



Sarah Shaw Van Dyke

June 21, 1945 - April 10, 2019

Sarah Shaw Van Dyke passed away unexpectedly on April 10, 2019. She is preceded in death by her son Mark and daughter-in-law Marcie. She is survived by her husband, of 53 years, Mark; sons, Mike (Sara) and Mario (Mandy), and daughter-in-law, Deana. The joy of her life were her grandchildren, Amanda (Logan), Austin (Kristina), Reese, Mira, and Maeve. Sarah was born in 1945 and lived in Pueblo her whole life. Her love of dance started at the age of 6 with her teacher and mentor Nelda Johnson. She graduated from Centennial High School in 1963 and opened Sarah Shaw Dance Studio with 35 students charging a dollar a lesson. She spent her life tap dancing. If you asked her, her studio was about giving students the confidence to stand on stage and always do their best in life. Her studio was and always will be about "Friends Forever". In the words of one of her students, "She taught me not only the importance of pointed toes and a bright smile but also the importance of kindness, inclusion, compassion, self-discipline, respect, and teamwork. She was someone who poured love into me daily." Sarah touched the lives of thousands of kids throughout her 56 years of teaching. If you asked her what she was most proud of, she would say being a mom to three successful children and grandma to five grandkids. She danced her last class on March 15th but her legacy will live on through the thousands of lives she touched. A celebration of her life will take place at 1:00 pm, Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at Memorial Hall with a reception to follow at the Pueblo Convention Center. In

lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Marcie Van Dyke Memorial Nursing Scholarship at the CSU-Pueblo Foundation https://crowdfunding.csupueblo.edu/?cfpage=project&project_id=27795&t=1555183617 "Friends Forever".

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR 17. 1:00 PM (MT)

Pueblo Memorial Hall
1 City Hall Place
Pueblo, CO 81003

Tribute Wall

MA

“ *A shining light in the community and a Pueblo icon. My deepest sympathy and sincere condolences to the Van Dyke family.*

Mahoney - April 25, 2019 at 04:19 AM

KD

“ *Sarah taught my 3 daughters from age three until middle school and high school. Aubrey, Lacey and Kinsey Duran always remembered Sarah saying "Oh Beans!" I think that was one of their favorite sayings. Sarah was a wonderful woman, she was patient , kind and an inspiration to young girls. She had so much energy that I thought, how does she do this all day long, 6 days a week. What a dynamo. We had lost track of Sarah since moving to Philly 16 years ago, but when I heard of her passing I just felt such sadness. She is a Pueblo Icon. Sarah Shaw will be missed, FRIENDS FOREVER!!*

Kim DeSimone

Kim DeSimone - April 17, 2019 at 04:32 PM

DC

“ *I'm very saddened by the loss of Sarah Shaw. She was a wonderful person and a great tribute to the dance world. As a dance studio Owner and Director I know first hand what a intense job this is 24/7. Sarah was a top notch Owner & Director. Applause to a wonderful teacher, mentor & friend. Heaven just got a new dancing angel!!*

*Diane Caputo
Bella Danze Artz
Westminster,CO*

Diane Caputo - April 17, 2019 at 11:56 AM

LD

“ *My family has been apart of the dance studio since the 80's daughter and granddaughter the recitals were always amazing. Sara passion for dance will be missed. There will never be another Sara Shaw. Linda Dever*

Linda Dever - April 16, 2019 at 05:41 PM

SB

“ *Sending love, prayers and so many wonderful thoughts of Sarah with her family and all of the people who will miss her, which is many. Sarah was a true light in the world and brought joy to so many lives, including mine. Her studio felt like home away from home and reflecting on the time I spent there, I am so grateful for the memories, lessons, and friendships that enriched my life as I grew up. I met my best friends Pokey (Melissa) and Heather Alumbaugh through Sarah. As a kid, my cousins and friends enjoyed exceptional playdates at my house thanks to my endless arsenal of Sarah Shaw costumes to raid. Once, during a competition in Las Vegas (I'm assuming when cassette tapes were still used for music), our song unexpectedly played in double-time and somehow our entire class managed to perform at warp-speed and I remember coming off stage how we were all overtook with crazy laughter and felt so proud of ourselves for pulling it off. Just a few years ago, I had to step in right before a friend was about to walk down the aisle to fix her botched hair and makeup job – and I credited Sarah Shaw ... afterall, I have her to thank for learning how to do my own hair and makeup at age 7 backstage before a recital. These are just a few of the countless memories I have of Sarah and the wonderful world she created for us.*

