hawaii where she walked barefoot to school, learned to dance hula, collected bottle caps for movie tickets and spent many hours on the beach. Her family lived through the traumatic experience of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. In the 1956 her family moved to Santa Clara, California where two years later she married her next door neighbors' son Jerry Ray Dias. This July would have been their 65th wedding anniversary. They had three children together (Jennifer Jean, Harvey William, and Rene Barbara) while living first in California and then in Arizona while Jerry completed his B.S. and Ph.D. degrees. Barbara worked various jobs during this time. In 1972, they moved to Overland Park, Kansas, where Jerry became a chemistry professor and Barbara became a full time homemaker. She spearheaded the remodeling work and furnishing of their first house, attended faculty events, and bustled her children to piano lessons, ballet lessons, and Cub and Boy Scout activities. She also helped raise two grandchildren (Regina Ann and Wayne Victor) during this time. She made sure that her family attended Catholic mass every Sunday. Barbara was good at sewing and made some of her own outfits. She had a unique style of cooking that incorporated Hawaiian and Portuguese cuisine. She was good with finances and her frugal saving and investment skills helped her and Jerry prosper in their later years. Barbara loved spending her free time watching various musicals and movies. She

loved tap-dancing movies with Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire, comedy (Benny Hill, Lucille Ball, and Peter Sellers), and spooky movies. She enjoyed rendering her Count Dracula impressions to tease her husband and kids at the end of the spooky films. After the children moved away, Barbara and Jerry had a new house built where Barbara spent a lot of time flower gardening and decorating. Barbara and Jerry began to enjoy a broader social life in a local casino. They attended numerous movies and concerts. In addition, they travelled to Spain, France, India, and Scotland. Barbara was a strong-willed, compassionate, loving person with a great sense of humor. She had a beautiful smile. She leaves behind her husband, two sisters (Ethel and Emmy), two brothers (Mickey and Doug), three children, 7 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, and 2 great-great grandkids. Barbara will be dearly missed.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

FEB **24**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home
3300 Shawnee Dr
Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 831-3345
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com
<https://maplehillfuneralhome.com>

Memorial Service

FEB **24**. 11:00 AM (CT)

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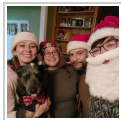
Tribute Wall



“ *Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery created a Tribute Video in memory of Barbara Jean Dias*



Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery - February 23, 2023 at 04:49 PM



Love you forever Mom.

Jennifer Birriel - February 26, 2023 at 05:30 PM

JD

Barbara, I love you forever!

Jerry Dias - March 05, 2023 at 09:15 AM



“ *Barbara Jean Dias*

October 08, 2023 at 10:59 AM

DP

“ *David Patterson lit a candle in memory of Barbara Dias*



David Patterson - March 15, 2023 at 12:08 PM

JD

“ My wife of 64 years remains the love of my life. She had a beautiful smile. We shared the same sense of family and morality, religion, politics, and commitment to each other. Our economic standing is due to her financial management. We reinforced each other on all family matters, including the sanctity of life. Our initial years in establishing our family and my career had many hardships. She was with me while I acquired my B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in chemistry. She plotted mass spectral data for the Djerassi research laboratory while I was a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University. Our first major travel was to Slovenia, Yugoslavia when I was awarded a Full Bright Scholarship to the University of Ljubljana. During this period, we visited Venice, Rome, the Vatican Museum, the fortress city of Dubrovnik, and Pula in Croatia where there is a mini- Roman Colosseum and the Arc of Jason and the Argonauts exist. For a number of years, she assisted me in my role as Advertising and Business Manager of the Kansas City Chemist magazine. She helped me run the 5th International Conference on Mathematical and Computational Chemistry that I directed at UMKC in 1993 which had over 70 participants from nearly 20 countries. While I presented my research at international conferences, she made all the travel and hotel arrangements for us. On these travels, she visited with me the Eifel tower and the Roman Colosseum in France, Loch Ness in Scotland, Taj Mahal in India, Girona and Barcelona in Spain, and the Great Divide in Ontario, Canada. She was my partner in Life. She holds a special place in my heart, and I hope her spirit will continue to watch over me and protect me and visit me in my loneliness for her.

Jerry Dias - March 03, 2023 at 01:21 PM

JD

Barbara Jean Dias is the love of my life! Jerry Ray Dias

Jerry Dias - March 05, 2023 at 09:13 AM

JB

“ My mom was a fun, fierce, tough lady. She was a great cook and homemaker. She loved to sing along to Barbara Striesand songs - "People" was one of her favorites. She learned to dance the hulu while growing up in Hawaii and would occassionally give impromptu performances for family and friends! In her youth she sported a pixie hair cut like a model! She was known for her comedic, goofy performances in family gatherings. She loved to play card games like pinochle. She supported my interest in ballet, piano, and science while growing up. In large part, I am the woman I am today because of her.

Mom, I will miss you so much. But, I know that you are no longer suffering and are now at piece.

Jennifer Jean Birriel - February 26, 2023 at 11:21 AM

JB

“ My mom was a funny, spunky, tough woman. She could dance a mean Hulu dance and wore a pixie like a model! She was a great cook and loved to sing along with Barbara Streisand. She inspired me to be a ballet dancer and a piano player. She supported my goals to be an astrophysicist. Love you, and I will miss you. You will always be in my heart.

Jennifer Jean Birriel - February 25, 2023 at 09:21 PM



“ 86 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery - February 23, 2023 at 04:36 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket* was purchased for the family of Barbara Jean Dias.



February 23, 2023 at 11:05 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Barbara Jean Dias.



February 22, 2023 at 08:37 PM