



## Barbara A. Gauthier

March 31, 1940 - September 26, 2024

Hampton - The light dimmed on September 26th, 2024, when Barbara Armstrong Gauthier, 84, passed away after a short illness. Barbara was grateful to be at Tidewatch, the family home she so loved, at Plaice Cove in Hampton, New Hampshire, and to be in the presence of loving family. She was a former longtime resident of Monterey, Massachusetts.

Barbara was born on March 31, 1940, in Greenfield, Massachusetts. She attended Greenfield High School where she met the love of her life, Robert Gauthier. He was her prom date, and the rest is history. Bob and Barbara married and shared 50 years together before Bob passed away in 2010.

In the mid 1960s, Bob and Barbara moved to Monterey, where they raised their four children, Pam, Jim, David, and Jeff. There were summer days at Lake Garfield and summer evenings punctuated by the sounds of the neighborhood children playing kick the can in their yard. During the winters, Bob and Barbara loved watching the kids sledding or building forts from their kitchen window while they enjoyed some holiday baking together. It was a true collaboration as Bob made the crust and Barbara made the filling. The Gauthiers simply embraced their life in Monterey. When Stefan and Stephanie Grotz moved in next door to them, a fast friendship formed between the families, with the kids flowing freely through a hole in the fence that linked their backyards. Barbara and Stephanie enjoyed daily coffee chats as the kids

grew up and supported one another through many ups and downs for over 50 years. Their kids still reminisce with laughter about those chats and about their “road trips” together to stock up on day-old bread at the Hostess store. Many of these trips also included a stop at T. J. Maxx to dig through the bins for bargain underwear. The kids were surprised to later learn that “irregular” was not a brand.

Summers also included an annual trip to the ocean for the Gauthier family. They would pile into a tiny cottage in York, Maine, delighting in their days at the beach. Barbara’s love of Maine lobster was well known, and Bob would hustle the kids out for ice cream at the end of this special meal so Barbara could be left alone to savor every last bite. The love of the ocean never faded for Barbara, and a favorite pastime was searching the beach for sea glass. At her request, her 70th birthday was a family beach combing trip.

When Pam’s sons, Henri and Jack, were born, Barbara excitedly became “Nana”. She celebrated their first steps, their sporting events, and each and every one of their milestones. She celebrated everything about them. “Would you like an ice cream cone?” she would ask. “Oh wait, how about one for each hand?” she would add with a laugh. It was mutual adoration. Henri and Jack began referring to her as “The Defender” as she reminded Pam that mischief making was also a learning opportunity, many times softening the disciplinary outcome. She was thrilled to celebrate Henri’s latest milestone, his engagement to longtime girlfriend, Riana, now a loved member of the family.

Monterey is a place that Barbara always and forever held close to her heart. She worked at the Monterey General Store during its heyday. She served as Monterey’s Town Treasurer and later as the Town Accountant. She was a true presence in Monterey life and loved the community. It’s where she spread roots, where she tended to her beloved perennial gardens, where she loved celebrating holidays with family and friends and, most importantly, where she nurtured lifetime friendships and raised her four children with her life partner,

Bob.

It is no surprise that Barbara quickly became part of the community fabric at Plaice Cove where she lived for the past several years. She greeted countless neighbors from her beloved screened in porch, delighted in visits with family and friends, and treasured weekly lunches with neighbors. Her bright and resonant laugh was distinct and brought a smile to all. Barbara had a common-sense brilliance, delivering rational advice to those who asked. More than just a friend to her children's friends, they saw her as a second mother. She was embracing, tolerant, and accepting. Jim's friends would intone, "Sorry, Barbara" if there was lewd or explicit talk in her presence, and she would roll her eyes, chuckle, and note, "They're not sorry."

Thank you, Barbara, for your warmth, your kindness, and your humor; as your friends often said, you were a national treasure.

In her memory, please be kind.

Countless friends and family will miss Barbara tremendously. She is survived by her four children and grandchildren. Open house celebrations of Barbara's life will be held at Tidewatch (43 Ancient Highway, Plaice Cove, Hampton, NH) on Friday, November 1, from 6pm-9pm and Saturday, November 2, from 1pm-5pm as well as on Saturday, November 16, from 1pm-5pm at the Grotz home (518 Main Road, Monterey, MA).

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Bob and Barbara Gauthier Memorial Scholarship. Checks should be made out to "The Bob and Barbara Gauthier Memorial Scholarship" and mailed to Aurigan Scholarship Fund, Dawn Estes-Daub, Mount Everett Regional School, 491 Berkshire School Road, Sheffield, MA, 01257.



# Previous Events

## **Celebration of Life**

NOV 1. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Tidewatch  
43 Ancient Highway Plaice Cove  
Hampton, NH 03842

## **Celebration of Life**

NOV 2. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Tidewatch  
43 Ancient Highway Plaice Cove  
Hampton, NH 03842

## **Celebration of Life**

NOV 16. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Grotz Home  
518 Main Road  
Monterey, MA 01245

# Tribute Wall

MC

“ There is no such word beautiful enough to honor Barbara. She was my neighbor for 20 years, but so much more than just that. She was a mother to all, always prepared to come to the rescue- my personal first responder with a cup of sugar, motherly advice, a shoulder to cry on, or clever response that would leave me giggling long after I left Tidewatch. Speaking of laughing, it always warmed my heart when I'd hear her laughing on the porch. She was a vital part of everything that happened in that home. She brought elegance and warmth to every event. A uniter, a pillar, an icon. I loved Barbara like a mother. I'll miss her forever.

