



## Julia M. Fisk

August 27, 1962 - April 25, 2023

With unimaginable sorrow, we announce after a 6 month fight with brain cancer, on April 25th, 2023, Julia M. Fisk passed away peacefully in Saratoga Springs, NY surrounded by Peter, Gretchen, Hannah, and Ian.

Born in Memphis, Tennessee, Julia went on to live in Missouri, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Texas, Arkansas, and Iowa. From a young age, it was clear that Julia was an artist. She went on to graduate from the University of South Florida with a Bachelors degree in Art Education and further obtained her Masters in Early Childhood Education from Kent State University. It was in Tampa where Julia met the love of her life, Peter Thomas, while they were both working at Busch Gardens. They were immediately inseparable and linked forever because to know Julia is to love her.

After marrying in June 1987, Julia and Peter continued their adventure around the country together. They welcomed daughters Gretchen Taylor in Tampa, Florida and Hannah Lou in Garrettsville, Ohio. And, then their son, Ian Thomas, in Langhorne, Pennsylvania.

Julia touched countless lives throughout her nearly 30 years of teaching. She was a devoted teacher at Blanton Elementary and Sawgrass Elementary in St. Petersburg, Florida, Whispering Oak Elementary in Winter Garden, Florida, Johnstown elementary schools and most recently, Lynch Learning Academy in Amsterdam, New York. Julia, who signed her emails "artfully yours," loved teaching students about the artwork of Vincent Van Gogh, Keith Haring, Mary Blair, Gustav Klimt, Wassily Kandinsky, and Yayoi Kusama.

The simplest pleasures in life brought great joy to Julia. She somehow mastered everything she did from baking the perfect biscuits to sewing beautiful gifts for family and friends to creating the loveliest flower gardens. Julia enjoyed a cozy evening with Ian (and the cats) on the sofa enjoying an elaborate home cooked meal. She loved traveling to art museums from The Clark to the Louvre and attending concerts with Gretchen and Hannah.

Julia's memory will live on through her family, friends, and students. There was nothing in the world more important to Julia than her family and nothing will ever come close to replacing the void she leaves.

To honor Julia's memory, we are holding a celebration of her life on May 6th, 2023, with calling hours from 11:30am - 1:30pm at the Robert M. Halgas Funeral Home, Inc., 111 County Highway 106 (corner of Route 29 & Black Street), Johnstown, NY. We invite anyone who knew and loved Julia to attend and remember her wonderful life. We ask attendees to wear bright colors (no black allowed!).

\*\*\*In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to a future art fund in memory of Julia for local schools ([gofundme.com/f/julia-fisk](https://gofundme.com/f/julia-fisk)).\*\*\*

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

MAY 6. 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Halgas Funeral Home

111 County Highway 106

Johnstown, NY 12095

(518) 883-5323

[debbie@halgasfuneralhome.com](mailto:debbie@halgasfuneralhome.com)

<https://www.halgasfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall

TK

“ Peter, Gretchen, Hannah, and Ian,  
I am so very very sorry for your loss! I have worked with your mom since September 2021. Instantly we clicked. She had the biggest heart, and always went "above and beyond" in everything she did. No one compares to her. She brought light and sparkle to everyone she came in contact with. In my 23 years of teaching I have had many colleagues but none that could ever compare to her. She was not just a colleague she was my friend. I consider her to be like a sister to me.

I can't count the amount of times I have gone darting across the hall or picked up the phone to message her, and remembered she is in a better place. Heaven gained an angel for sure. Every time I see something glittery, colorful or sparkly I will think of her and the inner light/love she had for her family, friends and students. She will forever be held dear to my heart. If there is anything I can do for any of you, just know I am only a call away. You are all in my heart and prayers.

Julia, I miss you my dear friend. Soar high with the other angels. You are truly missed. Xoxo

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**Terrie Kilburn** - May 05, 2023 at 02:35 PM

 Peter  
Fisk

Amen!

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**Peter Fisk** - May 05, 2023 at 06:04 PM

“ My Aunt Julia, while often hundreds of miles away, touched my life as far back as some of my earliest memories.

