



WESTHAMPTON BEACH CLASS OF 77



SEPTEMBER, 17 2017
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ROGERS BEACH
105 DUNE ROAD
WESTHAMPTON BEACH

Amy Thorne

7/8/1959 - 6/24/2011



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Amy P. Thorne

Amy P. Thorne of Patchogue died at Good Shepherd Hospice in Port Jefferson on Friday, June 24. She was 51.

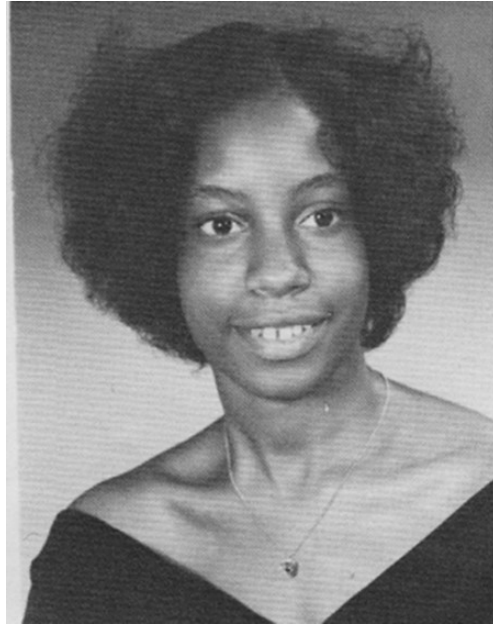
Born in Riverhead on July 8, 1959 to Walter and Mary Sue Thorne, she was a graduate of Westhampton Beach High School.

She is survived by her son Wesley Parker Thorne; siblings, Mary Lou Lemmen and her husband Robert of Center Moriches, Carol Thorne of Westhampton Beach, Bill Thorne of Westhampton Beach and Florida, James Thorne and his wife Roxanne of Remsenburg, John Thorne of Westhampton and Larry Thorne of Patchogue; several nieces and nephews; and dear friend, Isaac Beal of Patchogue.

The family received friends at the Follett and Werner Funeral Home in Westhampton Beach on Wednesday, June 29. A funeral Mass will take place Thursday, June 30, at 10...

Shirley Thomas

1/22/1959 - 7/1/2004



The Reverend Shirley L. Thomas passed away on July 1, 2004, The second daughter of Bishop Calvin P. Thomas and the lae Founza Lee Thomas. She graduated from WHB HS in 1977 and went on to earn a B.S. Degree in Community Health Education from State University of NY at Rochester in 1981, Shirley was employed as an Interior Designer at Bassett Furniture Direct Co. in Atlanta, Georgia.

Shirley was raised as a member in the House of God Church of the Living God, Pillar and Ground of Truth, Keith Dominion. She was a devote member of the Gospel Pearls, WHB Band #1. Later, she served on the Missionary Outreach Society, taught YFFU Sunday Bible School and worked with all workshops in Atlanta Band #1 in Georgia where Shirley began her ministry. She also served as secretary for the National Evangelistic Team. Shirley worked diligently on local, state and national levels.

Many will cherish the memories of Shirley L. Thomas as she begins her rest from labor; she will remain in the hearts of her father, Bishop Calvin Thomas; her sisters, Jacqueline Thomas (Moore), LaSbre' Thomas and Twana Thomas, all of Albany Georgia and a host of nieces and nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

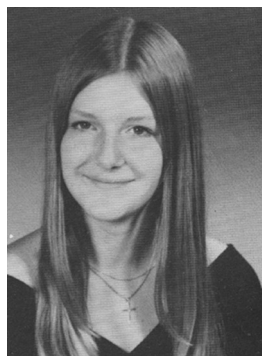
Paulette Strain

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CLASS OF 1977

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Jackie Bennet

2/1/1959 - 9/20/2001



February 1, 1959 - September 20, 2001



Jacqueline E. Bennett

Jacqueline E. Bennett

Jacqueline Elaine Bennett, the youngest child of Bill and Jackie Bennet of Westhampton Beach, died of pancreatic cancer on Thursday, September 20 in Florida.

Born on February 1, 1959, and raised in Westhampton Beach, Ms. Bennett excelled in music and theater arts. Singing a rendition of "Abigail's Lament" from "Guys and Dolls" in high school, she brought down the house. She also played baritone horn and was accepted in the prestigious All-State Band.

