



Sharon McLaughlin Gowen

February 17, 2024

Sharon McLaughlin Gowen died, Saturday February 17, 2024, after a long illness. She was born in New Britain, CT on March 29, 1947, the eldest of three daughters of Raymond Francis McLaughlin and Gladys Bernice Majkowska, raised in Southington, CT and attended Southington schools and Central Connecticut State College. After an extensive career in mortgage banking, Sharon spent a decade and ultimately retired as Sr. Deputy Director of Fannie Mae's CT Partnership Office, where she participated in a number of projects to assist communities, non-profit housing agencies and lenders in expanding the availability of housing to moderate income residents. After her retirement, she accepted a position with Common Ground, a NY based non-profit housing agency focusing on homelessness prevention. She managed the development of The Hollander, at that time, the first affordable housing in downtown Hartford in two decades. Sharon ended her working life with Community Solutions, the heir to Common Ground in Connecticut, where she assisted in the initial acquisition and development of two additional Hartford projects. Sharon enjoyed traveling, reading, writing, quilting and genealogy, and particularly her beloved Ireland. She attempted to be a friend to those she met and took great pleasure in connecting her friends to one another to create networks, long before networking was an event. She is survived by her son, Eugene Cooper Gowen, of Hartford, CT and Albany, NY, and his family (Cameron Rodgers, Cutter Rodgers and Cooper Gowen), her long-time partner, Oliver Field Jones of Farmington, CT and Ft. Lauderdale, FL, two

sisters, Kathleen Agnes (Joseph Knott) and Maryann Frances (Robert Drury), three nephews and a niece. Calling hours will be held at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm Friday, March 1, with a funeral Mass at 10:00 am on Saturday, March 2 at St. Patrick St. Anthony Church, 265 Church St., Hartford, followed by a reception in the church hall. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Flowers can be sent to Molloy Funeral Home or donations can be sent to The Open Hearth at www.theopenhearth.org. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Calling Hours

MAR 1. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home
906 Farmington Ave
West Hartford, CT 06119
(860) 232-1322

Tribute Wall



“ *Molloy Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Sharon McLaughlin Gowen*



Molloy Funeral Home - March 01, 2024 at 06:14 PM

ER

“ *I'm so sorry to learn that Sharon passed away. I didn't know her personally but we exchanged emails over the past few years while trying to solve genealogical mysteries about our shared ancestry. I greatly appreciated her help researching my grandmother's Irish family. My condolences to her family. May she rest in peace.*
Regards,
Erin K.

Erin - July 03, 2024 at 08:28 PM

FF

“ *From the Bishop and Starr Families purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Sharon McLaughlin Gowen.*



From the Bishop and Starr Families - February 29, 2024 at 10:46 PM

TM

“ Thomas M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sharon McLaughlin Gowen.

Thomas M. - February 28, 2024 at 12:30 PM

MG

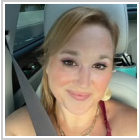
“ Gene, as you well know, your mom was one of a kind. We first met at Polish language lessons at the church when we were 8 or 9 years old! Life took us in different directions after high school but still we kept in touch, trading visits, notes and emails no matter where we were living. Sharon "Sam" is one of my oldest and dearest friends, and what I will fondly remember are the conversations and the laughter engendered by her sly wit. Sharon -- love you, miss you, thank you for your friendship.
Mary Fran (Roche) Kiesow Gamage

Mary Fran Gamage - February 27, 2024 at 10:23 AM

BK

“ Sharon was a remarkable person, friend and long time office mate. She was caring, funny, boisterous when called for and generous with her time and causes she adopted. At Fannie Mae she contributed greatly to our work to improve access to homeownership in underserved communities. She excelled at building relationships with community leaders, lenders and families to help improve how we help those who never thought homeownership was achievable. But I will remember her most for the courage she showed these last few years. She confronted her health challenges with guts, the fierceness she brought to most things and an incredible sense of humor that left all of us who followed her Caring bridge entries in absolute awe. We will have to find a way to get those entries published as they provide such insights and instruction for those battling cancer. An incredible woman that I will miss dearly.

Bob Kantor - February 27, 2024 at 08:19 AM



“ Sharon was a wonderful person. She took me in when I had no where to go and I will always be grateful for that kindness.

Stephanie Onze-Serrato - February 26, 2024 at 01:50 PM

SM

“ I've known her for 30 years and she has always been a force for good. She was an inspiration to me and helped me change my life. She will be missed for both her wit and wisdom.

Shawn Meehan - February 25, 2024 at 01:27 PM

TE

“ *In knowing Sharon, for over 50 years, I rarely heard her say a bad word about anyone. She had an eye for antiques, and gardening. She was 'one of the guys' at Race & Rallee, especially on Monday night, watching Rowan & Martin. She brought order to chaos, and I suspect that if she had been there, Nero would have worn a kilt, played an Irish Jig, and Rome never would have burned.*

Terry - February 25, 2024 at 10:41 AM