



Gay Hurtado

October 24, 1942 - November 25, 2020

Gay Hurtado formerly of Dos Cabezas passed away in Jonesville, Louisiana on November 25, 2020 at the age of 78. A Celebration of Life will be held on noon on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at Westlawn Chapel.

Topic: Gay Hurtado Celebration of Life

Time: Dec 4, 2021 11:45 AM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3043585549?pwd=Q3RtTGxvOUlybmM0ZWtsZ2owVDBYUT09>

Meeting ID: 304 358 5549

Passcode: 5ptZJT

Judith Gay Hurtado—who went by her middle name Gay—was born in Willcox, Arizona on October 24th, 1942. She spent part of her childhood with her parents and siblings in Willcox, but most of her childhood and formative years were spent living with her paternal grandparents Florencio "Big Daddy" & Trinidad "Muddy" Hurtado, on the Hurtado Ranch in Dos Cabezas.

Gay was an adventurer with a wild heart and a free, wandering spirit. As a young woman she left Arizona and was drawn to the West Coast, where she

lived for many years in various parts of California (Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Diego, Santa Cruz, South Lake Tahoe) and the Pacific Northwest (Seaside, Oregon; Seattle + Tacoma + Port Townsend, Washington); and later in life she also spent several years in Colorado and Louisiana. To those of us who knew her best, those places where she lived reflected her character: curious, passionate, fun, amusing, interesting, artistic, cultured, unconventional, rugged, outgoing, Bohemian, in love with nature, occasionally glamorous, and always difficult to box into a single category.

Gay's spontaneous and offbeat side often meant that when we, her children, were growing up with her, we were often uncertain about what adventure she would have in store for us next... but this was also one of our favorite qualities about her. Some days, before dawn, she would hustle us into her car and we would wake up at sunrise on a beach in Malibu, or at the Hurtado Ranch in Dos Cabezas, where we would arrive in time for morning coffee with her beloved grandmother, Muddy. On other road trips we would sleep beneath the stars: no camping gear would be packed other than a few sleeping bags, but there was plenty of natural beauty to be experienced while roughing it.

She would take us to eat street food outside Spanish Catholic missions in Tucson to support the women cooking out front while admiring one of her favorite styles of architecture. We would speed down a desert highway in whatever was her most recently acquired "beater" car, singing our hearts out to old soul music on the radio; as small children, sometimes one of us would be sitting in her lap so she could teach us how to steer a car as she expressed her deep love for the desert.

Gay had many remarkable qualities; she was a glorious cook and baker, she could create outfits for herself solely with raw fabric and a sewing machine, she was an inspired home-decorator, she drove cars with the skill & aggressive daring of a stunt driver, she could type about 90 words per minute,

and she could make friends & family & strangers laugh with her remarkable wit and comic timing. She had an incredible sense of humor; we loved that her cackling laughter was sometimes so intense that she'd cross her legs to keep from peeing herself. Her endearingly, lovably unconventional character persists in the millions of memories we have: how she would sip from a bottle of beer and snack on canned sardines with habañero peppers while quietly flipping through a Vogue magazine; how she would take us to indie foreign films when we were barely old enough to read subtitles; how as teens she would pick us up from anywhere in town, regardless of how late at night we were calling; how she would buy coconut lattes for us and then take us sailing in Puget Sound; how she would organize entertainingly dramatic events (such as hiring a mariachi band to play for an intimate dinner party in her shabby-chic, perfectly cozy & welcoming little yard); how her green thumb and her semi-fearlessness resulted in her occasionally pulling bandito rose heists at midnight in the church gardens of L.A.; how her sense of personal style was unique yet impeccable; how she'd sometimes complete the New York Times' Sunday crossword puzzle (no mean feat) while taking peaceful drags from a joint.

Gay passed away in her sleep at age 78 on November 25th, 2020, in her bedroom in Jonesville, Louisiana. The clearest, strongest, most enduring memories that Gay embedded in our hearts were her fierce love for us, her indestructable belief in us, and her profound drive to make for us and herself a life both meaningful and well-lived, regardless of the circumstances. We hope she felt and understood the fierce, protective, loyal love that we felt for her in return. Rest in peace, Mama. We miss you, very deeply.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

DEC 4. 11:59 AM (MT)

Westlawn Chapel & Mortuary Inc.
105 S Arizona Avenue
Willcox, AZ 85643
(520) 384-2413
westwx@vtc.net
<https://www.westlawnchapelmortuary.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Gay Hurtado*

January 30, 2023 at 12:50 AM



“ *Great obit, guys. Reflects the cousin I knew and then some! Love the memories you shared. It was always a treat when she would make a spur-of-the-moment trip to Tempe, and I remember the glamor and the laughter and the pragmatic irreverence. Love and miss you, Gay!*

Debbie Logan Willette - December 05, 2021 at 09:34 PM



Thank you Debbie! Let's keep in touch!

Christopher Robertson - December 07, 2021 at 04:39 PM

LY

*I'm an old distant friend from the early '60s.
And as we old folks do, looking for those we know and although years
have passed, they are still in our memories of fun, love, and "how are
you doing". So periodically the internet search.
And maybe you look up this site and will see this.*

A FUM MEMORY.

*Once upon a time she, hubbies I think, and mebl in restaurant. I was
complaining re spicy food*

*She collected hers with hot sauce, huge bite
Smoke came out of her ears. Even if she were sizzling. ..She would
never have admitted such.
I often think of her. Now I know when I do, she is in heaven thinking of
me.*

Hi Gay.

Christopher, if you ever want stories about your mom..7754831449.

Lynn trost gray

She ever tell you about the OLD Porsche.

Lynn - January 20, 2025 at 02:04 PM

LY

Ps. I can't back track on this tech stuff to edit..please interpret

*And have saved pics of her from here.
She looks just the same*

Lynn - January 20, 2025 at 02:07 PM

KG

“ 3 files added to the album Celebrating Gay



Keith Goudeau - December 04, 2021 at 07:51 AM

KT

“ *Kathy Thatcher lit a candle in memory of Gay Hurtado*



Kathy Thatcher - November 30, 2021 at 09:41 AM