After attending Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida, she moved to Jupiter, Florida where she met her husband, Peter Penner. They moved to the Boca/Delray Beach area in 1988. Following the move, Ms. Bennett worked as a stand-up comedian in the Boca/Ft. Lauderdale area, and later appeared all over Florida, Texas, Georgia and the Carolinas as well as on TV.

Because her comedic career required that she spend so much time away from her husband, her home and her cats, Ms. Bennett decided to return to music. She bought a baritone horn, practiced, and joined the Pompano Beach and Boynton Beach Pops. At the time of her death, she was employed at Prime Entertainment in Boca Raton.

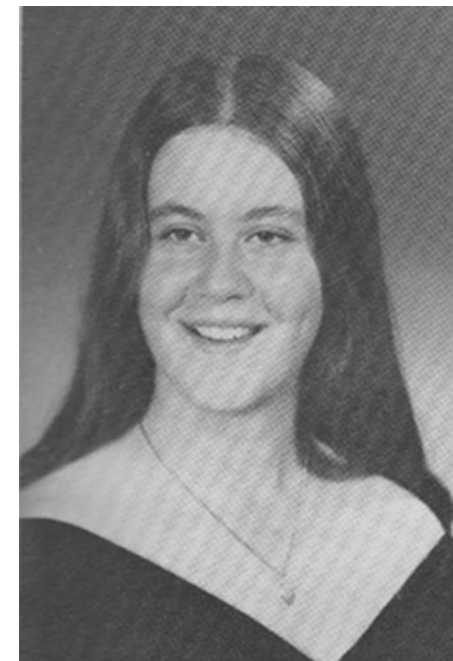
Once diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, Ms. Bennett took an active role in her treatment, researching homeopathic remedies and traditional medicine, reading countless journals and research studies. According to her family, she was hopeful about the work of Dr. Ram Narayanan at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) who is trying to link and locate a specific gene that may be the cause of pancreatic cancer. Although Dr. Narayanan's research had not reached a point where it could extend Ms. Bennett's life, she believed in his work. For that reason, she requested that donations or other gifts be made in her memory to further Dr. Narayanan's work, as indicated below.

Ms. Bennett is survived by her parents; her husband, Peter Penner; her sister, Eileen R. Bennett; her brother, William M. Bennett; and his wife, Suzanne; and two nephews, Wesley M. Bennett and Christopher T. Bennett.

Visiting hours are on Friday, September 28 at Follett and Werner Funeral Home in Westhampton Beach. A Memorial Mass will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 29 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Quioque.

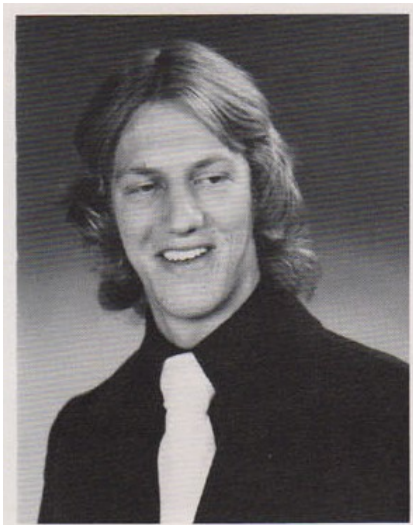
In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the FAU Foundation for Cancer Research. Indicate "ACCT SCI 160, Genomics of Cancer" on the check and mail it to FAU Foundation, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton, Florida 33431.

Trisha Joye Smith



Robert Allen Price

6/18/1959 - 1/12/2014



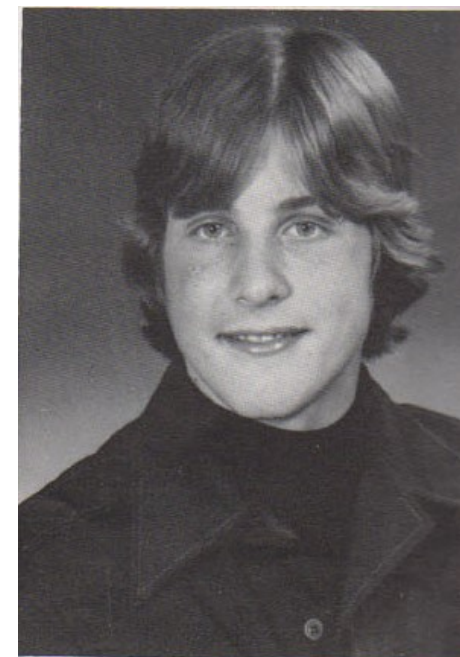
On January 12th my good friend Robert Allen Price passed from this life after a short battle with cancer.