She existed as an integral part of my household dynamics. As children, my siblings and I knew the odds of Julia on the other side of the ringing landline as we scrambled to get to the phone first. She could guess which little voice had answered with devilish accuracy, sending us into fits. We'd run through the house - sometimes around the yard to bring Aunt Julie to Jack and as we did, she'd chat with us as if we were friends - not a five year old playing messenger for Mom. Who could blame us for incessantly pestering the girls as they chatted. My two most favorite women in the world right in one spot.

This went on my entire life. Julia talked with my mother often, and often at length. For decades she joined us for coffee in the kitchen, afternoons on the porch, and dinners around the table.

Often only having her voice, I clung to her packages and birthday cards like gold and they may as well have been. Well into adulthood, the sheer joy and surprise of receiving a card or package in the mail from Julia has remained unparalleled. Each one, a special treat, a collage of happiness - often with every available inch of envelope laden with glittery stickers of butterflies and kittens. To this day, no one has ever written my name more beautifully than Julia Fisk, not even myself. Among her many virtues, my aunt had an uncanny ability to show love.

She taught love as she brought love.

Julia gave to me new ways to love by showing me said love first hand. She doused the people in her life with love in dazzling color and display. She was an inviting and warm woman. Her presence filled the room like perfume.

On the rare occasion of a visit, many summers ago, Julia sat on the front porch coloring in pencils. She'd chosen a unicorn from the coloring book. It was a perfect choice for her. Since that day her unicorn has been proudly displayed on the wall of our kitchen, right next to a long-standing headshot of a young Tom Cruise and a few prophetic quotes from my sister. I look up at it every day as I have for years now, thinking of her. Signed 'Sissy' as she did for every card sent to my mother.

My Aunt Julie will never leave my mind nor my heart, as she never has before. She comes to mind every time I see glitter and sparkly eyeshadow. Every time my mother or I utter a thoughtful, "Hmm," there the memory of her is. The cards and letters I send my loved ones are each modeled after her own. I remember her in every blooming flower I see. The love I have for Julia has always existed, and it always will.

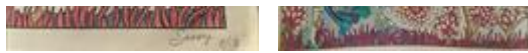
She taught love as she brought love. I get to be reminded of her as I move through life, loving myself and those around me.

I miss her deeply. I miss her voice. I know she is in the beauty all around us, though.

I promise we will all take care of each other.

I love you, Aunt Julie.





**Libby Skriver** - May 04, 2023 at 02:32 PM



“ *Fields of Europe for Spring was purchased for the family of Julia M. Fisk.*



May 03, 2023 at 06:11 PM



“ *Pink & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Julia M. Fisk.*



May 03, 2023 at 03:42 PM



“ *Julia was an amazing person with a huge heart! She will be greatly missed! Love to Pete, Gretchen, Hannah and Ian.*

**Tiffany Stanley** - May 02, 2023 at 06:14 PM



*Thanks Tiffany*

**Peter Fisk** - May 03, 2023 at 09:50 AM



“ *I am so sorry to hear about Julia's passing. I worked with her at whispering Oak in Winter Garden Florida. She was always so sweet and kind. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends. Rest in peace sweet Julia...💜🙏*

**lyn** - May 01, 2023 at 06:46 PM



*Thanks Lyn*

**Peter Fisk** - May 03, 2023 at 09:51 AM



“ *European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Julia M. Fisk.*



May 01, 2023 at 11:10 AM

PL

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



**Pam & Leo** - April 30, 2023 at 04:09 PM

TS

*What a beautiful family!*

**Tiffany Stanley** - May 02, 2023 at 06:12 PM



*Thank you Pam & Leo*

**Peter Fisk** - May 03, 2023 at 09:52 AM

AF

“ *Always giving to others and her smile lit up her whole face. We found some early photos in the archives today. Love you Julia ❤️❤️*



**Alison & Jim Fisk** - April 30, 2023 at 03:54 PM



*Thanks Ali & Jim. Those all were such happy days!*

**Peter Fisk** - May 03, 2023 at 09:53 AM

GF

“As long as I can remember, I’ve been met with “you look just like Julia!” from most who knew my mom. To be anything like my mom makes me feel like the luckiest person in the world. She was sweet and kind and spunky. She was home. I miss her every single day.



