



# Jane G. Govatos

JAN 30, 1943 - MAY 22, 2018



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## **Jane G. Govatos**

JAN 30, 1943 - MAY 22, 2018

**J**ane G. Govatos, 75, of Lewes, who was one of the first licensed nurse practitioners in the state of Delaware, died Tuesday May 22 at Beebe Medical Center in Lewes. She was the daughter of the late James Gordon Govatos, whose family owned Govatos Candies on Market St. and Ann Terranova Hultsch, who owned Terranova's Bar at 400 Tatnall St. in Wilmington, DE.

Born in Wilmington on January 30, 1943, Jane attended St. Peter's Cathedral School and graduated from Padua Academy in 1960. She was also a 1963 graduate of St. Agnes Hospital School of Nursing in Baltimore, MD.

She began her career as a nurse at The George Washington University Hospital in Washington, DC where she met her husband Wayne Robbins. They moved to Montreal, Canada in 1969 where they raised their son Sean and where Jane became fluent in French. She worked as a nurse in the operating room at several area hospitals, including Lakeshore General Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Royal Victoria Hospital and Montreal General Hospital.

In July of 1977, she and her family took a sabbatical year, which began with two months of camping through Europe and continued with 10 months of living in a small French village called Rioux located close to the mid-Atlantic coast of France near La Rochelle.

In 1989 Jane left Montreal, a city she loved, and returned to Delaware to help care for her aging mother and stepfather. She settled in Lewes and reconnected with her first cousin and sidekick, Mig Reardon. The two, who had grown up more like sisters, spent summers together in Rehoboth at the family's house on Baltimore Ave. spending their days on the beach, playing canasta on the porch of their cottage and their nights "walking the boards." Jane, who had taken a memoir writing class at the University of Delaware's Osher Learning Center, had recently read a special remembrance of those times at the Rehoboth Writers Guild's "Night of Songs and Stories." Jane was an active member of the guild and had planned to write more pieces to share.



## Obituary

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Her first job in Delaware was at Milford Memorial Hospital, where she worked in the operating room as a nurse. Always looking to better herself and to do more for her patients, Jane went back to school, earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Wilmington University in 1993. She continued her education and was among the first class of nurse practitioners to earn a Master of Science in Nursing at the University of Delaware, graduating with honors in 1995. She also taught nursing at Wilmington University.

Jane worked for the next 23 years throughout the Lewes-region as a family nurse practitioner most recently with Beebe Physician Network. Her compassion and dedication to her patients earned her a loyal following.

She tried several times over the years to retire, but was always pulled back to her life's calling. Finally in September 2017, she retired, but continued to take classes to keep her license current. In recent months, she took on a new role as a volunteer for the Delaware Medical Reserve Corps, educating people all over the state on how to manage chronic diseases, such as diabetes.

Perhaps Jane's greatest accomplishments were the deep and long-lasting friendships she cultivated throughout her life. She never met a stranger. From Montreal to Lewes she was well known for her dinner parties, gathering friends to share in good conversation and good food. A lover of the arts and culture, she was a supporter since 2005 of the Rehoboth Film Society and was especially proud of her No. 10 member ID number. She was an avid reader and collector of books, a gourmet cook and a connoisseur of fine food. Her death was sudden and unexpected following a routine surgery, and she will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son Sean Robbins of Vancouver, Canada, her cousin Marguerite M. (Mig) Reardon and her husband Bill Reardon of Lewes, and her stepfather Maurice "Bob" Hultsch of Wilmington.

She is survived by her former husband Wayne Robbins of Toronto, Canada, her sister Suzanne Franck and her husband Peter Franck of Hockessin, her nephews Matthew Franck of Lawrenceville, NJ and David Starr of Montreal, her niece Ellen Franck of St. George, Utah, her cousins Elizabeth Gellene of Needham, MA, Marguerite Gaines of Wayne, PA, Amy Gliptis of Silver Spring, MD, William P. Reardon Jr. of Millsboro, and their families; Rosemary Letonoff of Port Richey, FL and her sons Victor Letonoff, Lars Letonoff and Dr. Eric Letonoff; Marion



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Thomas of Rehoboth and her children Dr. Marvin L. Thomas III, Michael Scott Thomas, and Lisa Thomas; Mary Elizabeth Slattery and Carol Niebler of Rehoboth, as well as many dear friends.

