



## Daphne Roberts

December 6, 1967 - May 5, 2024

Daphne Roberts, 56, passed away on May 5, 2024, in Pittsburgh, PA. She was well-known in the Pittsburgh area music scene, and local bands and live music were important parts of her life. Daphne graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with one Master's Degree in Physical Chemistry and another Master's Degree in Accounting. She later learned Mandarin Chinese and was responsible for editing and producing course materials for the University of Pittsburgh Chinese Language course in the late 1990s and early 2000s. She held a black belt in northern-style kung fu and was the co-owner of Pittsburgh Kung Fu Center. Daphne was instrumental in establishing the Pittsburgh Curling Club's dedicated ice facility located in Stowe Township, PA. She co-owned Phantom of the Attic Games in Oakland, where she also worked with her many accounting clients.

A memorial gathering will be on Saturday, May 25, 2024, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Thomas M. Smith Funeral Home; 930 Center Ave, Blawnox, PA.

Casual dress is preferred, and no flowers or other gifts are necessary.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 25. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Thomas M. Smith Funeral Home and Crematory Ltd.  
930 Center Avenue  
Blawnox, PA 15238

# Tribute Wall

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“ I first really met Daphne in 1994? at a Region 2 tournament at Essex Community College where I was competing in broadsword, although I believe we had crossed paths in Orlando previously when I had inadvertently put a sword in my leg. One of our co-competitors was yucking it up about that idiot (me) who couldn't hold a broadsword. He had no idea who I was. Daphne, on the other had, did recall and kept giving me a weird look. I then went and knocked it out of the park and took 1st place. This guy was really effusive in his praise of me until I mentioned that I happened to be that guy. At this point Daphne cracked a grin, said something witty, and I realized that we were to be friends.



We worked together with Vince over the next several years moving from competitors in the ring to tournament organizers. Daphne carried an axe and got things done. We showed up at one tournament in Connecticut which was in complete disarray. The organizers hadn't really organized much or scheduled which events were to be held when, and a crowd of maybe 50 people had gathered in front of registration to try to figure out what was happening. The organizer saw the three of us and begged us to rescue the tournament and within 15 minutes had the show running smoothly. This sort of scenario repeated a number of times to varying degrees until we were running the national tournaments.

When on a personal level I was having relationship difficulties, Daphne and Vince invited me in for a weekend to decompress and offered me some sanity and perspective.

As time went on and what became the US Wushu Union disbanded, we lost touch - mainly due to me not using facebook - and not reaching out, and I heard of her comings and goings through mutual friends.

Daphne will be sorely missed.

*-Tim Niiler*

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**Tim Niiler** - May 20, 2024 at 08:59 PM

GR

*she is my older sister I haven't see her for while long time since our dad is gone died too in 2009 ....*

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**giovanni roberts** - November 06, 2024 at 11:09 PM