



## Anne E. Gunn

April 22, 2021

Anne E. Gunn

Chili - Thursday, April 22, 2021 at age 96. Predeceased by her husband, John E. Sr.; son, Kevin; son-in-law, Dan Newkirk; and 4 siblings. Survived by her children, Donna Gunn-Newkirk and John E. Jr. (Barb) Gunn; grandchildren, Drew #1 (Ashley), Jacob #2, Rachel #3 and Danielle #4; sister, Gloria Spagnoli; and several nieces and nephews.

Anne was born in New Jersey in 1924 to parents, Tully and Louisa Spagnoli and grew up in Woodhaven, Queens, NY. She graduated from Lane High School. Singing and theater were her passions. She saved all of her overtime money to take voice lessons at the Metropolitan Opera and to participate at Summer Stock workshops. She auditioned for Broadway and performed in a few off Broadway productions in Greenwich Village, NY. She also performed with the USO. She taught drama at the Industrial School for the Blind in NY, where her directorial career started. At the Industrial Home she directed and performed in the production of "A Solid Gold Cadillac" and they were written up in the NY Times for being the first amateur group to perform this production. Her brushes with fame included an elevator ride with Carol Channing, meeting Helen Keller and seeing Judy Garland perform.

In 1955 she met John Gunn at a YMCA dance in Brooklyn and they were married on August 26, 1956. They had 3 children, Kevin, Donna and John "JR". As a mother she always put her family first. This included taking care of her 8 year old son, Kevin, who was sick the last five years of his life.

She was an active member of Holy Ghost Church and a member of the choir, a Eucharistic Minister giving communion to the sick and started a drama group called the Plucky Players. For over 40 years she directed the Plucky Players for performances all over Rochester. The Holy Ghost women became her best buddies and partners in crime and also became surrogate mothers for each other's children.

For 36 years she worked for the Town of Gates where she founded and directed the Gates Showcase, working with seniors. They performed at local elementary schools and won 3 awards, a local, a state and a national award. She was also Past President of the Gates Community Theater. Anne was a member of the Oasis Tappers, tap dancing until the age of 92. You can see her performances on Youtube, including the one as Mother Superior leading the order of the sisters before they came out for their tap routine.

Anne loved spending time with her 3 sisters, Adele, Lucy and Gloria and 2 brothers, Mario and Sonny. The girls often referred to themselves as the La-La sisters. In later years, she and her siblings were able to spend many winters together in Tarpon Springs, FL.

She was a sweet soul who gave so much of herself to others. She will be truly missed.

Friends may call at the Leo M. Bean and Sons Funeral Home Tuesday 4-7PM. Funeral Mass Wednesday 10AM at St. Pius Tenth Church, 3000 Chili Ave. Rochester, NY 14624. Reception following the mass at Church Lodge at Churchville Park. Interment, Holy Ghost Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Camp Good Days and Special Times.

# Tribute Wall

SC

“ Donna and Family,  
I was so sorry to read this in our paper on Sunday. It is such a difficult loss. I lost my Mom last October, at 103 years young.  
Please know my prayers are with all of you at this difficult time. If you get time call me, I am in the book.  
Fondly,  
Sarah Jane and Tim Clifford

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**Sarah Jane Jane Clifford** - April 26, 2021 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ Donna and family,  
My sincerest condolences to you. I had the absolute pleasure of meeting your mom in Racine and enjoying an afternoon at Lake Michigan.  
She was so caring and warm just as Donna would describe her. My heart is filled with sadness and I grieve along with you.  
My prayers and love are with you.

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**Christine Lynne Rouze** - April 26, 2021 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ This women, Iv always known as (Nani) had such an amazing beautiful heart, she was always there for a wonderful story to share, some sweet motherly advise or just a hug. I am a better person today just knowing her for so many years. I would go visit and spend time helping her around her place and she would share some great stories with me. I learned things from her that will live forever in my heart.  
The world lost a beautiful women and we all gained an equally beautiful guardian angel as she always watched out for everyone. You will be missed.....Lots of love to all

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**Brandy Selover** - April 26, 2021 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ I'm honoured to have had the opportunity to spend time in Florida with this gentle beautiful lady. She's truly an inspiration to anyone who met her.

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**Theresa Meier** - April 26, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Donna and family,  
Your mom was certainly a multi-talented individual in the Arts. Although I never met her, it is easy to see, Donna where you get your love of fine arts from to share with your students. Your mom's artistic talents will always be with you.

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**Jackie Stern** - April 25, 2021 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ I give my sincere condolences to the Gunn family. Though I only met her on limited times in college where her daughter Donna Gunn-Newkirk. I a sweet welcoming. My prayers go comfort for the family

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**Ellen Berke** - April 25, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ Anne was truly a loving person. Happy & smiling with a few jokes .

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**Denise Adinolfi** - April 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ She was a devoted wife, mother, sister and aunt. Agnes and I would often take our daughters, Beth and Lori and my mother Lucy (her sister) to visit Aunt Anne and Uncle John, Donna and JR.  
Aunt Anne will be remembered as my Godmother and all round beautiful person. She will be missed but never forgotten. Love, Gene and Agnes

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**Eugene Burkart** - April 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ I will always treasure the time we spent together although it was not as often as I would have liked I love you for reaching out to me when my mom died it meant more to me than you know  
Your were a loving kind person you and she are angels together with Uncle John and Kevin

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**Kathy** - April 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM