



## Niki Diane Gerschoffer-Stratigos

October 30, 1951 - February 28, 2022

While remembering Niki Gerschoffer–Stratigos, she was always the person that her family and friends would go to with questions about gardening and cooking- (Afterall, she was a master gardener!) and she always knew exactly what advice to give. She was resourceful, could always see the potential of people and circumstance, was the consummate caretaker, and nurtured her intentions with all of her heart. In her immediate family, we have a motto that will carry into the future, WWND? (What would Niki do) She was our peaceful warrior. This was Niki’s way!

Our beloved Niki who entered eternal life on Monday, February, 28th whose universal spirit is carried on by her devoted husband Spyridon, her mother Diane Goss, 2 sons, Nicolas, George, (Erin), 1 stepson, Vajra, (Stacey), 5 grandchildren, Olivia, Cannon, Sayre, Spyridon, Theodore, and an extended family of relations and friends from every walk of life.

We were blessed to learn many valuable lessons from Niki during her 70 years, and among the long list, she would be thrilled to know that the things that hosted her curiosity, the efforts she made and the love she shared truly made a difference to both those that knew her well and even those that shared just a passing interaction.

Niki Gerschoffer was born in Elkhart, IN on October 30th in 1951. She pursued her undergraduate and graduate academic interests at Indiana University in Bloomington IN where she serendipitously met Spyridon “Strats” Stratigos and fell in love. A certified master botanist, Niki and Strats built their

home by hand in the rolling hills of Owen County with plenty of room to grow! A joint dream that she nurtured and brought to fruition as she expressed her joy of life through sowing, growing, and harvesting from meticulously maintained gardens and fields surrounding the home.

A true trailblazer of the farm to table movement, Niki had a purpose and a plan for the gardens she tended. This concentric vision made its way into the kitchen where, yet another facet of genius emerged. Known for her brilliant and seemingly effortless ability to coax the essence of flavor from the ingredients she used; if you ever were so lucky to have had even a cookie from Niki's kitchen you know of this magic. Transforming a house to a home, Niki was the embodiment of the mother figure. Putting others ahead of herself with a smile on her face and a twinkle in her eye. Her joy was found in providing joy to others.

From a young age, Niki was enthralled with Mexican and central American culture. After she graduated with a degree in Anthropology from IU, she worked as the registrar at the Mathers Museum and later served as an assistant curator at the Wylie House in Bloomington. After marrying Strats, she became his partner at the Uptown Café for fifteen years until they sold their interest in the business in 2001. She traveled to Mexico several times to explore the Mayan culture. While visiting the Yucatan and Chiapas she collected many textiles and artifacts that adorned the walls of her home. Her trip with Strats to Scotland and particularly a visit to the spiritual island of Iona was a special memory.

You are invited to a Celebration of Life for Niki Gerschoffer Stratigos on Saturday July 9, 2022 at the McCormick's Creek State Park from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Memorial Service will begin at 1:30pm at the Amphitheater a reception will follow with food, drink with a opportunity to share memories. All are welcome.. The family would like to thank the Hospice community and friends for their support in the last months of her life.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory have been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and

friends at [www.allencares.com](http://www.allencares.com)

# Previous Events

## **Celebration of Life Gathering**

JUL 9. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

McCormick's Creek State Park  
250 McCormick Creek Park Rd  
Spencer, IN 47460  
<http://25>

## **Celebration of Life Service**

JUL 9. 1:30 PM (ET)

McCormick's Creek State Park  
250 McCormick Creek Park Rd  
Spencer, IN 47460  
<http://25>

# Tribute Wall



“ *I’m one of the ones that was touched by Niki in the short encounters I had while working for her at The Uptown. I was in awe of her grace, kindness and integrity. She was an inspiration to me as a young person who at the time was a little lost. She was a mother figure to all of us.*

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**Gretchen Nall** - April 15, 2022 at 09:23 PM