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, June 7 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 2nd Street, Lewes, DE. Committal will follow at St. Peter's Cemetery, Pilottown Road Lewes. Friends may call between 6 and 8 p.m., Wednesday June 6, at Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium, Atkins-Lodge Chapel, 16961 Kings Highway; Lewes.

Please omit flowers. Memorial contributions in Jane's name may be made to the Rehoboth Beach Writers' Guild, PO Box 1326, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971, or The Rehoboth Film Society, 107 Truitt Ave., Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971.

Please sign the online guestbook located on this site.

FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE DELIVER ALL FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS BY 11AM WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2018 TO OUR LEWES LOCATION.



# Events

**Jane G. Govatos**

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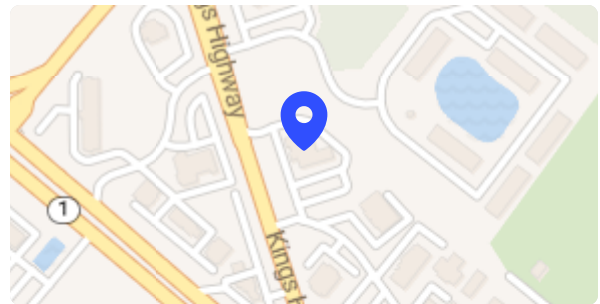
## Visitation

 **Wednesday**, June 6, 2018

 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET

 **Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-Atkins-Lodge Chapel**

16961 Kings Highway, Lewes DE 19958



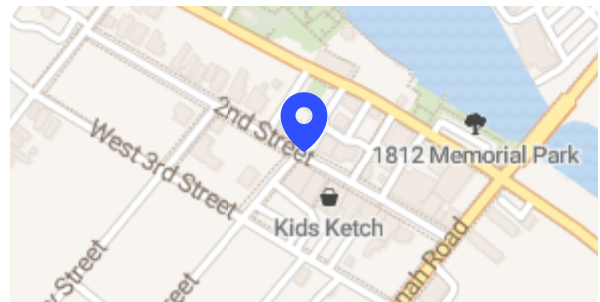
## Memorial Service

 **Thursday**, June 7, 2018

 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET

 **St. Peter's Episcopal Church**

Second & Market Streets, Lewes DE





## Tribute Wall

**Jane G. Govatos**

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CC

**Catherine Coulbourne** posted:

I'm so sadden hearing of Jane's passing. She was such a good friend. We will miss her.Catherine and Gary Coulbourne

June 10 at 10:00 AM

DA

**Dorrie Anshel** posted:

I met Jane three years ago in an Osher French class and so enjoyed seeing her smiling face each week. It was such a pleasure to spend time with her in a pursuit we all loved. Our merry band of francophiles has grown quite close, and we will deeply miss Jane's kindness, enthusiasm and genuine warmth. My sincere condolences to Jane's extended family and network of friends on this terrible loss. Repose en paix, chere Jane.Dorrie Anshel

June 4 at 5:56 AM

GK

**Gail Kelsall** posted:

Dear Family of Jane: I knew Jane from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Montreal. I was the Head Nurse in the ICU and Jane was an OR Nurse. It was 1980 and I had just started at the Queen Elizabeth. Jane was such a friendly, outgoing person. She made friends easily and put everyone at ease with her friendly manner. We taught CPR together many times. She was a perfect hostess! Her dinner parties and brunches were delightful! She knew how to organize the best get-togethers!! I am so very sad that she is gone! I will miss her trips to Montreal!! We had many great times together!! I know she will be missed by her many friends here in Montreal.Sincerely,Gail Kelsall

June 3 at 6:04 AM

CP

**Charlie & Marie Panagiotakos** lit a candle in honor of Jane .



June 1 at 3:59 PM

CP

**Charlie & Marie Panagiotakos** posted:

Although we were separated by time & distance a great deal it was always a pleasure & fun to reconnect when we could & share the good times & laughs we had over the years.We loved her great sense of humor & warm feeling, a friendship that remained constant through the years. She will be very much missed. Charlie & Marie Panagiotakos, Koko & Tom

June 1 at 3:56 PM



## Tribute Wall

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RD

**Rosalyn Daisey** posted:

Jane was my supervisor in the Milford OR. She was a good teacher and always positive. I am grateful to have worked with her and I enjoyed seeing her out and about in the community when I moved on to other work opportunities. She was always smiling and a good soul. Thank you Jane. You will be truly missed. Rosalyn Daisey

June 1 at 10:29 AM

DL

**Doris Lehman** posted:

A compassionate and caring professional who embodied a spirit of hope and positivity. Always patient and interested in you and what you said. She will be missed!