Gretchen Fisk - April 30, 2023 at 01:43 PM

BE

I first met Julia when we were teaching at Whispering Oak Elementary in Winter Garden, FL. Our school had just opened with almost twice as many students as were expected. We suddenly had 20 plus portables - I mean “learning cottages.” And Julia was teaching art on a cart and traveling all over campus to everybody. She was funny, always positive and always making the world more beautiful. She stood in my office in the library and looked through the window where I could see into the library and said, “You need curtains.” Curtains would indeed have been beautiful, especially because Julia would have made them. But unfortunately I did need to see into the library. Soon she graduated to teaching art in the library book storage room. Pete came and dismantled all of the metal shelves to make room for 25 desks crammed together. Julia just rejoiced to have an art room with a sink. Lunch times were fun, funny and tender. They are one of my fondest memories. I met her beautiful children. And Pete came back to reassemble all of the metal shelves and help move Julia’s art room into a much larger storage room. And Julia laughed and rejoiced through it all.

It was so much fun to go to work with Julia there and all of the other wonderful teacher we worked with. I love her so much. I am so honored to know her and to have her as my friend. She loved her family first. Always and forever.

Bev - May 01, 2023 at 09:49 AM

 Peter Fisk

Thank you Bev, sweaty but very fond memories!

Peter Fisk - May 03, 2023 at 09:54 AM

JM

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Jessica Mandziara - April 30, 2023 at 12:17 PM

JG

“ Oh the light and colors she brings to Heaven! So very sorry for your loss.

Janet Gefre - April 30, 2023 at 10:22 AM

PF

“ You always asked kindly either in the classroom or of your family / friends “Needs more color!”. You led by example and always have given the energy and color to everything you touched. Thanks for being with me and giving me the color to everything I do, lord knows I need it and you have it! Thank you for Gretchen, Hannah, and Ian. Plenty of time now for you to drink your favorite drink. Heaven is lucky to have you....



Peter Fisk - April 30, 2023 at 08:30 AM



“ Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Julia M. Fisk.



April 30, 2023 at 03:04 AM

HF

“ Everyone is lucky to have a mom. I think I hit the jackpot, not only was she my momma, she was my best friend. The last few years and especially the last few months we were joined at the hip, literally, we always sat hip to hip.

*I know she will still hear me whispering and giggling all my secrets to her and she will be there when I need her most. I can only hope to reverberate her shine and warmth. I was proud to call you mine before and I will always shout from the rooftops how much I love you.*

*Don't worry our sweet girl. We will take of each other* 💕



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**Hannah Fisk** - April 29, 2023 at 11:07 PM

JL

“ I'm so saddened to hear an amazing incredible person has passed. Julia was a great inspiration to her students and I was lucky to have worked with her in GJSD. RIP Julia your going to be missed.

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**Janet Lincourt** - April 29, 2023 at 11:08 AM

JM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Jacqueline Meyer-Skriver** - April 28, 2023 at 10:55 PM

JM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jacqueline Meyer-Skriver - April 28, 2023 at 10:53 PM

JM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jacqueline Meyer-Skriver - April 28, 2023 at 10:49 PM

JM

Her heart is really that big. Any one who has ever met her will tell you that❤️❤️❤️

Jacqueline Meyer-Skriver - April 28, 2023 at 10:53 PM

TS

Julia did have the biggest heart!❤️

Tiffany Stanley - April 29, 2023 at 06:20 PM

RS

“ As a graduation gift my aunt Julie asked me to pick out an art print that she could buy for me. I thought it was such a good idea for a gift! I hung my gift in my bedroom where I could admire it often not knowing that it would later provide me with a vessel to remember her by. Art is everlasting. While the canvas may fade or tear I will always have the piece. In my eyes, Midsummer Eve will forever be for my aunt and I.



Rosemary Skriver - April 28, 2023 at 06:12 PM

JM

That was so sweet baby. Your Aunt loved you so much 💕

Jacqueline Meyer-Skriver - April 28, 2023 at 08:29 PM

ST

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



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**Stephanie** - April 28, 2023 at 02:31 PM

SV

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Sarah Van Valkenburgh** - April 28, 2023 at 12:02 PM

ST

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Stephanie** - April 28, 2023 at 10:42 AM