



## Erika Otilia Gates

November 23, 1927 - August 2, 2014

GATES, Erika Otilia

86, passed away peacefully on August 2, 2014 in Santa Barbara with her son by her side. Born November 23, 1927 in Ventspils, Latvia, Erika grew up on a large farm and completed high school in Germany where she would work as a dental assistant. Shortly after World War II, she immigrated with her family to Canada. It was in Alberta, Canada where she met and married the love of her life, Henry on April 2, 1950. After the birth of their son, they relocated to Terrace, British Columbia where she and Henry were pioneers, subdividing property and constructing a number of new homes. In 1962, the family came to Santa Barbara where they proudly became naturalized US citizens.

Erika was a wonderful wife and mother. A lovely and remarkable woman of many talents, she was also an accomplished seamstress and clothing designer with her very own label. Cooking was a pure joy for her. She would create everything from large family dinners to baked items and pastries. She loved music, playing piano and singing Sinatra songs. There were numerous family travel adventures throughout the US, Canada and fun times in Las Vegas where she and Henry also celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2000.

Erika will be deeply missed by all of those she touched in her long life. Her big

smile, gentle demeanor, and compassion for others continued until her last day. We take comfort in the fact that the Lord has reunited her with her beloved husband, Henry.

Erika was predeceased by her husband Henry Gates in 2009 after 59 wonderful years of marriage, 2 brothers, Adolph Straume (Romelia) of Torrance, and Robert Straume (Gloria) of Toronto. She is survived by her son, Garry Gates of Santa Barbara, a cousin, Olita Maier of Woodland Hills, a sister-in-law, Hedy Andrews of Vancouver and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held on Thursday, August 14, 1:00 PM at the Welch-Ryce-Haider Funeral Chapel, 15 E. Sola St., Santa Barbara.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

AUG 14. 1:00 PM (PT)

Welch-Ryce-Haider - Downtown

15 E. Sola St.

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

(805) 965-5145

[info@wrhsb.com](mailto:info@wrhsb.com)

<https://www.wrhsb.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ Garry Gates lit a candle in memory of Erika Otilia Gates



Garry Gates - August 24, 2014 at 09:53 PM



*A candle lit for my dear mother, Erika. I miss you so very very much and I will always love you Mom!*

Garry Gates - August 24, 2014 at 09:56 PM

HP

“ I have such fond, wonderful, countless memories of my dear Godmother "Mrs. Geitz". She and my Godfather "Mr. Geitz" had such big, generous hearts and added so much joy to my life as a child. I will never forget her face, the touch of her hand, the sound of her voice, and her desire to do anything that would make me happy. In choosing Mrs. Geitz to be my Godmother, they knew they were choosing the best. And that they did. She will always have a special place in my heart!



Henry J Penner - August 19, 2014 at 11:14 PM



*Thank you for your kind words, Henry. Going all the way back to the wonderful years in Canada, your family will always be a part of ours. Garry*

Garry Gates - August 24, 2014 at 09:51 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *The Golden Years*



---

**Garry Gates** - August 16, 2014 at 10:27 PM



*All the flowers at mom's services were so beautiful! My heart thanks you all for thinking of her. Garry*

---

**Garry Gates** - August 16, 2014 at 10:33 PM

CB

“ *Dear Garry,  
I'm very sorry to hear of your dear Mom's passing. She was a very special lady and a wonderful Mom to you, as well as a dear friend of our family. Our families together had so many fun times over all the years.  
I pray that God will give you His perfect peace as you go through this difficult time. Our prayers are with you.  
Love,  
Cathy (Penner), Donald & Sarah Borucki*

---

**Cathy Borucki** - August 14, 2014 at 11:10 AM

CB

“ *Cathy Borucki lit a candle in memory of Erika Otilia Gates*



---

**Cathy Borucki** - August 14, 2014 at 11:05 AM



*Thank you so much, Cathy, Donald & Sarah. Yes, our years together with our moms were very special. It's been a few days since my mom's services and I still can't believe she's gone. Bless you. Garry*

**Garry Gates** - August 16, 2014 at 10:31 PM



“ *Diane, Hedy ,Dorothy lit a candle in memory of Erika Otilia Gates*



**Diane, Hedy ,Dorothy** - August 13, 2014 at 07:09 PM



*Thank you so much, Aunt Hedy & cousins Diane & Dorothy. Mom's services are tomorrow & I won't be able to sleep tonight. Love to you, Garry*