June 1 at 6:19 AM

CL

**Carol Lonegro** posted:

Many fun times with Jane and my dearest friend Mig Reardon. Suspenseful nights watching "The Fuge" (The Fugitive) on TV in the nurses residence at St. Agnes Hospital School of Nursing (the quietest we could ever be!); antique hunting in Mig's convertible - in mid winter (TOP DOWN!); beaching with the many, many family and friends at Lewes; walking the boards in Rehobeth; basketball games @ St. Agnes against our rivals from Mercy followed by late night dinners in Little Italy in Baltimore. Jane was a year ahead of us in school and watched over us and helped when we were overwhelmed with studies. She was my teacher at Wilmington University when I returned to school for a Bachelor's degree. Our class with her was a hoot - we learned Jane's way of doing a thorough physical exam - looking in each other's ears, up noses, and just about all things (we could have been arrested!!!). Jane enjoyed her life, shared her knowledge, loved her family, and cherished her friends. Rest in Peace, Jane. Carol Lonegro

May 31 at 5:46 AM



## Tribute Wall

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**Glyn D Edwards** lit a candle in honor of Jane .

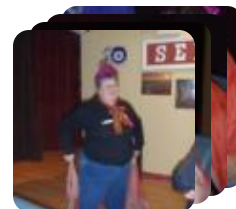
Jane, You were such a wonderful light of joy and friendship. Our parties will never be the same. We shared such wonderful memories at the Lewes Yacht Club. We will never be able to say to you, "Jane, we want to go to the Yacht Club for dinner!" You would always say, "Let's Go!" You were always up for the next adventure. I just picture you being greeted into heaven with your son Sean and your dog Hattie there to greet you. That thought of the 3 of you and the many friends who have passed to greet you on the other side brings a smile to my face. Thank you for all the love and joy you shared with your friends which will not easily be forgotten. You will live in our hearts forever. My deepest sympathy to the Govatos family, extended family, many friends and patients who have been touched by your spirit. Much Love!



May 30 at 3:27 PM



**Glyn D Edwards** shared an album called **Jane's 70th Surprise Birthday Parthy.**



May 23 at 2:46 PM



**Peggy Hall** posted:

So sorry to hear of Jane's passing. I was a patient of hers when she worked for Dr. Palekar. Many times I requested to see her because she was so pleasant and caring for her patients. May she RIP.  
Peggy Hall

May 30 at 1:41 PM



**Tony Forrest** posted:

Jane was an absolute joy to be around. I was always smiling and laughing when we were together. I couldn't help it. She just made me feel good. She was a wonderful neighbor and friend. She will be sorely missed. Until we meet again.

May 30 at 6:18 AM



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**Suzann Simmons** posted:

Jane was a very progressive medical professional. She cared about her patients and their families. Jane never met a stranger and put you at ease immediately. She will be missed by all who were blessed enough to call her friend. Rest in peace Jane. Suzann Simmons

May 25 at 12:25 PM



**Mary Lou Warren** lit a candle in honor of Jane .

Jane was such a fun-loving, kind, down-to earth person, nurse & friend. What a positive outlook she had, no matter what she was facing! Even though it's been many years since we have worked together, wherever I saw her, her warmth & spirit just seemed to fill the room. My heart is heavy. Sympathy & prayers to her family & many friends & numerous co-workers over the years.