Rest in peace my friend.

Norman Jacobs

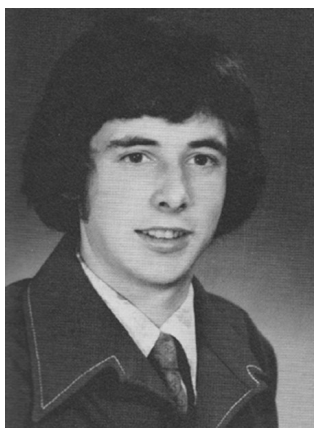
Drew Allen Doxsee

3/14/1959 - 11/2012



Lance Smith

1/1/1959 - 2/15/2005



His death was unexpected.

Let's see.....Drew married the love of his life, Tracey, in March of 1984. They had no children.

Drew and Tracey met in college and he told me that he started falling for her before he actually saw her. She sat behind him in a class and impressed him with her intellect during class discussions. After they married, they spent two years in Jerusalem where he finished school and earned his doctorate in philosophy.

He was a youth counselor for some years before finishing school. He traveled extensively (particularly in Europe while living in Israel). Scuba diving was a passion. His motorcycle was another hobby. While living in Denver he rode it up to Pikes Peak - I remember him telling me about swerving to avoid hitting a mountain goat.

He lived in Denver since finishing school and was a professor of philosophy at the Metropolitan State University of Denver.

Sirka

Eugene Foster



Gregory Pownall

11/25/1958 - 4/28/2017



I have fond memories of Greg from when he starred in a little silent movie I made in high school. He always had suggestions for how to make things better. Here's a still from it.

Joe Bucciano



Gregory F. Pownall, age 58, of Norton, MA, formerly of Westhampton Beach, New York passed away unexpectedly on Friday, April 28, 2017 at home.

Born in Winter park, Florida on November 25, 1958, he was a son o the late Susan (Schoonmaker) Fenner and the late Harry E. Pownall, Jr.

Greg grew up and was educated on Long Island, New York. He was a 1977 graduate of Westhampton Beach High School and received a bachelor's degree in drama from Syracuse University in 1981.

Greg was a resident of Norton and had made his home in Massachusetts for the past thirty-two years, where he was employed as a chef.

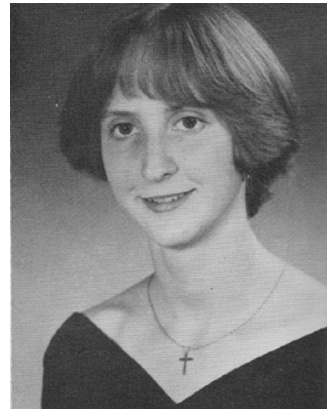
He is survived by his brother Jarrett Pownall, his daughter Casey, his stepfather Skip Fenner and his stepbrother Mark Fenner.

Janet Nugent DiBari

8/12/1959– 5/7/2005



The Southampton Press



May 12, 2005

Janet Ann DiBari

Janet Ann DiBari of East Quogue died at her home on May 7 following a two-and-a-half-year battle with breast cancer. She was 45.

Born August 12, 1959, in Southampton to Harry and Anna May Nugent, she grew up in Westhampton and attended Westhampton Beach High School. She completed the licensed practical nursing program at the school and graduated in 1977.

Two years later, Ms. DiBari completed the registered nursing program at Suffolk County Community College in Selden. In 1984, she began working as a nurse at the college's Riverhead campus. She recently graduated from the Southampton Town Police Department's Citizens Academy.

Ms. Di Bari is survived by her husband, Nicholas R. DiBari Jr.; a daughter, Christina; a son, Nicholas III; her mother, Anna May Nugent; a sister, Kathryn Sadleir; a brother, Steven Nugent; six nieces; five nephews; and one grand-niece.

She was predeceased by her father in 2002.

