



Joan H. Gatchell

September 25, 1931 - February 19, 2010

Joan H. Gatchell, well known local artist, 78, of St. Joseph died Friday, February 19, 2010, at the Willows in Royalton Township.

Services celebrating her life will be held at 4 P.M. on Wednesday, February 24, at the Dey-Florin Chapel of Florin Funeral Service in St. Joseph.

Cremation has taken place. The family will receive friends and relatives beginning at 3 P.M. on Wednesday at the Dey-Florin Chapel. Memorials may be made to the First Church of Christ Scientist in Benton Harbor or the Benton Harbor St. Joseph YMCA youth programs.

Joan was born on September 25, 1931 in White Plains, NY to John and Besse Hammer. She married her husband, Monty Gatchell, on August 29, 1957 in White Plains, NY and together they have celebrated 52 years of marriage together. Joan studied at the Pratt Institute of Art in Brooklyn, NY for 3 years and later she graduated from Western Michigan University in 1984 with a degree in Art History. She was an avid golfer and enjoyed gardening. Joan was a local artist who participated in the Krasl Art Fairs and other local art shows. She worked in many different art mediums, but was best known for her pastel portraits. She was a member of the Krasl Art Center and the First Church of Christ Scientist. Joan was a loving and outgoing individual who was always friendly to everyone. But most of all she was a devoted and loving mother to her family.

She is survived by her husband, Monty; her children, Betsy (James) Goff of Benton Harbor, Susan (Wayne) Clarke of Monroe, CT, Jane (John) Blickenstaff of Vancouver, WA and Bill Gatchell of Berrien Springs, and her two grandchildren, Chelsea and Lindsay Clarke. She was preceded in death by her brother, John Hammer, Jr, in 1994.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **24.** 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Dey-Florin Chapel of Florin Funeral Service - Closed 2013
2506 Niles Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 983-1514
staff@florin.net

Service

FEB **24.** 4:00 PM (ET)

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2506 Niles Avenue
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Tribute Wall

EA

“ *My mother recently passed. While cleaning out my parents' house I found an old chalk portrait of my mom and I the year I was born. I cherish that now. It's hanging at the top of the stairs of my house. Thank you for the wonderful memory!!!!*

Emilia Aigotti - December 30, 2021 at 10:14 PM



“ *Mom was a very prolific, dedicated, social artist with great talent for doing pastel portraits along with most mediums... Thank you Mom!*
William M Gatchell, Jr

William Gatchell - June 20, 2015 at 11:14 AM

RS

I realise this comment is 10 years later but in hopes that somehow comments are still read. Somehow my mother Karen Anderson/Sadewater (now Godina)knew your mother when your mother was just 19 in 1950. I now reside in Australia but recently my mother sent a box of old photos to me and my actual baby book from the 60s and within it was a beautifully drawn picture of a peer with boats and people fishing dated 1950. I was wondering if you would like a copy of it and could fill in gaps as I know your mother was just 19 at that time. It's so beautifully drawn and perhaps how our parents knew each other. Condolences on the passing as well. My mom is now 84.

Rex Sadewater - June 04, 2025 at 10:21 AM