**Garry Gates** - August 14, 2014 at 01:48 AM



“ *3 files added to the album The Golden Years*



**Garry Gates** - August 13, 2014 at 01:24 PM

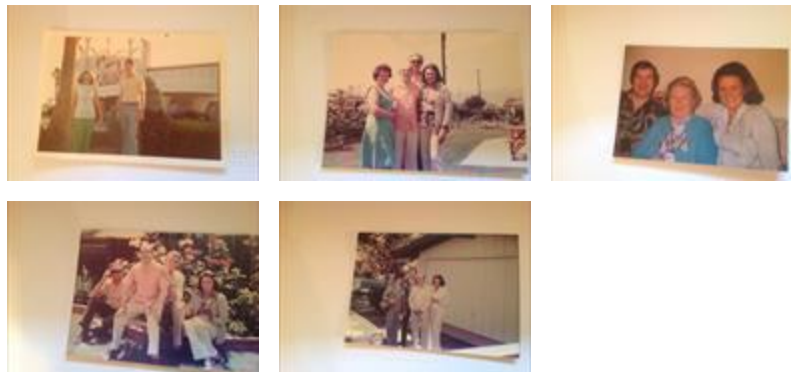


*Recent photos taken by Reni Octavia (mom's caregiver)*

**Garry Gates** - August 18, 2014 at 11:25 AM

RO

“ 6 files added to the album *Life in California!*



---

**Rob** - August 12, 2014 at 08:04 PM

RO

“ 2014 has been a sad year for the entire family, Garry. We were surprised and saddened to hear the news last week of Erika's passing. Dad always spoke fondly of his big sister and the younger years in Terrace, BC. We will have to make a memorial trip to Straume Road so you can point out the history to us.

*We wish we could attend the service on Thursday. We know how hard this is and send our love and support.*

*Our deepest sympathies,  
Breanne & Rob Straume*

---

**Rob** - August 11, 2014 at 09:40 PM

GS

“ Dear Garry;  
My thoughts and prayers are with you in this most difficult time. Erika was a beautiful lady and I know she loved you very much. You were such a wonderful son to her. She will be missed. You take care of yourself. Cherish all the wonderful memories you have.  
Love,  
Gloria and Family.



gloria straume - August 11, 2014 at 09:30 PM



Thank you dear Gloria...it's such an emotional time for me right now. I know my mom loved me as she told me that every single day until that fateful Saturday in that convalescent hospital. Bless you, Garry

Garry Gates - August 12, 2014 at 04:01 PM



“ 2 files added to the album *The Golden Years*



Garry Gates - August 10, 2014 at 01:27 PM



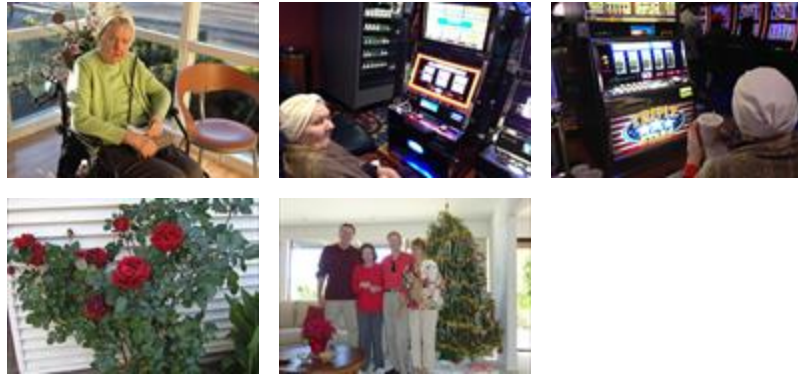
“ 1 file added to the album *The Early Years*



Garry Gates - August 09, 2014 at 11:31 PM



“ 20 files added to the album *The Golden Years*

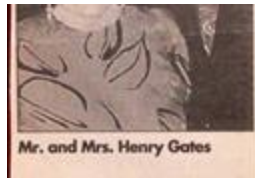


---

**Garry Gates** - August 09, 2014 at 11:07 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *The Golden Years*



---

**Garry Gates** - August 09, 2014 at 11:02 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *The Early Years*



---

**Garry Gates** - August 09, 2014 at 10:59 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life in California!*



---

**Garry Gates** - August 09, 2014 at 10:57 PM



“ 27 files added to the album *Life in California!*



---

**Garry Gates** - August 09, 2014 at 10:18 PM



“ 10 files added to the album *Life in California!*



---

**Garry Gates** - August 09, 2014 at 07:13 PM

RO

“ *Erika was wonderful lady. She will always in my heart. Rest in peace, my dear.*

**Reni Oktavia** - August 09, 2014 at 12:06 AM



*Thank you, Reni. Mom loved you very much as well.*

**Garry Gates** - August 10, 2014 at 01:31 PM

RM

“ *So sorry for your loss, Garry. She will always be with you in sweet memories.*

*Sincerely,*

*Rose Marie J.*

**Rose Marie** - August 08, 2014 at 05:53 PM



*Thank you, Rose Marie. She was the best mother to me. I tried my best to return that love. Garry*

**Garry Gates** - August 10, 2014 at 01:33 PM

RM

“ *Rose Marie lit a candle in memory of Erika Otilia Gates*



**Rose Marie** - August 08, 2014 at 05:50 PM

RM

“ Rose Marie sent a virtual gift in memory of Erika Otilia Gates



-----  
**Rose Marie** - August 08, 2014 at 05:49 PM



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

-----  
**Garry Gates** - August 06, 2014 at 12:28 AM



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

-----  
**Garry Gates** - August 05, 2014 at 11:10 PM

GA

“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

-----  
**Garry** - August 05, 2014 at 03:42 PM

GA

“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

-----  
**Garry** - August 05, 2014 at 03:40 PM

GA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



---

**Garry** - August 05, 2014 at 03:37 PM