A memorial service was held at Calvary Baptist Church of



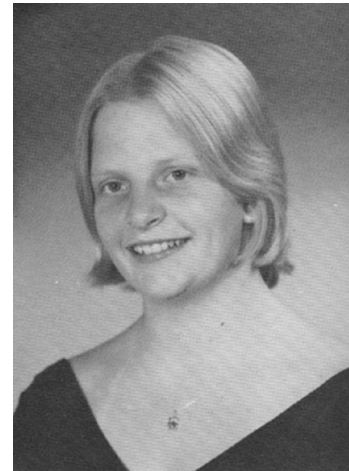
Janet Ann DiBari

Riverhead, and interment followed at Westhampton Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations made to East End Hospice, P.O. Box 1048, Westhampton Beach, NY 11978; the Fortunato Breast Center at John T. Mather Memorial Hospital in Port Jefferson; or to "Row for a Cure" (www.RowCure.org) would be appreciated by the family.

Donna Griffith

10/24/1959 - 7/17/1996



Donna perished on July 17, 1996 on board flight TWA flight 800.



Farewell to a Friend

.... Being a person who, like many of us, has shaped my existence around a constantly rigorous and chaotic schedule due to the demands of both work and school, I would like to take a brief moment to acknowledge one of our peers . A person whose life touched many of us in many ways, both personally and professionally. A person who worked hard at what she did and cared while doing it. A person whose life was snuffed out while attaining just the right momentum to realize the pinnacle of her dreams.

We have all heard or read about how great a person was after they have gone. Whether true or not, a great deal said about the person in question is usually the result of how people come to terms with their own mortality. However, as cathartic as this message may be, anyone who reads it and knew Donna Griffith will realize in

6/23/1959 - 11/1978

their heart that I am not just paying lip service to a classmate who is with us no more.

Donna was one of the most dedicated people I knew while we were in school together." She had an insatiable urge to learn coupled with an intense investment in her job and the people she worked with. She always went the extra mile, regardless of the difficulties involved in getting to her destination. She asked questions and went out of her way to get answers, sometimes stubbornly, determined to be satisfied with what she found.

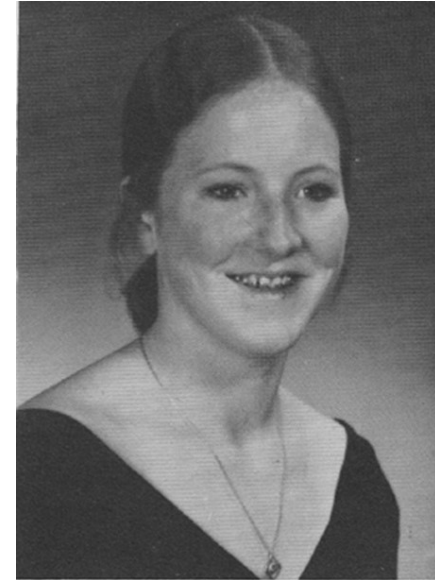
In her personal life, Donna faced her fears and conquered her demons, subduing the ones who wouldn't die with a vigilant awareness that they might try to come back if left unattended. She became skilled at being ready for the unexpected problems life would throw at her, without letting those problems impact upon her ability to care for others while she excelled at both work and school. It was this quality in her that somewhat cushions the impact of the circumstances surrounding her untimely and tragic death. Somehow, I would like to think, she may have been ready. Because Donna was always ready for the unpredictable.

In any event, I am coming to terms with more than the fact that I will not see her again in this life. Despite the horrible tragedy that put her and 229 other people on a common path leading out of the door from this chaotic world, I am reminded of a philosophy on life shared by Donna, myself, and others with similar experiences and lifestyles. The range of thinking and wavelengths we occupy lead us to believe that, regardless of our lifestyles, and sometimes due to them, we are all on borrowed time. Every day, every minute, every second, is a plus -in essence, a gift. Which is why every moment should be lived to its fullest. Am I trying to say that I think there was a reason for this, or that I'm looking for something good, however small, to come out of this? No. I am just saying what I think holds true all of the time, even though we don't usually put a conscious effort into thinking about it. It is even sadder that it takes a tragedy to remind us that we truly have to stop sometimes and literally smell the roses.

Donna will be greatly and painfully missed. And while our lives go on, the world has become a gloomier place without her, as heaven becomes that much brighter.

Good-bye friend. You will remain a bright flame alive in our hearts, hidden inside us as we journey through life in many different ways, giving us strength from our memories of you. Thank you for sharing yourself with us. Farewell Donna. We miss you and love you. ...