Thank you, Sarah, for teaching young boys and girls that they are valuable and capable, for demonstrating that hard work in itself reaps great reward, that each person has their own special sparkle to contribute, and together we shine more brightly. You will be deeply missed. The friendships you created will live on forever, just as you taught us!

Shelli Benfatti - April 16, 2019 at 03:50 PM

DS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Denise Seilheimer - April 15, 2019 at 06:22 PM

DS

Friends Forever 3 Generations, We love you Sarah!

Denise Seilheimer - April 15, 2019 at 06:25 PM

CK

“ I am shocked and saddened to hear of your passing. A cousin I wished I was able to have known. We spoke once on the phone about how we shared a grandmother. I was never able to know her either. I was hoping one day we would be able to sit down and you would share memories of our grandmother, and yourself. This is so heartbreaking for me to see your beautiful face, but I didn't know you. I send my deepest sympathy to your husband and the boys. Rest in peace dear Sarah.



Cindy Knudtson - April 14, 2019 at 08:18 PM



“ Sarah you'll be forever missed. Words cannot express our appreciation of you, and the beautiful gift of dance you gave to our daughter Kinzie. Your family and friends are in our thoughts and prayers. Friends forever, Love Kinzie and Brown Family!

Natalie Brown - April 14, 2019 at 07:51 PM

JS

“ We are sorry for your loss.
Joe and Tina Siggins

Joe Siggins - April 14, 2019 at 06:50 PM

PM

“ *Mark, Mike, Mario...you are all in my thoughts and prayers - so sorry for your loss. Sarah was a wonderful person and many memories growing up with you all!*

Phillip Medina - April 14, 2019 at 05:23 PM

CS

“ *Sarah taught my daughter and son at her little studio on Berkley Ave back in the 70s. Then also my granddaughter later. She will be missed by all. What a huge loss for Pueblo and all of the children's lives she has touched. My condolences to her family and friends.*

Claudia Sniff - April 14, 2019 at 05:18 PM

CB

“ *The saddest news. Had the pleasure of coaching her three sons in football at Centennial. During this time I became very impressed with Mark & Sarah for their support of the football program...super down to earth people. My youngest daughter danced for Sarah & it was a great experience because she came under the tutelage of Sarah. I can just imagine all the dancing students & families that have been touched so strongly by this women. Such a caring, compassionate individual.
Wishing the best for Mark & his boys Mike & Mario.
RIP, sweet lady.*

Coach Tom Brockman - April 14, 2019 at 01:19 PM

DW

“ Sarah was an amazing lady who will live on in the hearts of countless dancers who learned "life lessons" from her as well as dancing. The last time I saw her was when she was inducted into the Centennial High School Hall of Fame joining the ranks of famous and accomplished Bulldogs, an honor she certainly deserved.

Jack and I send our heartfelt sympathy to Mark, Mike and Mario and their families.

Donna Ward

Donna Ward - April 13, 2019 at 03:03 PM

DS

I have a million memories of Sarah. I began to dance with her when I was five years old at the Berkeley studio in 1967. I am still friends with the girls I danced with. Sarah always made us feel like we were the best dancers ever. She nurtured our spirits and built our confidence. I imagined that I was her favorite person. But then so did many others. How did she manage to do that? I lived at the studio and had the privilege of kidsitting Mark, Mike and Mario. She took me on my first vacation to Des Moines, Iowa. I experienced my first movie in a theater and had to ask Mark Willie how to buy a ticket and what happened after that. I was fourteen. She made my childhood so special by including me in her everyday life. I will forever be grateful for it, too. Later, I brought all four of my children to learn to dance at her studio. I named my first daughter after her. My kiddos love to dance and love her as well. She let me teach at her studio for 10 years and again showed me what it took to nurture a little spirit and help them grow in confidence.


