



## Joann Szark

October 20, 2021

JoAnn (Gardner) Szark passed away peacefully in her sleep at home in Cresskill, NJ surrounded by her family on October 20, 2021 at the age of 77. “Puddy”, as she was known by her family and friends, was born on January 14, 1944, in North Plainfield, NJ. After high school graduation, she began her nursing career as an emergency room nurse at Middlesex General Hospital (now Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital) in New Brunswick, NJ. Puddy continued her education, becoming a Registered Nurse and receiving her Bachelors of Science in Nursing from Rutgers University. She was ultimately promoted to head nurse. After over 20 years in the ER, Puddy resumed her lifelong nursing career in the endoscopy department at the hospital and in private practice until her retirement in 2011. She raised her family with her husband of 54 years in North Brunswick, NJ. After retirement, she spent her summers in Long Beach Island and winters in Puerto Rico. She also enjoyed her grandchildren, quilting, book club, and walking with friends. Puddy was the daughter of Joseph and Marie (Ammerman) Gardner. She is survived by her loving husband, Joe Szark, Jr. of Cresskill, NJ, children Joe Szark III (and wife Krista) of Cranford, NJ and Joelle Maier (and husband Steve) of Cresskill, NJ, brother Bob Gardner (and sister-in-law Ann) of Tewksbury Township, NJ, grandchildren (Jon, Will, Maddie, Emma, and Lily), as well as her nephews John Gardner (and wife Meg) of Stewartsville, NJ and Glen Gardner of Point Pleasant, NJ. Puddy was predeceased by her brother Jack Gardner and sister-in-law Carol. Private burial will be at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield, NJ.

A celebration of Puddy's life will be held on Saturday, October 23, 2021, at 1PM at Manahawkin Baptist Church at 400 Beach Road, Manahawkin, NJ. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory can be made to either: Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) Director's Discretionary Fund (online) or Valley Hospice 15 Essex Road, Suite 301, Paramus, NJ 07652.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT **23**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Manahawkin Baptist Church  
400 Beach Ave.  
Manahawkin , NJ 08050

# Tribute Wall

ZH

“ *To Joe and family,  
My condolences to you and your family. I knew you way back when  
in New Brunswick when you were friends with my former husband,  
Tom Horvath; in fact you were an groomsman at our wedding, and I  
remember you and JoAnne so young and in love!!! Peace and  
comfort for all of you.*  
Zena

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**Zena Horvath** - October 26, 2021 at 12:16 PM

LR

“ *My deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the Szark family  
in the loss of Joann. She was a beautiful caring lady, and a very  
kind soul!*

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**Linda Odronec, RN** - October 24, 2021 at 06:14 PM

MM

“ *Dear Joe Joey Joelle*

*I can't tell you how sorry I am for your loss. Joanne loved her family.  
Was always there for her friends and was a brilliant nurse. I have  
such special memories of all the times we spent together. We were  
true little league parents. Other teams would say "Don't those North  
Brunswick parents work". How we altered our schedules to go to all  
the games She was a wonderful friend and an exemplary mother  
who loved and was proud of her grandchildren she will be missed  
May you find comfort with friends and family  
Fondly  
The Milgrom family*

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**marcia Milgrom** - October 24, 2021 at 04:22 PM

EW

“ Joe & Family,  
We were both very sorry to hear of JoAnn's passing. Our thoughts  
and prayers are with you all.

Sincerely,  
Ed & Lorraine White

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**Ed & Lorraine White** - October 24, 2021 at 03:46 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for  
the family of Joann Szark.



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October 22, 2021 at 01:47 PM

AP

“ With deepest sorrow for your loss. May all  
those special memories all these years  
remain in your hearts forever & help you all  
thru this difficult time.  
Alicia - Smolin Lupin



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**Alicia Petrow** - October 21, 2021 at 06:15 PM



“ Loving Grace was purchased for the family of  
Joann Szark.



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October 21, 2021 at 04:55 PM

BG

“ *To the Szark, Maier and Gardner family, Jack and I were saddened to hear of the passing of JoAnn. We know how much she means to all of you. We wish you peaceful days ahead. May JoAnn rest in eternal peace and may her memory be a blessing.*  
*Barbara and Jack Giameo*



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**Barbara and Jack Giameo** - October 21, 2021 at 04:26 PM