Matteo Capaccio



Amy Mercer

11/22/1959—1995

Tribute to a friend

I met Amy in 9th grade when she became the manager of the women's gymnastics team. Amy always had a smile on her face, even when things didn't quite go her way. Amy and I became best pals and she and I were pretty much inseparable (my sister Mindy was good friends with Dru Mercer so the 4 of us were tight). Amy always had a sadness inside but she never let on. She loved to party and laugh.

We would go out sailing in her sunfish, six pack and subs from Six Corners Deli in hand, and laugh the afternoon away. Her little yellow Honda Civic became famous throughout the town and we spent many a sunny afternoon buzzing around town looking for some action.

Amy moved to Colorado pretty soon after she graduated from college and worked at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs. She lived in a trailer near town and had a happy, if slightly lonely, life. I visited her many times and we always had fun together. After I settled down and married, Amy moved to Arizona to be near her mother, whose health was failing. I remember I was just pregnant with my youngest son, back in 1994 and I was going on a business trip to Las Vegas. I called Amy to say I would be out west and



would love to take a day or two and come and visit. She hedged on that and would not say why. Quintessential Amy, she was sick with cancer and never said a word to me.

The next time I spoke with her I was calling to tell her of the birth of my son, Jack. I could not reach her and she never called me back. I knew something was wrong so I contacted her sister Hadley who told me that Amy had died that spring.

She died the way she lived her life, under the radar screen, not wanting to call attention to herself and, I am certain, with a smile on her face as she knew in her heart that she lived a good and happy life.

Kathy deCaracena Bliss

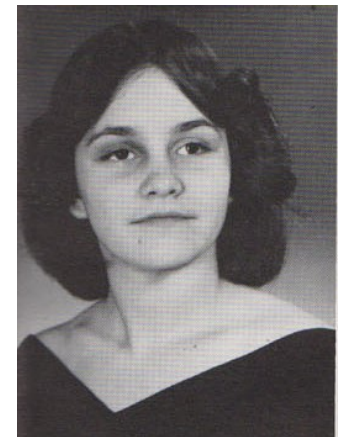
Lisa Helfant Turpin

7/29/1959 - 5/8/2015



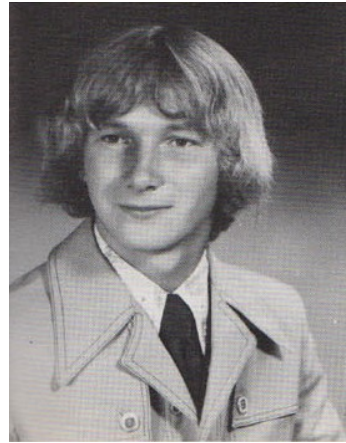
Lisa Hope Helfant Turpin, formerly of Westhampton Beach, died in Athens, Georgia, on May 8. She was 55.

Ms. Turpin graduated from Westhampton Beach High School. She was a daughter of Gerson and Betty Helfant, and sister of Eve Ann Helfant, all of whom predeceased her. She is survived by her son, Patrick Daniel Turpin of Athens; and a sister, Ida Helfant of Michigan.



Joseph Leon Lonski

9/22/1959 - 4/7/2014



Joseph L. Lonski of Remsenburg died on April 7. He was 54.

Mr. Lonski was born September 22, 1959, in Riverhead and resided in Remsenburg-Speonk for the past 54 years. He graduated from Westhampton Beach High School and earned a degree from Suffolk County Community College. From 1978 to 1982 he served in the U.S. Navy, as a chief petty officer, and then he went to work for Verizon Communications for 31 years.

Mr. Lonski was the ultimate family man, his family was his life, survivors said. "Joe," as he was affectionately known, "was a real nice guy," according to survivors. He was always wonderful with his many friends and family. He enjoyed sports and outdoor recreation and was a Yankee fan until the end, they said, adding that he touched the hearts and souls of everyone he knew. To know him for a single day was to know him for a lifetime. His addictive smile, contagious laughter, quick wit and off-the-cuff humor will be just a few of the things that will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He was a much-loved husband, father, friend, brother and uncle. He had bravely confronted and fought cancer, they said.

Mr. Lonski is survived by his wife, Melissa Lonski; and two children, Joseph and Michael Lonski, both of Remsenburg. He is also survived by a brother, Henry Lonski; a nephew, Joshua Lonski, both of Florida; and two nieces, Nina and Andie Ziegler, both of Arizona. He was predeceased by his parents, Joseph and Leokadia Lonski.

Roxanne Mampreyan

12/13/1959 - 2011