JB

“ *Truly a wonderful and unique woman, the world is a little bit darker without her light shining so brightly amongst all of us. She will forever be remembered as one of the few people that I could say I truly looked up too. My condolences to you all Strats, V, Nik, George and everyone else who has been effected by such a loss.*

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**Joshua Brunner** - March 31, 2022 at 09:18 PM

PG

“ *I was deeply saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Niki Gerschoffer. Niki and I were colleagues and friends at the Indiana University Museum before it was renamed the Mathers Museum. Besides her engaging and sunny personality, she was the rock around which the museum operated. She made a workplace more like a home.*

*My condolences to Strats and family.*

*Peter Gold*

*Formerly of Bloomington IN now residing in Santa Fe NM*

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**Peter Gold** - March 12, 2022 at 11:08 AM

JS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Jaime Sweany** - March 12, 2022 at 09:27 AM

JB

“ Sending love and condolences to Strats and the whole family. May her memory be a blessing and a comfort.

Love,

*Jocelyn Bowie and David Semmel*

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**Jocelyn Bowie** - March 05, 2022 at 07:54 AM

DS

“ The world has lost a true flower that lived among us

*Dave Sare*

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**DAVID N SARE** - March 03, 2022 at 08:03 PM

GB

“ Strats, wanted you to know that we are heartbroken after hearing the news about Niki. We wish you peace as you navigate your journey during this difficult time. May all the memories you shared together bring some sense of comfort to you and your family.

*Georganne & Bill Binnie*

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**georganne binnie** - March 03, 2022 at 07:15 AM

CT

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**cam trampke** - March 02, 2022 at 07:14 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Allen Funeral Home and Crematory** - March 02, 2022 at 05:07 PM

DM

*I will remember Nikki as a beautiful earth mother. Always welcoming with her wonderful smile and hugs. What a classy lady she was and I am grateful to have known her. To Strats, Nick, George and V, I send my love and condolences.*

*Deb Murzyn*

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**Deb Murzyn** - March 02, 2022 at 06:34 PM

BW

*Thinking of you my friend.*

*Bob Willard*

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**Bob Willard** - March 03, 2022 at 11:07 AM

KB

*Strats and Family, I'm wrapping you in light and love, keeping you in my heart, and sending condolences. Kathy Boone*

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**Kathy Boone** - March 04, 2022 at 11:58 PM

DW

*I'm so, so sorry to hear from a friend of Nikki's passing from this world. I do hope she was surrounded by loving family members and friends as she took her leave.*

*During my tenure at the Uptown Cafe, Nikki's visits to 102 E. Kirkwood Ave. were always a delight; her smile and kind disposition and cheerfulness. This memory will always be with me. (The photo displayed on this website captures her glow.)*

*I pray that Strats, her loving husband, and her dearest of dear sons can carry on with joy after the tears pass away.*

*In sadness. In love.*

*David Wierhake  
Bloomington IN*

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**David Wierhake** - March 07, 2022 at 02:56 PM

JS

*It is hard to imagine a woman more full of grace, dignity and kindness than was Niki. It is also hard to imagine that she is gone from us now. My heart breaks for those closest to her, and I wish them all (especially Strats and their sons) comfort as they learn to navigate life without her. I feel honored to have known Niki for over 30 years and to call her a friend.*

*I am sharing a photo taken on the Sculpture Trail in Solsberry, December 15, 2020. I hope it brings back some happy memories.*

*So much Love,  
Jaime Sweany*

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**Jaime Sweany** - March 12, 2022 at 09:28 AM

CB

*I am shocked and deeply saddened to learn of Niki's passing. Niki was a lovely woman, and one whom I have a lot of respect for. She was kind, humble & giving. She was a beautiful spirit.*

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**Cynthia Kopanko Brown** - April 27, 2023 at 10:13 PM



*She was special!*

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**AI Hagopian** - January 12, 2025 at 04:22 PM