



Andrea Todd Lewis Kaji, RN, ANP

November 24, 1946 - August 10, 2020

Andrea Todd Lewis Kaji passed away unexpectedly on August 10, 2020, in Tallahassee, Florida, where she had recently moved from Yardley, Pennsylvania, following the death of her husband, Dr. Vikram Kaji, from COVID-19 in April.

Andrea was born on November 24, 1946, in Pittsburgh, PA, at Shadyside Hospital, to Lt. Cmdr John Robert Lewis, Jr, USN, and Barbara Watson Lewis. After her father returned from World War II, he found work with US Steel at Fairless Hills, PA, marking Fairless Hills, PA and then Yardley, PA, as the childhood home for Andrea and her siblings. She graduated from Pennsbury High School in 1964, and later attended both the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York and Ursinus College near Philadelphia, with a strong interest in the fine arts. Many of her female-focused and anatomic creations from that time are still intact, and she maintained an interest in design throughout her life. Most all of her grandchildren, especially Mira, Nicole and Maddelena, have inherited her talents and innate creativity.

She met her husband, Dr. Vikram Kaji, in NY, while he was completing his residency at Brooklyn Cumberland Medical Center. They tied the knot in 1966, and Andrea embraced her husband's Indian culture — visiting Bombay shortly after they were married. She quickly incorporated Indian dress and food into her daily life. The couple bought their first apartment in Yonkers, NY, where

they had their first child, Arjun.

They then relocated to 1900 Yardley Road in Yardley, PA, to live closer to Andrea's parents. In Yardley, they expanded their family, giving birth to two more children, Ashwin Lincoln and Naomi. While caring for three small children, Andrea decided to obtain her nursing degree. She graduated as an RN from St. Francis Nursing School in Trenton, New Jersey, in 1974 with high marks. Furthering her certifications, Andrea served as a Nurse Practitioner in her husband's Trenton office.

She was a very hands-on mother, sewing stuffed animals, handmaking Halloween costumes, singing nursery rhymes, driving carpool, and attending school functions and games. She traveled with her children whenever possible and greatly enjoyed scrapbooking details of their vacations, just as her own mother used to. She was probably the only mother in history to use a 'Sam the Sham and Pharaohs' cassette to put her children to bed. Andrea instilled a love of reading in her children and was not afraid to be the goofy or silly mother. There are countless happy memories her children have of growing up, such as dressing her cats in school outfits to cheer at sports games.

Andrea was highly intelligent and a voracious reader with an expansive knowledge of medicine, art, history, and many other disciplines. She had the ability to engage deeply on almost any topic, no matter the audience. In later life, although hampered by physical ailments, she still relished finding a group of people or friends to talk late into the night with.

She was a lifelong animal lover, and there were always dogs and cats in her home. Although her husband was not exactly a fan, he grew to love the various dogs that were a part of their lives for many years. Andrea could not bear to see an animal mistreated, even if it was only on TV.

As time went on, she was beset by many physical and emotional maladies and struggled to adapt over the years to obstacles that would have vanquished others. She was a very strong-willed, independent-minded woman, and she always insisted on maintaining her autonomy, which, at times, was not always easy for her husband and children. With progression of her physical infirmities, she became increasingly frustrated, but was always able to “pull it together” when she had to. Through it all, she was loved by her husband, children and friends, and they would try to do whatever they could to honor her wishes and make her as happy as possible.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Vikram Kaji, to whom she was married for 53 years. They had a tempestuous but committed relationship, and he was devoted to her until his passing, which was heartbreaking for her.

Andrea was a daughter, sister, wife, artist, nurse, raconteur, friend, fashion icon, and a colorful woman, but first and foremost, she was a mother to her children, and they will miss her very much.

