



## Judith Ann Gerlach

October 25, 1939 - November 29, 2020

### Judith Ann Gerlach

Of the Town of Wheatfield, age 81, died peacefully in the comfort of Niagara Hospice House on November 29, 2020, surrounded by her family after a lengthy illness. She was the daughter of the late Frank and Verna Trinkwalder; wife of the late Harry Gerlach; companion of the late Gary Gath; mother of James (Mary Kay), Peter (Danielle Sawyer), Christopher (Crisanne Conley), Julianne (Brian) Taylor, and Susan (Joseph) Cunningham; grandmother of Joey and Colin Gerlach, Megan and Bailey Cunningham, Camryn Taylor, and Harry Gerlach; sister of Peter Trinkwalder and the late Thomas Trinkwalder.

Judy was a 1957 graduate of North Tonawanda High School and a 1961 graduate of SUNY Cortland. A school teacher in her early years, she devoted her later years to being a full time mother, grandmother, and socialite. She was active in the Queen City Jazz Society and North Tonawanda Alumni. She loved traditional New Orleans Jazz, estate sales, the Bills and Sabres, hats, pins and any reason to wear a costume. Judy's favorite things were spending time with family, and her many treasured friends. Friends may call Thursday 4-7 PM at the WATTENGEL FUNERAL HOME, 533 Meadow Drive, N.

Tonawanda. Due to the current pandemic Face Coverings and Social Distancing Required, Occupancy limits may cause delay in entering. Funeral Services will be held Friday 10 AM at St. Jude the Apostle R.C. Church, 800 Niagara Falls Blvd., N. Tonawanda. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Niagara Hospice, 4675 Sunset, Lockport 14094. Online guest registry at [www.wattengel.com](http://www.wattengel.com)

el.com.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 3. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Wattengel Funeral Home (Meadow Drive)  
533 Meadow Drive  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120  
(716) 693-0440  
wattengelfh@gmail.com  
<https://www.wattengel.com>

## Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 4. 10:00 AM (ET)

St Jude the Apostle Parish  
800 Niagara Falls Blvd.  
North Tonawanda, NY

# Tribute Wall

RS

“ R.I.P. Judy. You were always there to support 'The Original River Dogs Jazz Band' at River Grill and other venues we played throughout the years. Thanks for your ardent support of our band and of the traditional jazz we shared a love of. I am going to miss your smiling face in the crowd...  
-Ray Skalski

---

**Ray Skalski** - December 12, 2020 at 09:20 PM

JC

“ I met Judy in the late 60's, 70's through our involvement with the Robert Bowen Scholarship Fund. She sure knew how to prepare a room for a party! I didn't see her often throughout the years, but when I did, it was like we had just chatted the day before. In the early 2000's, when buddy, Camille DiBernardo, and I needed help with our costumes for the Ransomville Cabbage Festival fashion show, it was Judy to the rescue. I became Dorothy of the Wizard of Oz, complete with Toto, and Camille was a dancing ballerina, both clad in outfits of cabbage leaves designed and sewn together by Judy and friends. We were the hit of the show!  
I occasionally saw her around town in her cute crazy hats still bringing joy and smiles to those who knew and those who didn't. A very special gal.

---

**Joanne Choboy** - December 04, 2020 at 01:39 PM

SC

You will be missed by all that your life touched. Sharon Kornaker Clifford

---

**Sharon Kornaker Clifford** - December 06, 2020 at 09:50 PM

KO

“ Love you all!❤️



---

**Kelly Oconnor** - December 04, 2020 at 11:18 AM

JT

*Ditto*❤️

---

**Julianne Taylor** - December 04, 2020 at 08:27 PM

PB

“ *My deep condolences. Miss Trinkwalder was my second grade teacher (Gilmore school 1961-1962). She was my favorite teacher. I had a terrible, life changing accident at the school that year and she was so loving and compassionate. I will never forget the sweetness and kindness she showed me. Her influence of that one school year has guided me through these many years. Your Mom and Grandmother was beautiful person. Rest In Peace and love Miss Trinkwalder. With much love ... Patty Brzezinski*

---

**Patty Brzezinski** - December 04, 2020 at 07:14 AM

JT

*Patty, My mother shared that story with me . She held you in her heart forever. Your experience with my mom is a testament of her true spirit. She had never forgotten you and truly kept you in her prayers. Thank you for sharing , I know it was an unbelievably tough time for you and I am so grateful someone like my mom was by your side. Thank you for sharing with us as I really could feel her pain when she shared that experience. God bless you*

---

**Julianne Taylor** - December 04, 2020 at 08:56 PM

PB

*Julianne thank you for this beautiful message. It means a so much to me. I will continue to keep your Mom in my heart. I am sure this Christmas will be difficult for you and your siblings ... but if you hold all of those beautiful memories of your Mom close... the holidays won't be quite so bad. My Mom will forever be my Angel. Be well and stay safe. God Bless.*

Patty Brzezinski - December 18, 2020 at 10:12 AM

VS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

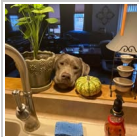


victor sirianni - December 03, 2020 at 02:29 PM

JT

*Thank you all for making her feel so loved and comfortable with her extended family. She loved every minute with all of you ❤️*

Julianne Taylor - December 04, 2020 at 08:59 PM



“ *She always had a smile. I will never forget all her enthusiasm. Prayers with everyone at this difficult time. Paula B*

Paula Barnard - December 02, 2020 at 05:57 PM



“ 195 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



---

**Wattengel Funeral Home** - December 02, 2020 at 03:22 PM



“ *Judy was my friend and we taught together at Gilmore elementary in the 60's. She also was my bridesmaid when I got married in 1964. I loved her outgoing personality and happy outlook. even though we have not connected in years , I still feel that I know her well. I live in Florida now so can't be there for her services. My sympathies to her family.*  
*Sincerely, Geraldine O'Brien*

---

**Geraldine O'Brien** - December 02, 2020 at 11:03 AM

MD

“ Dear Judy’s Family,  
I have too too memories of Judy but One which probably changed my life. When in high school she set up a blind date . We went to a basketball game in Kenmore. My date and I dated off and on for a number of years, then when it was off she said do you want to go out on a blind date ,so I did . Who would it be but Gary my first blind date who has been the love of my life for 57 years. Judy so talented, creative ,funny ,loving always had a trick up her sleeve. When God made Judy he broke the mold. We weep for our loss of our dearest friend. She would not want us to weep but celebrate her new life in heaven.  
Love to you all ,  
Mary and Gary 🙏🙏🙏❤️❤️

mary doebler - December 01, 2020 at 03:15 PM

GO

Mary, Do you remember me from our Gilmore days? Gerry O'Brien

Geraldine O'Brien - December 02, 2020 at 11:03 AM

MD

Yes of course I remember you. Did you tech special Ed?Judy enjoyed teaching ,very creative. Email me at [plumbush@yahoo.com](mailto:plumbush@yahoo.com).

mary doebler - December 02, 2020 at 01:31 PM

LP

“ lots of memories with judy and her family our prayers are with all chuck and toni papke

L. Charles Papke - December 01, 2020 at 11:52 AM