

**From:** "Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and Its Tributaries, Inc." <forrivers@aol.com>  
**Subject:** **CU Member Harry Deemer**  
**Date:** March 18, 2009 4:25:10 PM EDT  
**To:** forrivers@aol.com  
**Reply-To:** forrivers@aol.com

---



## Harry Deemer

**Dear Jane,**

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of CU member Harry Deemer. Harry passed away early Friday afternoon after a brave struggle with cancer, with his longtime life companion, Matt Schooley, at his side.

Harry, along with CU members Matt Schooley and Carolyn Draftz were often seen together—our own "Three Musketeers" as it were. We enjoyed his company at kayak trips, campfires, and fundraisers.



*L to R: Matt Schooley, Jane Galetto, Harry Deemer*

Harry was an active volunteer in many venues; besides CU, he was also actively supportive of Woodland Country Day School, as well as a participant in a number of functions related to Greenwich's history. He was a reenactor at the Greenwich Tea Burning Celebration, and was also a volunteer with Wheaton Arts. A talented glass artist, he traveled with the Wheaton Arts Glassblowers to various venues, with a portable glass furnace in tow, to present demonstrations of traditional glassmaking techniques to crowds of fascinated spectators at fairs, festivals and Museums throughout the tri-state area.

I think of Harry as a person who was always game if it meant it would bring pleasure to others. At festivals in which the Glassblowers gave presentations it wasn't uncommon for him to allow Dana Gayner (an art teacher from Woodland) to make him the living advertisement for face painting. Harry bore the shaved style allowing the artwork to go far beyond his brow. When he explained the glass objects that he and the other glassblowers made he showed his own inquisitive nature and interest in glass. He was a fantastic host always making folks feel welcome. He was generous of his time and spirit and will be very missed by all who knew him.

A memorial service is tentatively planned for April 25th, 12:30 p.m. in the Presbyterian church in Greenwich. It is meant to be a time in which all of us come together to recall and share the stories of a remarkable man.

Harry kindly stipulated that in the event of his passing, donations in his memory be donated to one of three organizations:

Harry Alexander Deemer, 60, of Greenwich, N.J., died Friday, March 13, 2009, at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, in Philadelphia, of non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

He was a 1966 graduate of Salem High School and a 1968 graduate of Salem Vocational and Technical School. He worked for more than 40 years at Ace Glass in Vineland, N.J., as a senior glass fabricator. He was also a volunteer glassblower for nearly 20 years at the Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center, a glass museum in Millville, N.J. He demonstrated the historic art of glassblowing there, as well as throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. Mr. Deemer was a member of the Cumberland County and Salem County historical societies, the Luzerne County Historical Society of PA, the Greenwich Yacht Club, Citizens United and Gables of Cape May County. He was also involved with researching the history of the Greenwich Presbyterian Cemetery, in honor of the church's tri-centennial last year. In addition, he assembled research for the Cumberland County Historical Society on the occasion of the Tea Burner Monument's Centennial.

He was an avid collector of glass, postcards and historic papers of southern New Jersey. His love for local history was renowned and was very much appreciated by his community with whom he generously shared his knowledge. His kind and unassuming manner will be long remembered by all who knew him.

He was predeceased by his parents, Harry T. and Gladys S. Deemer.

He is survived by his partner of 14 years, Matthew F. Schooley; and his sister, Susan Deemer, of Broadway, N.J.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center, 1501 Glasstown Road, Millville, NJ 08332, the Cumberland County Historical Society, P.O. Box 16, Greenwich, NJ 08323, or Citizens United, P.O. Box 474, Millville, NJ 08332.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2009, at 12:30 p.m. at the Greenwich Presbyterian Church.

Published in Times Leader on Mar. 17, 2009