I will continue love her and her family for all the ways they showered ME with love and for the opportunities she gave me to pay it forward. All my love and sympathy to you, Mark, Mike, Mario and families!!!
Darla (Duran) Sexton

Darla Sexton - April 14, 2019 at 08:29 PM

MF

“ Lisa, Steve and I loved Sarah's dance classes. (Well, not Steve as much. He went bowling next door.) She did give Lisa confidence on stage and we did make friends for life!! Sarah was a very accepting person and could mold her students into great dancers as well as better people. My condolences to her family. We know how hard it is to go on without them. Marilyn Fuller, Lisa Medved, Steve Adams

Marilyn Fuller - April 13, 2019 at 01:40 PM

 Hilary Sheehan Munoz

“ Sarah, you were one of a kind. Thank you for touching my life not only throughout my childhood but through my adult life as well (thank you for the thoughtful card you just sent to me). I love you so much. We will continue to make you proud and continue your "Friends forever" mantra throughout our lives. Mark and family - thank you for sharing her with all of us!

Hilary Sheehan Munoz - April 13, 2019 at 10:22 AM

PO

“ To mark, mike and maurio I, thinking of you all! Sarah will be missed! Hugs to you and your family! I danced with Sarah for a long time and I remember when you boys were young then as babies!

Paula O'Dorisio - April 13, 2019 at 08:56 AM

VD

“ Mark you and your family are in my prayers and thoughts. Sarah was a special friend - I will miss her and our lunches together. Friends Forever. Love you, Velma Dilka

Velma Dilka - April 13, 2019 at 12:56 AM

H(

“ There are so many memories that it’s hard to choose only one. I can still just hear voice as she would say “music please” and “5,6,7,8”. Then there were those conversations after tap class was over and she would make sure to lock the studio door so we were safe, but continue the conversation. Celebrating her birthday at the Alexis Park pool was always fun! She was full of compassion and gentleness, took everyone in, gave us all a home away from home and a giant extended family. I will be forever grateful for all each of the ways she has touched my life. I love you Sarah! “Friends Forever”

Heather Shaw (Alumbaugh) - April 12, 2019 at 11:41 PM

MJ

Sarah and the wonderful Sarah Shaw Dance Studio gave so much to my daughters, Sarah and Emily Johnson: confidence, joy, fun, discipline, dance friends, team work and the love of dance. We can never thank Sarah enough for giving so deeply to so many. You were a treasure. Rest In Peace. Friends Forever❤️

Marcia Johnson - April 13, 2019 at 05:22 PM

PD

Condolences & prayers to Sarah’s family 🙏 I echo what Marcia Johnson said above...our families benefited from Sarah’s love, guidance, mentoring, discipline, opportunities, music, & dance for so many beautiful years! My daughter, Shelli Benfatti, started at the age of 3. That year she learned to skip around the studio, which Sarah taught expertly. As an involved parent sitting through the classes year after year, I made incredible friendships with other parents & their kids, thanks to Sarah. Heaven has gained an extraordinary angel. How blessed are the thousands of us who are Friends Forever because Sarah taught us invaluable life lessons. 🧡

Patti DePaolis - April 16, 2019 at 01:39 PM



I didn't realize how important you were in my life until you were gone Sarah. I'm sorry I didn't get to say goodbye. So many of my favorite times were spent at dance or happened because of dance! Meeting wonderful friends while doing what we loved, Shelli Benfatti's house making dance videos thanks to our new moves, talent shows with pink feathery dresses in middle school, lots of goofing around back stage with Vanessa and Danielle, stapling sequins onto costumes backstage with Valerie, missing the actual recital because Jaclyn and I were practicing in the hall. All of these times happened because Of you Sarah. I will miss you dearly, love Pokey.

Melissa Zeck - April 17, 2019 at 12:38 AM