



## Irvin 'David' Ewan

Community Advocate, Family Man, Intellect,  
Life Long Learner

October 20, 1947 - February 11, 2023

Dear Friend,

For many movements there are people who predate their efforts - who break ground or pioneer a path for them. In the case of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries, Inc. the Cumberland Conservation League was one such group. In fact in 1986, the year of our incorporation, their founder Dan O'Connor was instrumental in providing strategy that ultimately led to the Hazardous Waste Siting Commission deciding not to place a impoundment facility in what is now the Manumuskin Preserve and Holly Orchard/Menantico Pond properties.

Dave Ewan was a prominent and active member in Cumberland Conservation League.

Dave was also deeply involved with the Maurice River Historic Society in the early efforts to preserve East Point Lighthouse, and their achieving its entry on the National Register of Historic Places. These efforts are appreciated by the many people who visit the landmark building and property.

Most of our members will know Dave as the owner of the Windchimes Book Exchange from 1975 to 2005. I was a customer who sought older books on our region, and Dave was generally ready to share some newly-arrived historic gems with me. It made me feel special to know that someone was familiar with my reading interests. Naturally my ego gave me the impression that his store existed to cater to my antiquarian cravings. In truth Dave knew all the local bibliophiles' indulgences.

Windchimes was a bit of a downtown hub and Dave, with his little cap behind the service counter, was a local figure. He was always armed with Goo Gone and a one-sided razor to remove a price tag from a book. But most of all he was ready to relay history or news related to your favorite topics. Since his interests and mine overlapped this was not usually a brief encounter. For the past 18 years, after the bookstore closed, we interacted very little. But for those 30 years in which it was open we shared many a great conversation. His wife Diann remains active in CU, but Dave's health precluded his involvement.

I asked a few folks what they would remember most about Dave and they mentioned his curiosity, intellect, and Apple computer savvy. Imagine that, he was sharing interests with others as well! By recognizing each person's pursuits he made people feel special and noticed.

Jeffrey Page captured Dave well with his memories:

*"Dave was a one-of-a-kind. Always perched, owl-like, behind the counter at Wind Chimes, offering wry commentary about the state of the world, and downtown Millville. He truly loved his hometown and did many quiet things to help make it a better place. Always a supporter of artists, writers, and musicians, his shop was a beacon of enlightenment even during High Street's darkest times. He was also an early, though somewhat skeptical supporter, of a rough gang of hooligans who had a dream of reopening the Levoy.*

*I also thank him for his guidance in my early years of learning the basics of using my Macintosh SE—he was an excellent teacher.*

*Dave succeeded in making his part of the world a better place in ways he probably never realized.*

*He will be missed."*

Dave will be remembered by the many people with whom he interacted.

I had the privilege of visiting Dave's wife Diann after his passing and relayed the thoughts that some folks had shared with me. She said she was not surprised by people's comments, and that Dave liked giving and participating in his community. Our condolences to his wife Diann and family. And a special thank you to them for thinking of CU Maurice River as a recipient of remembrances. I encourage you to read

his well-written obituary below.

Sincerely,



Jane Morton Galetto  
CU Maurice River Board President

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Irvin David Ewan died on Saturday, February 11, 2023 at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital after surgery. He was the son of Irvin Mason Ewan and Edna May (DuBois) Ewan. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Diann (Burkhardt) Ewan, his sister Wendy Ewan Pavlics (Greg), niece Jessica Pavlics Cavalone (Vincent), and grandnephews Gregory and Michael Cavalone.

Dave grew up on W. Main St., where his family-owned Ewan's Market and he had his first job. He laughingly insisted that he began working as soon as he could write numbers on cans. Dave was a graduate of Millville Senior High School, Class of 1966, and then attended Drexel University and Cumberland County College. He worked for 2 business machine companies for a few years until he decided to use his love of books and reading and turn them into a business. He owned Wind Chimes Book Exchanges at 210 High St. in Millville for 30 years, from 1975 to 2005. Under new ownership the store name changed to Bogart's Books in 2006 and continued through 3 more owners until 2021.

In 2001, after the organization had been dormant for 7 years, he and other merchants resurrected the Millville Business and Professional Association to focus on drawing more people downtown. For this and previous downtown business groups, he designed flyers and mass mailings.

He volunteered for the Maurice River Historical Society for over 40 years, serving on the Board of Trustees and also as Secretary, then President, and then Treasurer. During that time, he and others succeeded in having the East Point Lighthouse listed on the National Register of Historic Places, having it relit as an active aid to navigation, writing and receiving state and federal grants, and reconstructing the tower of the lighthouse. In addition, he designed patches, T-shirts, and other items as fundraisers. Dave also was a longtime member of the Cumberland Conservation League. Among important accomplishments of the group, Bear Swamp, where the last eagle's nest in New Jersey was located, was preserved. He and Diann were also members of CU Maurice River and The Nature Conservancy.

Over the years, he had many hobbies which always included something clever or inventive. He might decide that black walnut trees needed to be planted, or he needed to learn to sail, make kites, paint watercolors, build a solar panel, work on his truck, or hand set type on the printing press he bought. He was also an early computer user and after learning the drawing and painting programs, taught for Millville Continuing Education.

More recently his health (and COVID) kept him from some of his activities, but his

love of reading and research, his friends and family, and offbeat sense of humor helped him through the hard times. Even at the end, he continued his service to others by becoming an organ donor.

A funeral service will be held on Friday February 17, 2023 at 10:00 am at the Christ Episcopal Church, 225 Sassafras St., Millville, NJ. There will be no viewing or visitation. Interment will follow the service at Overlook Cemetery, Bridgeton, NJ. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Christ Episcopal Church or CU Maurice River. Memories and condolences may be shared at [christyfuneralhome.com](http://christyfuneralhome.com)

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**CU ON THE RIVER**

[www.CUMauriceRiver.org](http://www.CUMauriceRiver.org)

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