May 24 at 6:32 PM



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BE

**Beth Ewell** posted:

I am saddened to read of Jane's death. She was a gifted teacher and nurse practitioner and a pleasure to work with. Sending my prayers to her family. Beth Ewell

May 23 at 2:46 PM

CB

**Catherine Bove** October 2 at 3:37 AM

I am heartbroken over this news. Jane and I went to UD together and shared many memories in the Nurse Practitioner program. We remained friends over the years. She was always upbeat and ready for an adventure and such a joy to be around. She could light up a room just by walking into it. I will miss her tremendously. Cathy Bove

HK

**Helen And Norris Kyle** June 6 at 7:34 AM

"Mother Earth" in every sense. Met Jane with her family while camping in PEI (she baked bread on an outdoor wood burning oven). Loaned an air mattress and discovered we lived close by in Montreal. Years of sharing great gourmet food at our planned dinner parties, Valentine Day brunches, special Christmas dinners. The love and laughter, sharing of close experiences, and knowing Jane was part of it in every way made our lives all the richer. Jane, we will miss you and you will always be in our hearts. Helen and Norris Kyle - June 6 at 12:30 PM

CM

**Catherine Murphy** May 30 at 11:45 AM

I only just met Jane at the Chronic disease class a little over a month ago and we planned to teach together. I just found out about her death today and I am saddened. Jane was a very sweet lady, I understand why she is so loved. God Bless her family in their loss. Sincerely; Catherine Murphy Rn. Beebe

SE

**Sue Early** May 29 at 9:04 AM

Jane was a long-time supporting member of the Rehoboth Beach Film Society. She was proud of her Member ID # "10". Jane was a regular at the Cinema Art Theater and she will be missed.

TM

**Terry Mirenzi** May 28 at 10:14 AM

I was blessed enough to meet Jane thru mutual friends, always enjoyed her company, she will be missed RIP Jane Terry Mirenzi

CB

**Carol Brandenburg** May 24 at 8:53 AM

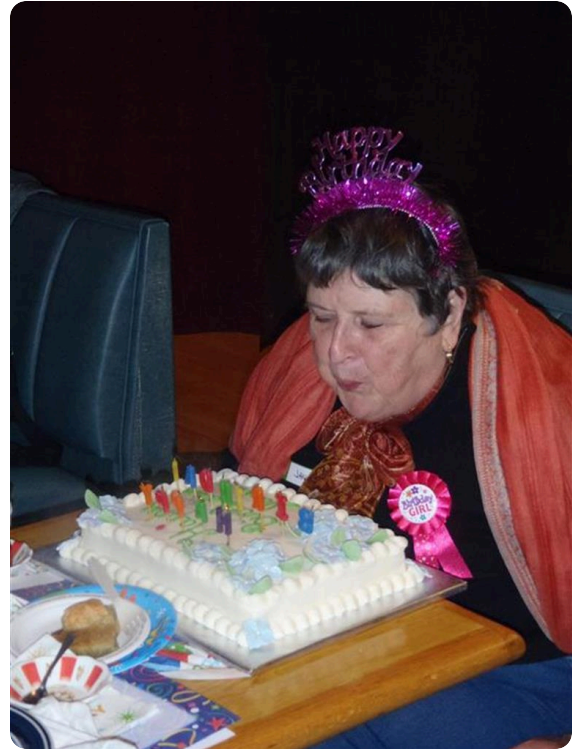
Sending condolences and prayers to Jane's family. She taught me so much about women's health. I enjoyed working with her. Her patients loved her. She will be missed. Carol Brandenburg



Glyn D Edwards shared 4 photos to the **Jane's 70th Surprise Birthday Parthy** album. May 30 at 2:58 PM



Jane's 70th Surprise Birthday Party



70th Party at Semra's In Rehoboth



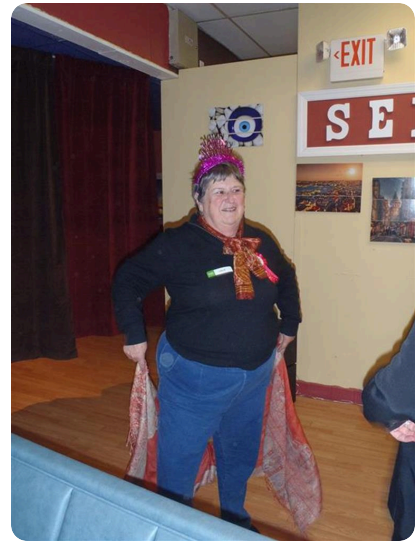
## Media

**Jane G. Govatos**

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She was Surprised & shared the evening with good friends



Jane always up for a good time,  
attempts Belly Dancing at her 70th  
BD



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Jane by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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