



Lillian Gantz

November 11, 1913 - May 28, 2018

Lillian was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York and lived there until 1999 when she and her late husband moved to Bloomington to be closer to their son and his family. Both quickly fell in love with Bloomington.

Throughout her life, Lillian was a physically and intellectually active, passionate and upbeat person. For decades, she taught modern dance to children, adolescents, and adults. She played tennis, loved to swim, enjoyed watching modern dance and listening to classical music, and looked forward near daily walks. One of her great pleasures was summer swimming in a small lake in upstate New York – but, in later years when it wasn't summer, the Monroe County Y was fine, too. Lillian enjoyed folk dancing until folk dance evenings at IU were too late for her schedule. She gave up swimming in her late 90s, driving, too. Lillian never gave up reading the New York Times; it was a daily staple that kept her in touch with the world.

Lillian was married for 65 years to the love of her life, Carlyle Gantz, until he died in 2002. Theirs was a marriage of great joy and happiness; their love and respect for each other served as a model for their children and grandchildren. Lillian graduated from Brooklyn College in the mid-1930s. Indeed, she was among that school's first graduating classes. In addition to teaching dance, Lillian worked for the City of New York as a social worker and attendance teacher until she retired in the late 1960s.

For her entire life, Lillian was devoted to the causes of peace, civil rights, and equal rights. With her husband, and at some peril, she helped integrate their

Brooklyn, New York neighborhood in 1964.

Lillian lived life to its fullest. Even at 104, when she would walk outside, she was swept up by the majesty of the clouds, the warmth of the sun, and the beauty of the trees. With a community green space outside her back porch, she lived in a location that brought daily joy. She never watched much television but when offered the opportunity to view dance performance videos on YouTube, she was transfixed and transformed by dance's grace and life-affirming power.

Lillian was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and three siblings. She is survived by her two children (Walter and his wife Jane Gantz, of Bloomington; Carole Lipton of West Orange, New Jersey); four grandchildren (Rachel Gantz Fingerhut and her husband David Fingerhut of Carmel, Indiana; David Gantz and his wife Claire Mack of Berkeley, California; Kellie Lipton of Montclair, New Jersey; and India Lipton and her wife Shirley Lesser of Richmond, Virginia); and seven great-grandchildren (Lilia, Aleni, Holden, and Elliott Fingerhut of Carmel, Indiana; Franklin Gantz of Berkeley, California; Cameron Lipton Martinez of Montclair, New Jersey and Dylan Lipton-Lesser of Richmond, Virginia).

Her family thanks Southern Care Hospice, Comfort Keepers and Nasrin Aslami for the excellent care they provided.

A private service will be held this summer by the upstate New York lake Lillian so dearly loved.

In Lieu of flowers the family ask that memorial contributions may be made to the ACLU www.action.aclu.org or the Human Rights Campaign www.give.hrc.org.

You are invited to share a memory or leave an online condolence to the family at www.allencares.com.