



Gerry M Thompson

March 30, 1957 - December 12, 2017

Gerry M. Thompson passed away suddenly on December 12, 2017, age 60. Loving husband to Diane Orlando for 22 years. Furry father to 4 loving dogs; Magee, Delilah, Jack and Chance. Survived by his brothers James and Greg Thompson. Son in law to Dorothy Orlando. Brother in law to Sharon Pratta and Lori Wolfson. He will be missed by many nieces and nephews.

Gerry's passions were his music and his dogs. He loved writing music and playing on his homemade cigar box guitars. Gerry and Diane enjoyed camping, reading, football and most of all just being together.

Gerry was a survivor of life on life's terms.

Friends and relatives are invited to Gerry's life celebration Services on Friday, December 15th at Givnish of Maple Shade, 600 East Main Street, starting at 7:00pm. Stories about Gerry's life will be shared at 8:30pm. Please dress as Gerry would, he wouldn't want you dressed up! In lieu of flowers please make donations in his name to The Humane Society or the ASPCA.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **15**. 7:00 PM (ET)

Givnish Funeral Home Maple Shade
600 E Main St
Maple Shade, NJ 08052
(856) 779-7900
info@givnish.com
<https://www.givnish.com>

Celebration of Life

DEC **15**. 8:30 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ Gerry M Thompson

September 09, 2022 at 01:27 AM



“ Gerry was our neighbor, a mentor, an influencer, an artist, a craftsman, an incredible singer songwriter and most importantly...a beloved friend. Like an alchemist, he turned pain and sorrow (albeit observed or personal) into cathartic songs. Songs that made us laugh, or songs that made us think. Some rousing, some tender and some incredibly witty. Sometimes we get comfortable feeling like a loved one will be there always, but Gerry's passing has left an Indelible mark in our hearts. We are grateful to him for his friendship, unassuming mentorship and influence. We wouldn't be making the music we make today, with the instruments that we play on, without his generosity and inspiration.

Thank you Gerry for all the love, musical adventures, and friendship. You are deeply missed. Blessings of love to you, and prayers of comfort to Diane and all those who miss you.

Love, April & Dave



April & Dave - August 17, 2021 at 11:35 PM



“ *Michelle Wildonger lit a candle in memory of Gerry M Thompson*



Michelle Wildonger - December 15, 2017 at 09:07 PM



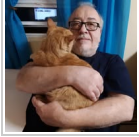
“ *Gerry was a patron of mine when I use to bartend. He was a nice guy and will b missed.*

Michelle Wildonger - December 15, 2017 at 09:05 PM



“ *Gerry was a guy you couldn't help but love.. He was a good and noble man. Prayers and thoughts sent out to Diane. He will surely be missed*

Jim Martin - December 15, 2017 at 09:03 PM



“ I won't be attending Gerry's memorial tonight, sick as a dog with this stomach flu that's going around. My wife had it and she gave it to me: Life on life's terms I think we used to call it. Gerry helped me learn that.

I also wish I had energy to write more. Gerry was a unique, wonderful, gentle man and his good works continue to this day: Gerry touched a LOT of people.

Gerry was a shining beacon of weirdness in my darkness: he helped me understand that there was a way out that did not involve mediocrity and possibly voting Republican. That I could be clean and still dance to the beat of thousand polyrhythmic drummers. Rock on Gerry!

Javier Machado - December 15, 2017 at 07:36 PM

DV

“ Gerry was someone I admired, looked up to and listened to whenever he shared. 20 - 23 years ago he was tough on me when I was bouncin' in and out and I think that had a lot to do with my getting on the path and staying. His music blew me away at times ... the simple melodies with lyrics of humanity that touched your soul. A great human being. My condolences to you, Diane, and all of yours and Gerry's. - dennis v

Dennis Valenti - December 15, 2017 at 05:36 PM

CS

“ Gerry, you and Daine were there for me right from the beginning. You have place your thumb print on my heart. Now and forever. May you Rest In Peace.

