



## Stephen "Steve" Alton Murray

March 3, 2019

Stephen "Steve" Alton Murray

Steve Murray, the inimitable Godfather of Downtown Lancaster, died on Sunday, March 3, 2019 from a brain aneurysm. He was 68.

He was surrounded by family and friends, including his daughter Katherine Anne Murray, the lady he called "the love of his life" Jane Kreider, and his sister Barbara Rogers. They have been overwhelmed with the outpouring of love and support.

Born in Daytona Beach, he was the son of the late Alton Jerome and Dorothy Bunn Murray. Raised in Towson, Maryland, Steve graduated from Dulaney High School. He went on to the University of Maryland, where he was very involved in the campus anti-war movement.

Steve and childhood chum Kim Eddy took off on adventures all across Europe on Triumph motorcycles they bought in London.

In the mid-70s, Steve brought his unique style to Lancaster through ZAP, the vintage store he created with his first wife Gisela. ZAP was a hallmark in the vintage scene in the US. His finds made their way onto the sets of such films as Titanic and Austin Powers, and served as inspiration for major players in

the fashion industry.

Murray was a founding member of Downtown (DID), leading the effort to save the historic Watt & Shand building, now the convention center. He founded Lancaster's Economic Action for Downtown's Success (LEADS). Recognizing the impact of First Fridays, he launched Music Fridays in the 300 block of North Queen Street.

Survivors include his daughter Katherine and his love Jane Kreider, both of whom live in Lancaster, his sister Barbara and brother-in-law Dale of Ocala, FL, and nieces Amy and Kristin, born on his 30th birthday.

A celebration of his life - an all-evening "Stevent" - will take place at the Fulton Theatre, 12 North Prince Street, Lancaster PA 17603 on Saturday, March 9, 2019 at 6 PM. Guests are encouraged to wear their creative vintage fashions as an honor to Steve.

If desired donations may be sent to the Lancaster Fire Department in Stevens memory.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Stephen "Steve" Alton Murray*

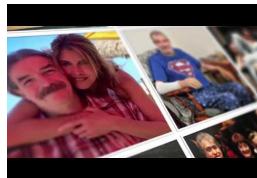
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October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



Gretchen  
McNelis

“ *For those who couldn't make it to Steve's memorial event, here is the life celebration video that was shown. Due to copyright restrictions we can't include the music that accompanied the video in this online post, so please put on some Beatles or Bob Dylan in the background for optimal experience. :)*



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**Gretchen McNelis** - March 22, 2019 at 12:59 PM



“ *Right after Steve opened ZAP, I opened a small alternative restaurant in town. Steve was a hero to me! I left the area for many years but was fortunate to reunite with him - but unfortunately after the fire. He became a hero again. I know that he will continue to breath life and zany inspired growth to "his town" from where his energies dwell now.*

*Deepest sympathies to his closest beloveds.*

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**victoria mowrer** - March 08, 2019 at 01:46 PM

JC

“ Steve Murray was a visionary & inspiring “farmer” in the City of Lancaster, having long ago helped plant a number of seeds that today have contributed to a bountiful harvest of things to see and do in his (and our) beloved downtown. Our sympathies go out to the Murray family, but also our thanks – for sharing Steve with us all these years. We will miss his presence, but always strive to joyfully carry on his legacy.

*The team at Discover Lancaster*

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**Joel Cliff** - March 08, 2019 at 09:08 AM

SF

“ Sandra C. Forehand purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Stephen "Steve" Alton Murray.



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**Sandra C. Forehand** - March 07, 2019 at 05:35 PM

TB

“ I worked at Brereton Manor when Steve was staying there. I enjoyed helping with his care and really enjoyed our talks at night. He let me borrow his Superman tee shirt to wear as a joke on a trip I was going on. He told me I could borrow it only if I took pictures and shared them with him, which I did. He was in a lot of pain most nights, but was always cheerful when I cared for him. I always prayed for him after doing his night care and continued to pray for him after he left Brereton. He loved his daughter and spoke of her often. It was an honor for me to meet and help him during a difficult time in his life, Blessings and prayers to all of you. Trina Barr

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**Trina Barr** - March 07, 2019 at 10:06 AM

AH

“ Steve was an amazing man who loved his city and customers no matter where they came from. He was always there with a smile and you could always find something unique at Zap. Sorry for the loss to his family, please find comfort in how many people had the pleasure of meeting him and shopping in his store that he made feel like a part of the family. His legacy will always be remembered.

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**Andreia Hess** - March 07, 2019 at 08:11 AM