With love to everyone in the Gauthier family,  
Melanie xoxo

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**melanie cull** - November 15, 2024 at 10:14 AM

TG

“ Gauthier cousins, you are in our thoughts as we send lots of love and hugs your way as you mourn the loss of your Mom. As you know, I can relate to this loss yet I know nothing I say or do will ease your pain. Yet I can confirm what you already know, that Your mom, My Aunt Barbara, Was extra special. Her kindness and loving spirit impacted everyone she met. So many examples yet for me, her light shine brightest when she first met Kevin( my now husband). She made him feel so welcome and included,.. He still remembers how she made him feel that day, and it was over 30 years. We will always cherish our many memories with Aunt Barbara. We are optimistic the love you shared with her will bring you comfort in the days, months, years ahead.

With love, sympathy and a smile,  
Teri & Kevin

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**Teri Gouveia** - November 05, 2024 at 10:43 PM

VK

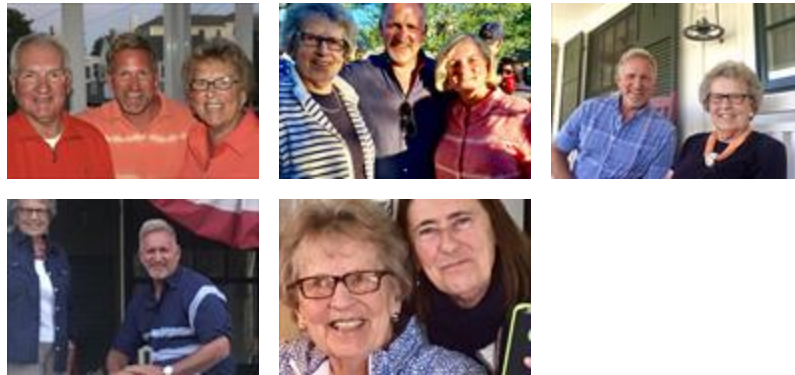
“ I heard the news of your mom’s passing. I feel incredibly lucky to have met her, albeit contextually briefly. I’m so deeply sorry for your loss. From experience, I know that there are no words to “make it better” . However, here is what I do know: She was so proud to be your mom and man, was she a lucky lady to have you as a son. You always put her first and at the center of it all. She had amazing life experiences and was in the orbit of your huge friend circle and that brought her joy. I think it’s true about the “life in your years” vs. the “years in your life” and by that standard, she got such a rich experience, and was surrounded by love everywhere she went. My thoughts are with you and your family. Thinking of you while you navigate this loss and honoring all that Barbara Gauthier brought to this world ❤️

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**Veronica Kelly** - November 04, 2024 at 05:48 PM

JG

“ 10 files added to the album Photos



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**Jim Gauthier** - November 03, 2024 at 07:50 AM

“ To My own National Treasure!

*1. From a small boy my mom always bent over backwards to make this " special " kid feel loved and nurtured!*

*She sacrificed so I could get my first Polo shirt and always made sure me and my siblings had the most magical Christmas and summer vacations!*

*She instilled a strong work ethic at a early age as I had many jobs to make my own money bailing boats, mowing lawns, baby sitting. ( I liked to buy things even at 9 yrs old... Matchbox cars and clothes)*

*As a teenager she trusted me to make smart choices with friends, cars, (I crashed a few) alcohol, drugs, cigarettes... and so I did ( this was huge) also I did not have a curfew... as long as I was responsible!*

*Mom put up with and supported both mentally and financially 4 different college choices and helped me refine my interest in Interior design.*

*When I came out to my Mom and Dad at 26, She was surprised/not surprised but her biggest concern was for my happiness and safety!*

*Most importantly, as an adult My mom has been the best sounding board and always a supportive loving voice of reason and thoughtfulness.*

*The irony in all of this for me is she has always showed the same love and support for my friends that she shows to me on a daily basis and so many of the people close to me look to her as lovingly as I do! (Where the National Treasure title came from- Ben W)*

*My mom is first and foremost a loving mom, but she is also a Nana, cheerleader, therapist, cook, gardener, care giver, and great friend to me !*

*Thank you Barbara, Nana, Mom for being exactly who you are!*

*You are loved beyond these words!*

*Your favorite daughter,  
Jim*

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**Jim Gauthier** - November 03, 2024 at 07:46 AM

AC

“ *Although we hadn't seen Barbara in several years, we have lots of fond memories of gatherings in Monterey with all of the Gauthiers and a great big group of friends. Barbara and Bob were generous hosts, and quickly became our friends too. It's rare to meet such genuine people who are good listeners, sincerely interested in others' well-being, and just plain fun to be around. Barbara's warmth, wit and kindness are missed. She was one of those special people who made life brighter for those around her. Our sincere sympathy to Barbara's family, from Anne & Bill Cummins.*

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**Anne Cummins** - October 23, 2024 at 08:36 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Barbara A. Gauthier.*



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October 16, 2024 at 11:15 AM

JG

“ 2 files added to the album Photos



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**Jim Gauthier** - October 14, 2024 at 04:18 PM

TS

“ *Barbara was a class act all the way- sharp, loving, caring, funny - everything that embodied a wonderful human.*

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**Tim Saccoia** - October 14, 2024 at 04:10 PM