She is survived by her children: Naomi Mardesich, NP, of Tallahassee, FL, Lincoln Kaji ARDMS, RVT, of Holland, PA, daughter-in-law Roseann Kaji, Dr. Arjun Kaji of Tallahassee, FL, and wife Diane Kaji, ARNP, sister Lorra Seymour of Berks County, PA, brother John Robert Lewis III of Silver Spring, MD, and grandchildren Mina Kaji, Anna Kaji, Maddelena Kaji, Rohan Kaji, Ajay Kaji, Michael Nimmo, Daniel Nimmo, Casey Wilson (Nimmo), Mira Mardesich, Brennan Mardesich, and Nicole Mardesich. Her beloved dog, Kid, is currently being happily cared for by her son Lincoln.

Tribute Wall

SV

“ I saw a piece on msnbc this morning about Dr.kaji and Andrea . So sorry, it was a beautiful story of their love and family life. I worked with the Kaji s as the first CNM in new Jersey, and the first midwife in their practice. I worked 20 + years and enjoyed my work especially with dr kaji as my backup physician. I hope they have kit kats in heaven. I remember Andrea had to have after we ate lunch together. So sorry but i really just found out . A beautiful tribute to whole family. Susan

Susan Venesz - March 15, 2021 at 06:40 PM

MP

“ We are sad to hear the word of passing away of your mom shortly after your dad. May god bless the soul of your beloved mom in heaven and give strength to family to take loss.
Om Shanti Shanti Shanti.

Manu and Nila Padalia.

mansukhlal padalia - August 17, 2020 at 09:43 PM

JP

“ Arjun, sorry for your loss, loosing both parents in short time, very shocking, om shanti

Jitendra Padalia - August 17, 2020 at 12:48 PM

MS

“ Many many memories of my childhood and early days in the USA entwined with Anujakaki/Andrea. Vikramkaka and Anujakaki represented "home" for me and Beheruz when we first came to the USA as graduate students in 1970s. Anita and Shaun grew up on hand me downs from Arjun, Lincoln, and Naomi; the first booster car seat was the one that Kaji children had outgrown. She loved to shop and she was the one who taught me to always look for deals & bargains. Each time she went to Mumbai, her usual Shopping List would definitely include some gold bangles from TB Jewellers. She introduced me to Oxford Valley Mall in Langhorne, PA and JCPenney became my favorite store! Always give your children a choice is what she used to tell me. When I argued that at times no choice may be practical, her usual response was - I ask my children to do something or die - and they always chose the right option! She was a voracious reader and somehow kept up with current affairs in all aspects of life. She could impress any medical professional with her knowledge even after she had stopped being an RN for decades. During her last two visits, she and I looked for Ouija Board/Planchette in Gujarati language so that she could communicate with my late mother in Gujarati. She is now united with her parents and with Vikramkaka, free from pain and surrounded by peace. Om Shanti.

Madhavi Sethna - August 14, 2020 at 08:31 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Andrea Todd Lewis Kaji, RN, ANP.



August 13, 2020 at 10:39 PM

BS

“ When we were graduate students in the mid-1970s at Columbia, Madhavi and I used to visit Vikramkaka and Anujakaki (Andrea) and the kids sometimes in their home in Yardley to spend a weekend. It was always enjoyable

One evening, she asked me what I wanted for dinner. Not wishing to be a burden, I said, "Anything you like." She asked again, and I responded, "Whatever you find easy to make." At that, Madhavi repeated a Kaji family line: "Oh, he just wants to go to Heaven." At which Anujakaki responded, "Not only will he go to Heaven, but he may go tonight if he doesn't answer my question!"

That was vintage Andrea Kaji of those days. It still brings a smile to my face when I think of that.

Beheruz N. Sethna - August 13, 2020 at 10:07 PM

SU

I saw a piece on msnbc this morning about Dr.kaji and Andrea . So sorry, it was a beautiful story of their love and family life. I worked with the Kaji s as the first CNM in new Jersey, and the first midwife in their practice. I worked 20 + years and enjoyed my work especially with dr kaji as my backup physician. I hope they have kit kats in heaven. I remember Andrea had to have after we ate lunch together. So sorry but i really just found out . A beautiful tribute to whole family. Susan

SusanVenezs - March 11, 2021 at 12:07 PM