



## Julie Chovanes

October 29, 1960 - January 7, 2025

Julie Chovanes (October 29th, 1960 – January 7th, 2025)

Julie Chovanes, a beloved father, grandparent, child, sibling, lawyer, comedian, and committed advocate for transgender rights, died suddenly on January 7, 2025, at the age of 64, from a heart attack. Originally from Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania, Julie was known for her faith in God, bravery, warmth, big hearty laugh, authenticity, and unwavering commitment to making the world a better place.

In recent years, Julie embarked on a new chapter, moving to Los Angeles to pursue her passion for acting and comedy. She always had a great sense of humor. Through laughter and introspection, she invited others to join her on her journey of self-expression and transformation. Julie's comedy was not just about laughter—it was a way for her to connect with others and to embrace vulnerability. It was a way to remind those around her that life, no matter how challenging, could always be met with a spirit of lightness – to never give up.

Julie was also a skilled and compassionate patent and intellectual property lawyer and civil rights lawyer, who dedicated much of her career to pro-bono work. An advocate for transgender rights, Julie fought for justice, equality, and legal protections for the trans community, leaving a lasting impact.

Her life was a testament to the values of compassion, empathy, service to others, and courage. Julie always believed in the power of kindness, standing up for what was right, and being authentically and unapologetically herself, no matter what. A trans woman, Julie's story was one of growth, acceptance, and empowerment, as she found confidence in herself and her place in the world. She was relatable, inspiring, and unstoppable.

Throughout her entire life, Julie drew on her faith in Jesus for strength and guidance. She believed that everything she did was part of God's plan and that He was guiding her every step of the way. This gave her a sense of purpose, direction, and resilience, even in the face of challenges and obstacles. She saw herself as someone who was using their voice and platform to spread God's message of love and compassion, and she was driven by a deep desire to create a world where everyone could find the courage to embrace their true selves.

Julie is survived by her children in whom she found immense pride: Kathryn, Anna (spouse: Josh), Zander, and Caroline; her grandchildren, Ellie and Anna June; her former spouse Martha Chovanes; her constant four-legged companions Aragorn and Legolas; her three brothers, sister-in-law, and their partners and children; and a wide circle of loving friends and extended family.

A funeral service will be held on January 25, 2025, at 9:30 AM at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Ardmore, PA (36 Ardmore Ave, Ardmore, PA 19003). Burial will occur immediately after at West Laurel Hill Cemetery, with a reception to follow back at the church. Julie's children invite all who knew and loved Julie to join them in celebrating her life.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in her honor to The Mazzoni Center (<https://www.mazzonicenter.org>) or to The Trevor Project (<https://www.thetrevorproject.org>).

Julie's family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude for the outpouring of love and support during this time. Julie's memory will live on in the hearts of those who loved her, and she will be deeply missed by all who had the honor of knowing her.

# Cemetery Details

## West Laurel Hill Cemetery

225 Belmont Avenue  
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

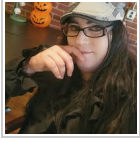
# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

JAN 25. 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Episcopal Church Ardmore  
36 Ardmore Avenue  
Ardmore, PA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Because of Julie i found strength to come out of the closet.*

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**Antoinette Cancelliere** - July 16, 2025 at 05:58 PM

ML

“ *From Marie Lewis:*

*Julie, you were a shining example of the power and beauty of a life lived with purpose, courage, and authenticity. You moved through this world with a strength that inspired me and others, showing us what it means to step fully into who we are meant to be.*

*You were fearless in pursuing new dreams, your life was a story of constant growth, reinvention, and a deep trust in the journey. You faced life's challenges with grace and resilience, a testament to your love and unwavering spirit. You rose above trials, embodying the quiet strength of one who knows the deeper truth.*

*Your dedication to helping others was a reflection of the divine call within you—to be a light in the lives of those in need. You always took my calls after long absences and gave freely you knowledge and advice. Your humor, your warmth, and your commitment to community reminded us all of the importance of connection and the joy of walking this path together.*

*Now that you have moved beyond this world, I have no doubt that your presence is still felt—just as radiant and impactful as ever. The love you gave, the lives you touched, and the example you set will echo far beyond your physical presence. Though we miss you, Julie, I am comforted by the knowing that you remain with us in spirit, a reminder of the strength, joy, and light we all carry within.*

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**Marie Lewis** - January 31, 2025 at 10:21 AM

HW

“ Hannah W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Julie Chovanes.

Hannah W. - January 24, 2025 at 12:51 PM

EF

“ Erin Kelly Mariani and family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Julie Chovanes.



Erin Kelly Mariani and family - January 22, 2025 at 02:12 PM

EF

“ Erin Kelly Mariani and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Julie Chovanes.

Erin Kelly Mariani and family - January 22, 2025 at 02:12 PM

MB

“ Myfanwy B. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Julie Chovanes.

Myfanwy B. - January 22, 2025 at 12:28 PM

GG

“ Guido G purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Julie Chovanes.



Guido G - January 20, 2025 at 02:23 PM

GG

“ Guido G planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Julie Chovanes.

Guido G - January 20, 2025 at 02:23 PM

JA

“ Julie was so kind and cordial to my wife, Nancy and I when we attended Saint Mary's. We send our prayers and love to the entire family and friends at Saint Mary's!

Julia Almont - January 19, 2025 at 12:36 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Julie Chovanes.



January 18, 2025 at 08:10 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Julie Chovanes.

January 18, 2025 at 08:10 PM

NH

“ Julie, you were a power and a force on this earth. I have used as an example of what should and can be in life if you believe in yourself enough.

You raised great kids despite a life changing event that usually would tear a family apart. You were an advocate for those in need. You went through life doing what you wanted and I loved following your exploits in Montana with the puppers. I cheered for you as you changed your life again and went after the limelight.

Wherever you have gone now, I am sure that people will know you are there. We miss you.

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**Neil Halin** - January 18, 2025 at 07:31 PM

CP

“ Thank you for your tireless efforts, girl. Although we never met, our stories are so similar. You fought the good fight. RIP, Julie. We have the watch.

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**Col (R) Sheri Swokowski, Ph.D.** - January 18, 2025 at 05:58 PM

MC

“ My dear Julie... I appreciate everything you did for me while living on Devon Street.. you got me through some tough times.. you were always there for me .. Miss you darlin' ❤️

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**Madeline Colisto** - January 18, 2025 at 05:55 PM

AC

Julie, we never met in person but we communicated through comedy and encouragement. I will miss your sweet smile and fierce journey. You were always an inspiration ❤️

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**Amy G Culberg** - January 19, 2025 at 10:55 AM



*One of the best, wisest, fearless-est people.*

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**Douglas Harper** - January 22, 2025 at 02:34 PM



*Julie was definitely a force. In Jr. High she and a couple of others helped me realize I needed to choose a sport other than football. God bless...*

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**Alex Schellenger** - January 22, 2025 at 10:27 PM