



Catherine "Kitten" Howell Susanin

October 14, 1936 - November 13, 2023

Catherine ("Kitten") Howell Susanin, 87, formerly of Wynnewood and Harveys Lake, Pennsylvania, beloved wife of the late Andre G. Susanin, passed away peacefully on November 13, 2023, with her family by her side. Kitten was born on October 14, 1936, in Wilkes-Barre, PA, the daughter of the late John and Mary (Sherrard) Howell. She received her B.S. Degree from Wheelock College and went on to teach kindergarten, eventually making her way to the Philadelphia area where she would meet her future husband, partner, and best friend of 48 years, Andre. Together they travelled the world, did numerous renovation projects, and spent many sunny days with family at Kitten's favorite place, Harveys Lake. Kitten was famous as an entertainer, hosting many wonderful parties and holiday gatherings, including legendary Thanksgivings in Wynnewood where more than 40 family and friends would gather – and there was always room for one more at the table. Her energy, good humor and generosity were limitless, and strangers quickly became friends.

Kitten was known for her passion for volunteerism and was a devoted supporter of The Junior League of Philadelphia (JLP), where she served as president from 1976 to 1977. Her most lasting endeavor was her work with the nonprofit group Wheels of Wellness, which provided transportation to medical appointments for those in need. Kitten began as a volunteer driver for Wheels in 1962, eventually becoming Chair of the Board, and then the Director of the

Volunteer Division, where she served for more than 30 years. Later, Kitten also volunteered as a driver for the American Cancer Society, transporting cancer patients to their medical appointments. A consummate volunteer, Kitten always prioritized the wellbeing of others and worked tirelessly on their behalf.

Kitten was a long-time faithful member of the Church of the Redeemer in Bryn Mawr, PA where she served as a member of the Vestry and Altar Guild. She also served as Judge of Elections in Montgomery County for more than 36 years. In addition to serving on numerous community committees and boards, Kitten was a long-time member of Huntsville Golf Club and the Merion Cricket Club.

Predeceased by her husband Andre, Kitten is survived by two children and their spouses, John and Amy Susanin of Wayne and Betsy Susanin and Mark Stein of Philadelphia and four grandchildren: Jack, Charlie, Hannah, and Leo. In addition, Kitten is survived by sister, Sherry Hatch; brother-in-law John A. Susanin; sister-in-law, Judy Susanin; brother and sister-in-law, Roger and Helene Susanin; and many loving nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

A funeral service will be held Monday, November 20, 2023, at 11:00am at The Church of the Redeemer, 230 Pennswood Rd., Bryn Mawr, PA 19010. Burial will be private.

In keeping with Kitten's dedication to helping others, in lieu of flowers or donations, please consider volunteering at a charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Church of the Redeemer
230 Pennswood Rd
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

Tribute Wall

LM

“ I will miss Kitten. She and George were always sitting together somewhere at Brightview. I visit my parents daily and they both were so kind and friendly. If I was able, I'd get her a hot chocolate when I was getting coffee for my mom. She always asked about my endeavors and her sense of humor was contagious. I'm so very sorry for her loss. My thoughts are with her family and friends.

Laura

laura mack - December 22, 2023 at 10:17 PM

JS

“ Kitten was a wonderful neighbor at Harveys Lake! I loved waving to her as she passed by my house on her bike! She would smile and wave! I will miss her greatly!

*So sorry for your loss, John and family!
Judi Shaver*

Judi Shaver - November 23, 2023 at 06:16 PM

“ Throughout grade school, I was aware of Kitten who was then an “older woman,” and I was a pest three years behind (or beneath) her. But even then she was both a force to be reckoned with and a guide to the ways of life.

And, of course, there were the summer months at Harvey’s Lake. The Howell cottage was just down the road and, once again, I was the long distance observer of those big kids, Sherry and Kitten, in action.

Time wore on as is its custom, and the age difference mattered less. When a fourth was needed for tennis, for example. And eventually, occasional evenings when I was allowed to join Kitten and friends as we listened to Ray Hottle singing “Tiptoe through the tulips” at his celebrated Harvey’s Lake establishment..

As her many friends and admirers know well, Kitten had a way about her, a hearty joy in what was going on — or whatever she could get going. That characteristic distinguished her throughout her long life. People simply enjoyed doing things with Kitten. She was the cheer leader for us all.

Up until about 1994, we saw her regularly at The Lake, where almost anything was a cause for a get together, a party, a cruise, a sail, a swim or a cool beer and broken beer pretzels. Lively talk and jokes with Kitten were enriched by the presence of her memorable co-conspirator, Andy.

We were aware that in her other life, in Wynnewood, she was involved in good works and volunteering. Not that she made much of a thing about it. That’s why reading of the extent of her commitment to her church and her deep involvement in multiple service organizations helps to complete the picture of our friend’s life. And it reinforces our feeling that we had been privileged to know one of life’s rare, wonderful individuals.

Lewis and Betty Dana

Lewis D. Dana - November 19, 2023 at 11:30 AM

LS

“ *Lillian Smith purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Catherine "Kitten" Howell Susanin.*



Lillian Smith - November 18, 2023 at 11:17 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Catherine "Kitten" Howell Susanin.

November 15, 2023 at 09:25 AM

YS

“ We met Andy & Kitten through our family Mike & Blair Chapuisat. We were immediately accepted into their family and they helped us create so many memories throughout the next 30 years. Our children Jamie and Kelly learnt how to water ski with Kitten driving her ski boat up and down Harvey's Lake. We also have to recognize the first and then many hours spent at Grotto's Pizza where we were introduced to "white Pizza" and beer ! But one of our favorite memories will remain going to a "dive" to have 10 cent Shrimp.. Kitten then asked for a finger bowl ... to which the classy, bumble gum chewing waitress replied : "this ain't a classy joint".. Kitten and Andy will forever be in our hearts and memories. Our condolences to their children and grandchildren.
Yann, Gita, Jamie, Kelly Saunders

Yann & Gita Saunders - November 13, 2023 at 06:20 PM