



## Joan "Joani" Kennedy Byer

March 27, 2014

Joan "Joani" (Kennedy) Byer, of Newington and Groton, died Thursday, March 27, 2014, at her home. Born in Hartford, the daughter of the late Thomas and Josephine Kennedy, she made her home in Newington for the past 48 years, and spent her summers at Old Colony Beach, where she served as past president and police chief for the beach association. Joani graduated from Central Connecticut State University and was a government, psychology and law teacher at Hall High School for over 25 years. She is survived by her daughter Kathleen Orebaugh (Robert) of Norfolk, VA; her sister, Karen Rutkowski of Mexico, and brother Richard Kennedy of Granby; three grandchildren, Ashley Narkawicz (Anthony), Leslie Edwards (Sammy), Katelyn Orebaugh; and four great grandchildren, Eloise Narkawicz, Elizabeth Narkawicz, Eleanor Narkawicz, and Addison Edwards. She was predeceased by her brother Thomas Kennedy and great granddaughter Erin Narkawicz. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, April 4, at 10:00 a.m. at the Church of St. Helena, 30 Echo Lane. West Hartford. Calling hours are Thursday from 7-9 p.m. at the Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave., West Hartford. Donations in her memory may be made to the Church of St. Helena or to the Siamese Cat Rescue at [www.siameserescue.org](http://www.siameserescue.org). Online expressions of sympathy may be made at [www.molloyfuneralhome.com](http://www.molloyfuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

APR 3. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home  
906 Farmington Ave  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
(860) 232-1322

## Mass of Christian Burial

APR 4. 10:00 AM (ET)

Church of St. Helena  
30 Echo Lane  
West Hartford, CT

# Tribute Wall

CE

“ Though he died young, my father John B. Egan, Jr. loved and cherished his many Hurley aunts and cousins, including Joani Kennedy. I remember her and her daughter Kathy at "the cottage" in my early childhood with great affection. The potpourri of extended family in that rambling, three-storey summer refuge harks back to a gentler time.

*My path crossed with Joani's again in the mid-1990s at the state Capitol at one of her "we the people" events. She could not have been more gracious in treating me like family after so many years of separation. I mourn her loss and wish her immediate family solace during this time of grief. She lived a very good life, which we all hope and strive for.*

*Best always, Carolyn V. Egan*

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**Carolyn Egan** - April 05, 2014 at 07:41 PM

JE

“ We were all very saddened to learn of Joani's passing. She was integral part our warm and wonderful childhood memories of the Fagin House. In our minds and hearts, she will always remain.

*Our deepest sympathy to Kathy and family,*

*Judi Egan and Family*

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**Judi Egan** - April 05, 2014 at 01:30 PM

PA

“ *I'll always remember the fun we had at the Fagin House with all the cousins - sneaking out to swim at night and the mirrors. Rest in peace Joani. Your cousin, Peg*

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**Peg Abbott** - April 03, 2014 at 04:29 PM

JF

“ *Joanne Hurley, Mike Hurley, Lynne (Hurley) Boucher & Famlies purchased the A Full Life for the family of Joan "Joani" Kennedy Byer.*



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**Joanne Hurley, Mike Hurley, Lynne (Hurley) Boucher & Famlies** - April 03, 2014 at 08:56 AM

DD

“ *To The Family of Joani Byer*

*It was with sadness that we learned of Joani's passing after her recent illness. Her contributions and loyalty to Hall High School were significant and much appreciated by all who knew her. It is said that to live in the hearts one leaves behind is not to die. Joani will live on in the hearts of her family and many friends always.*

*With our most sincere sympathy.  
Gladys and Bob Dunn*

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**Dr. Mrs. Robert E. Dunn** - March 31, 2014 at 10:38 PM

JB

“ I began working with Joani in 1987 with the We the People program. She was always a kind person and I will always remember the wonderful dinners and laughs I shared with Joani and my Connecticut friends. God Bless Joani and may happy memories bring peace and comfort to the family!

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**Jan Ruyle Beck** - March 31, 2014 at 09:59 PM



“ • Our hearts are truly saddened to hear Joani has passed away. She was always so welcoming to us, both in Connecticut and Virginia, at her Granddaughters' weddings, dinners out and when she visited with you, Kathy, and your beautiful family. She will be truly missed by many, as well as us.

*With Love,*

*J.C. and Jenny Landin*

*Jenny Landin - 35 minutes ago*

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**Randy Molloy** - March 31, 2014 at 01:33 PM

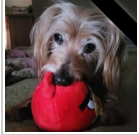
JH

“ It seems like it was only a short time ago that Joani and I were talking at a conference for We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, but it was actually quite a few years back. I'll never forget her stalwart support for effective civic education in Connecticut's schools. I wish all of her family and friends well in their time of grief.

*John Hale*

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**John Hale** - March 31, 2014 at 12:52 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to Joani's family. She was a dedicated member of Civics First, Inc. for many years. I have traveled to conferences with her. I am so sorry to hear of her passing. Beth DeLuco*

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**Beth DeLuco** - March 31, 2014 at 11:20 AM

JK

“ *Dear Kathy and family,  
We were so saddened when we learned that Joan was sick and so profoundly saddened to have been told she passed away. Joan, my family and your family have shared many wonderful memories. Joan was a dear friend and she will be missed so much. I keep looking across the street to see her car pull in to the driveway as its time to start getting the house ready for summer. Things will never be the same for sure without her. Please accept our deepest and sincerest condolences. If there is anything we can do for you or the family please let us know.*

*With regards,*

*Judi Katz-Healey and Arthur Healey Jill/Brian Durand Daniel Shapiro*

*Isabel Katz, Michael/Lucy Katz, Cliff/Renee Katz*

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**judith Katz-Healey** - March 30, 2014 at 03:45 PM

SA

“ *Joani, you were the most recognized person in Old ColonyBeach. It will not be ever the same without you.*

*A person who was always a friend,had time for everyone and will not be forgotten.*

*I extend my deepest sympathy to her children and grand children ,and all the close friends she made along the way.*

*Rest in Peace my friend..*

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**Selma Andelman** - March 30, 2014 at 01:43 PM

LO

“ I will hold memories of Joani close forever. What a loyal friend. We shared lots of fun and some sadness; but the memories of our building projects, trips, and journeys through life will be with me each day. Joani made a difference in the lives of many students, and her professional career(s) and accomplishments made her very proud. "May the wind be always at your back and the sun shine upon your face,..." dear friend.....

*Lorraine Mara Burokas*

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**Lorraine** - March 30, 2014 at 12:55 PM

LO

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



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**Lorraine** - March 30, 2014 at 12:43 PM

BP

“ TO THE FAMILY OF JOANI KENNEDY BYER...OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY. LOVE FOLLOWS US NO MATTER HOW FAR.YOUR LIFE LONG FRIEND AND SORORITY SISTER.BETTY BABBITT PUGLIESE AND VICTOR J. PUGLIESE..

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**BETTY BABBITT PUGLIESE** - March 30, 2014 at 12:24 PM

GH

*I am saddened to hear of Joanies passing...The years go by but the memories of childhood years live on. I mourn with the family..Ginger Eib Henthorn*

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**Ginger Henthorn** - March 30, 2014 at 01:59 PM