



## Lorraine L. Jonassen

April 8, 1922 - July 6, 2020

Lorraine L Jonassen, 98, a longtime resident of Gorham, ME and former longtime resident of Fairfield, ME passed away peacefully surrounded by her beloved family on July 6, 2020 at home.

The daughter of late Abel and Eva LeVasseur, née Santerre.

Lorraine was born in Caribou, on April 8, 1922. She graduated from Caribou High School with honors in 1939. She married the love of her life, Norman E. Jonassen on February 25, 1946 in Portland.

She was a Past Worthy Matron and Life Member of Merrymeeting Chapter #64 now Fireside

Chapter #103, Order of the Eastern Star. Lorraine was also a Past District Deputy Grand Matron, of the

Grand Chapter of Maine OES and a member of White Rock Grange in Gorham where she held

the office of Flora. She was also a member of the Tri-Town Extension in Gorham, where she served a term as chairman.

While living in Fairfield Lorraine volunteered at Seton Hospital two days a week in the ER and as secretary for Sister Mary Kevan. She continued her volunteer work at Mercy Hospital after moving

Gorham in 1978. She logged thousands of hours in the Day Surgery Unit. As a self-taught seamstress she sewed colorful arm slings for the children who came to the Emergency Department and

walker bags for Physical Therapy Department. Lorraine was a Knifty Knitter who knitted or crocheted isolate blankets and hats for the Mercy Birthplace. She served as librarian for the South Windham Public Library and was a member of the Friends of the Library, who enjoyed quilting as a group and then raffled their beautiful quilt every year with the

proceeds going to the library.

Lorraine attended St. Ann's Episcopal in Windham, where she served on the vestry and altar guild.

At the time of the passing she was the oldest member of the church and the matriarch of four generations who attended St Ann's.

Lorraine was pre-deceased by her husband, Norman E. Jonassen in 2009. She was also pre-deceased by her sisters, Gloria LeVasseur, Doris Oliver-Meehan and, Marcella LeVasseur; and her son-in-law Merton S. Bessey Jr.

She is survived by her daughter, Ellen Bessey of Gorham; two sons, Lars Jonassen and his wife,

Sandra of Albion, and Kevan Jonassen and his wife, April of Suffolk, VA; and grandchildren, Anthony

Bessey and his wife, Renee of Westbrook, Jill Lakin and her husband, Jeremy of Windham, Kelly

Hanscom and her husband, Mark of Oakland, Keith and his Wife, Danielle of Clinton, MA, and

Buddy White and Ian Jonassen of Suffolk,VA; and great grandchildren, Alexandria (Lexie) Lakin,

Camden and Madilyn Bessey, Annabelle and Reese Hanscom, and Calum and Marin Jonassen, and

several nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank the Gorham Fire and Rescue Department for their assistance

during Lorraine's last years of life. We would also like to thank Northern Lights Hospice for the

compassionate care they gave Lorraine in the last months of her life.

A celebration of Lorraine's life will take place at St Ann's Episcopal Church in Windham on Friday, August 7, 2020 at 11AM with Reverend Timothy Higgins officiating. In lieu of flowers please

make memorial donations in Lorraine's name to St Ann's Episcopal Church, PO Box 911, Windham,

ME 04062 or Gorham Fire & Rescue, 270 Main St, Gorham, ME 04038.



# Comments

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“ I read with sadness of Lorraine’s passing. I have such wonderful memories of Lorraine and her husband Norman who both volunteered at Mercy when I was the Director of Volunteers. They were both very committed and caring volunteers, friendly faces for our patients, providing excellent escorting services and very attentive. Lorraine was an expert seamstress, making walker bags and slings for patients. Because she was a fabulous Knifty Knitter, hundreds of Birthplace babies were blessed to receive her blankets and hats. When I think of Lorraine, I smile... I remember her bringing me boxes of blackberries picked from her yard, beautifully crafted knitted and crocheted goods, and delicious peanut brittle that Norman had made. I remember long ‘office conversations’ about her ‘Library’, her love of her family, her church, and her grange family. When I think of Lorraine, I will always smile. I was blessed to know her. My deepest condolences to her family.

Jennifer Fitzpatrick, Durham

Jennifer Fitzpatrick - July 13 at 06:37 PM

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“ Ellen, Tony, Jill and family, I’m so sorry to hear of your loss. I love you all  
Connie Neales

connie neales - July 12 at 09:27 PM

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“ Lars and Family, Heartfelt condolences on the loss of your mom, who truly lived a full and loving life. Sincerely, Mark Serdjenian

Mark Serdjenian - July 12 at 10:35 AM