



## Gail Judith Nelson

August 20, 2014

Judith Nelson, 74, of Manahawkin, New Jersey, passed away August 20, 2014, at home, after a long arduous battle with cancer and COPD. Born in Teaneck, NJ in 1939, Judy resided in Palisades Park, NJ during her youth. She graduated from Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey) in 1961 with a BA in Health and Physical Education (H/PE) and received her MA degree in H/PE from the same institution in 1970. She later earned all the course work required towards her doctorate from Temple University and the University of Maryland.

Judy worked for Burlington County College (BCC) for 29 years. She retired from BCC with the rank of Associate Professor in 1999. During her years at BCC she taught courses in health, death and dying, stress management, human sexuality and a variety of physical education activities such as modern dance, badminton and volleyball. She also served as the women's field hockey coach for several years. Judy was selected by the student body as BCC's first female Teacher of the Year in 1986.

As an active member of the BCC Faculty Association, Judy served as vice-president and chair of the negotiating committee. She led the Organization of Faculty Women for almost 10 year and served as its chief litigation officer in a successful sex discrimination class action suit against the College filed with EEOC and the U.S. Department of Justice.

In her retirement years, Judy was passionately involved in politics and genealogy. She was also a member of many organizations that were very dear to her heart, such as the Nature Conservancy, Greenpeace, Humane Society, Society of Genealogists, and the Alice Paul NOW Chapter, to name a few.

Judy loved living on the bay and indulged in various shore activities such as boating and bird watching. Judy lost her home during hurricane Sandy, but worked tirelessly during her illness to get her home rebuilt so she could enjoy it in the final stage of her life. She moved into her new home a week before she passed away. The family is deeply grateful for the care provided by Judy's doctors who worked so faithfully to extend her life and for the outstanding care provided in the last week of her life by Home Instead Senior Care and the Hospice aides, nurses, and associates.

Judy was predeceased by her parents, Fleetwood Diss and Grace Diss Fortanas, her step-father Albert Fortanas, and son Eric Andrew Nelson. She is survived by two sons and their wives, Douglas (Diane) of Lumberton, NJ and Craig (Patricia) of Manahawkin, NJ, and four beloved grandchildren, Derrick, Alec, Danielle, and Eric.

A Memorial Service will be held for Judy at Perinchief Chapels in Mount Holly, NJ, on Saturday, October 4 at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to either the Nature Conservancy, [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org) or the Humane Society, [www.humanesociety.org](http://www.humanesociety.org)

# Cemetery Details

**Cremation**

# Previous Events

## Service

OCT 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

Perinchief Chapels  
438 High Street  
Mt. Holly, NJ 08060  
(609) 267-0399  
info@perinchief.com  
<http://www.perinchief.com>

# Tribute Wall

DN

“ Grandmother,



*I only now realized that I never wrote anything upon your passing, though I did grieve. Your absence is felt every day. To be young is to be foolish, and I was a fool to not better appreciate the time we had together. How's that old saying go? "We don't truly appreciate what we have until its gone... nothing should be taken for granted". That's an abridged version of a popular quote from author, Roy T. Bennett, but it holds true. Going down to the shore house has never felt the same since your passing. I still call it "grandmom's shore house" to this day. I miss how you brought everyone together. While our family does occasionally get together, its not as often as when you were here.*

*I miss going down to the shore house random weekends during the summer and for most holidays. You always went all out for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Tons of food, gifts, decorations, that Christmas CD we always played with popular songs like the Chipmunks and the Christmas hippopotamus. Strange to say, but I even miss the long, LONG lists of chores and work that was ALWAYS waiting for us when we got to the house. The shore house may be gone within a year or two, and with it, a large portion of my childhood. The boat, crabbing and fishing, the swimming pool, family time at the shore house.*

*I wish you could have been around to meet your great grandchildren. I think you would have liked Lillian and Evelyn. Aidan is a little stinker, but he's loveable. Life is moving too fast. I just need it to slow down. I feel that in the blink of an eye, everything will be gone. Miss you and love you always.*

*-Derrick*

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**Derrick M. Nelson** - September 15, 2024 at 04:04 AM

AN

“ *Can't believe it's been almost 10 years, still missing you!*

Alec Nelson - August 12, 2024 at 04:13 PM



“ *Gail Judith Nelson*

October 29, 2022 at 11:57 AM



“ *Gail Judith Nelson*

October 29, 2022 at 09:53 AM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Gary Olson - October 03, 2014 at 10:44 PM

DN

“ *Diane Nelson lit a candle in memory of Gail Judith Nelson*



Diane Nelson - September 21, 2014 at 10:43 AM

DN

*Every time Doug & I go to the shore now we feel Judy's absence. It is a very sad thing that the legacy she left behind for Doug & Craig (the new shore house she lived to see built) will not be enjoyed by her. So, in her memory we will all try to go and create new happy memories on the bay knowing that she is there in spirit smiling down on us.*

**Diane Nelson** - September 21, 2014 at 10:46 AM

AN

*“ I remember all the fun trips to the shore over the summer as a kid. They would consist of going out on her boat in the bay and going fishing/crabbing. She even let us steer the boat sometimes, which was very exciting for a youngster! Then during the holidays we would go to her house and help her set up the Christmas tree and bake Christmas cookies. Grandmom Judy would always have special events planned for every holiday. On Easter there would be an egg hunt, on the Fourth of July, a barbecue and fire works on the bay with a dessert of banana splits. Grandmom Judy always knew how to celebrate, even by marching around her yard playing instruments for those boating by to see. On non holiday visits she would always be teaching us something like how to play the piano, playing games, and going through old photos and teaching us about our ancestry and geneology. Regretfully there haven't been many visits to the shore to have fun with Grandmom. She will be greatly missed by me. Mostly because there has never been a silent moment with Grandmom Judy, she was an open, knowledgeable book. May she finally rest in peace. Love always, your grandson Alec.*

**Alec Nelson** - September 19, 2014 at 07:36 PM

DN

*Beautifully written Alec. Grandmom did teach you & Derrick a lot.*

**Diane Nelson** - September 21, 2014 at 10:42 AM

DA

“ Judy was one of my roommates, as well as a sorority sister, at Trenton State. Our time there was special and fun. For many years after graduation, we kept in touch but, as time moved on, we lost touch. However, with the advent of technology and Facebook, we reconnected. The last 4 years brought us some more of that special and fun time. I will miss our lunch visits. I am so glad Judy was able to be in her home again--that was a very strong wish that was fulfilled. Dori Gersley Anderson.

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**dori gersley anderson** - September 19, 2014 at 02:34 PM

ST

Judy and I have been friends for many years. We met at Trenton State where we were roommates and sorority sisters. When our children were preschoolers we would take them to the beach ( a place we both loved). We both loved reading, music and politics. She was a seeker of knowledge and could be counted on information on anything. I will miss her.

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**Sylvia Teahan** - September 20, 2014 at 11:10 AM