



Giuliana Conti Busch

March 18, 1924 - April 3, 2017

Giuliana Conti Busch was born March 18, 1924 in Rome, Italy, the eldest of four siblings, passed away April 3, 2017. Giuliana spent much of her childhood split between spending time with her parents in working class Rome and with her extended family in rural Umbria. Though her adult life was largely to be spent in America, Giuliana's personality and sensibilities remained unabashedly Italian. Two of her greatest lifelong passions, cooking and Italian art, were the unmistakable byproducts of Umbria and Rome.

In her teens she thought she would become a seamstress, but life had other plans. She learned English, and put it to good use working for the Allied Military Government in Rome after the end of the Second World War. There she met what must have been an unusual American soldier, who with a thick German accent. Son of a world famous German conductor who refused to raise his baton under the Nazis, Hans Busch had been a stage director of Opera in several countries before moving to America and enlisting to fight those who ruled his former homeland. Now in Rome putting his Italian to good use in the Occupation government, he and Giuliana enjoyed a fairytale romance culminating in a marriage in St.

Peter's Basilica in 1946. When Hans accepted a position with the Indiana University School of Music, the couple moved to Bloomington in the late 1940's.

Ambitious, Giuliana pursued an undergraduate degree in French at IU and, in time, she was to complete all the course work for a PhD in Comparative Literature. Among the "Refugee Generation" of extraordinary musicians in the post war IU Music School she was known as a gracious and charming hostess.

In 1962 she and Hans divorced and the following year she spent a year at the University of Rome before returning for a year to Bloomington. In 1965 she accepted a position with Lake Erie College in Ohio teaching Italian language and literature, where she was to remain for nearly a decade. Giuliana's home there was often filled with her student fan club, attracted by her teaching style and genuine concern for them as individuals.

Giuliana then moved on to Washington DC where for the last twenty years of her career she worked for the US Government teaching Italian. Upon her retirement she returned to Bloomington to be with her closest friends.

In 2014 she suffered two severe bouts of pneumonia which left her in an increasingly frail and debilitated state. Even as the physical ailments multiplied and dementia reared its ugly head she remained stoic to the end.

Giuliana is lovingly survived by her son John, his wife Annie and her grandchildren Alexander, Isabella, and Arianna all of Bloomington, and by her brother Peppino and sister Anna Maria of Rome.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday April 21, 2017 at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church at 11:00AM. Burial will follow in the Rogers cemetery immediately north of her beloved Yellowwood Lake in Brown County.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Id State Road 37 is handling the arrangements and online condolences, photos, and memories may be

shared with family and friends at www.allencares.com.

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

APR 21. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
2222 East Third Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

Tribute Wall

GM

“ I have been trying for a while to find what happened to Giuliana. She and my mother Lucia (Segoni) Massimi were cousins and were often in touch with each other over the years. She attended my daughters wedding in August of 2003.....seems like yesterday. As a youngster I remember Hans and Giuliana stopping by our house in Trenton many times. One time they left "Varo" one of the greatest dogs ever created and I had a dog that I always wanted.



I spoke to her a couple of times over the years and knew that she had problems walking and the last time I could detect memory problems. I was always in awe of her presence and ability to control the moment. We never had a conversation that she did not talk about Johnny and how proud she was of his success.

Even though its been a couple of years since her passing it is needless to say that our family is deeply saddened to learn of her passing

Gino Massimi and Family.

gino massimi - November 11, 2019 at 02:04 PM

JA

You may wish to reach out to Giuliana's son, Johnny. He moved from Singapore back to Bloomington IN with his child many years ago. I believe you can reach him by email at: lowfinance@gmail.com
Hope this is helpful!

James - May 04, 2025 at 12:49 PM

BJ

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. I lost track of Signora Busch after I graduated from Lake Erie College. She was an enthusiastic teacher, a mentor for her students and a role model for how to live an independent life. She ignited my lifelong love for all things Italian and fifty years later, I am still able to read and understand Italian...all thanks to her. Beth DiNatale Johnson

Beth DiNatale Johnson - October 20, 2017 at 12:42 AM

HM

“ I have beautiful memories of adventures with Giuliana both in Italy and in Bloomington through many years. She was a wonderful woman with a great sense of humor, love for many friends, and tales of adventures through out the world. Although I haven't seen her in a couple of years (last time at New Year's Eve at Roy's house), I will always remember her with love and admiration, and with shared experiences. Gone too soon.
Harriet McNeal

Harriet McNeal - April 28, 2017 at 12:28 PM

MI

“ Michel purchased the Healing Tears - Yellow and White for the family of Giuliana Conti Busch.



Michel - April 21, 2017 at 01:03 AM