Christine Scarpa - December 15, 2017 at 01:56 PM

KB

“ *Karel Bostwick lit a candle in memory of Gerry M Thompson*



Karel Bostwick - December 15, 2017 at 01:10 PM

FR

“ *" Now cracks a noble heart. Good-night, sweet prince ; And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."*

Fran - December 14, 2017 at 11:35 AM

BM

“ *I'll miss Gerry a lot. Many a festival. Many a late night conversation. Many a camping trip. A great guy. You're in my thoughts and Meg's, Diane.*

Bob M. - December 13, 2017 at 09:59 PM

TR

“ *I am glad to have known Gerry for many years, since high school in fact. We shared many good times and he will be missed by many.*

Tony Rosado - December 13, 2017 at 07:18 PM

MC

“ *Many years ago Gerry gave me some of his experience, strength and hope that helped save my life. I will forever be grateful to him and my thoughts and prayers go out to Diane.*

Michael Croge - December 13, 2017 at 06:15 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gerry M Thompson.*



December 13, 2017 at 05:42 PM



“ *I had the privilege of playing music with this extraordinarily talented singer songwriter for five years, helping him bring his songs to audiences throughout South Jersey and Pennsylvania. Gerry was a keen observer of humanity and wrote often of the the downtrodden souls in the world who were left behind by life. I remember he once introduced a song of his about a street person suffering from dementia, "Worn Out Jennie," by saying that just because a person is homeless doesn't mean they are without grace. His songs are full of grace, humor, passion, wisdom, life and death. All of us who were blessed to call him friend are better people for knowing him and sharing in his wit and courage. Condolences to Diane, Gerry's "Prom Queen," who is a marvelous and worldly wise soul herself.*

Arthur Herrmann - December 13, 2017 at 02:29 PM

DI

thank you Arthur - much love, Diane

Diane - December 14, 2017 at 06:51 PM

AL

Gerry...really enjoyed it when we got together. So easy and fun to talk to. Great stories. Wishing you peace and love in rest.

Allen - December 14, 2017 at 09:02 PM

KB

I loved Gerry Thompson. I will never forget him. The first time I met Gerry was in Kentucky at the first Cigar Box Guitar Festival. He played a few songs as a "step up Performer". I can still see him, with Carl nearby, as he played the English ballad "Pretty As a Rose" and followed up with "Prom Queen". Brought the house down and he was so surprised people liked it. He wrote most of his own songs and told great stories about them. Many of them touched me so much, He was so gifted at telling it like it is. I think he had such kindness of spirit it was easy to sing the truth about the people he saw, the things he'd experienced and anything else you want. Who else could write about transplant drugs, homeless veterans, Harleys, dog hair, and so on. My daughter asked him to write about horses and he sang All the Pretty Horses. We asked him to write a song about Michigan and he sang Michigan Blue. Such a gifted word man. I used to talk with him on the phone sometimes and he'd tell me stories. He said once that he had nearly died and could have died many times so he was just grateful for every single day he got, it was all a gift. And he was a gift to all of us who shared his songs, humour and compassion for people. We all had such wonderful times together, I will miss him so. Wish I could attend the service but I will light a candle for him tonight. Thinking about you Diane and will be in touch. All my love and as Gerry would say "Anyway..."

Karel Bostwick - December 15, 2017 at 01:06 PM



“ *I only met Gerry maybe 5 or 6 times (however many times I saw him perform) in the last decade but one of the friendliest coolest people I ever met. He and Diane = good people. I feel like I truly knew him personally through his music. His music was real and so was he. A total one off. There will never be another like him. I'll cherish the times we met and the guitar he very generously gave to me. Through all his recordings and his videos he will live on. A true poet and artist. RIP. Condolences to Diane and both of your families.*
Joe Kapish

Joe Kapish - December 13, 2017 at 01:16 PM

DI

thanks Joe - a special friendship the four of us have had over the years.

Diane - December 14, 2017 at 06:52 PM

 James Kennedy

“ *Gerry's immortal song line: "Yeah, yeah, ring bologna". Im so fortunate to have known him for so many decades. A sad sad day. My condolences to Gerry's and Diane's families.*

James Kennedy - December 13, 2017 at 01:03 PM

DI

Ring bologna sing!!

Diane - December 14, 2017 at 06:51 PM

JO

*Gerry...tks for everything.
Joe & Deb/Deb & Joe*

JoeK/Debster - December 15, 2017 at 08:06 AM