



## BLANCHE GANTZ

May 16, 1921 - February 19, 2022

FUNERAL SERVICES: FRIDAY, 2/25/2022 11:00 AM at HEBREW  
MEMORIAL CHAPEL

A LINK WILL BE PROVIDED FOR A LIVE WEBCAM OF THE FUNERAL. AT  
THE TIME OF THE SERVICE, PLEASE GO TO THE TRIBUTE WALL AND  
CLICK ON THE PROVIDED LINK.

Gantz, Blanche (Ratner) aka Mrs. Dance  
May 16, 1921-February 19, 2022

Blanche passed away peacefully in Santa Barbara, CA three months before her 101st birthday. She lived a full, high-energy life filled with love and joy from her friends, family, and dance. She was a strong, independent, creative woman who loved socializing.

Blanche grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y. and moved to Detroit at the age of nine. She was a child performer in the Catskills, singing and dancing. She continued to perform in the Yiddish Theater in Detroit as well as private clubs. Her passion was dance....tap dancing. Although money was tight at that time, there was always enough for dance lessons . By high school she earned enough to pay for private lessons several times a week at Roth/Berdun Dance Studio.

At age 20, she married Harry Gantz, her love for over 60 years, and raised two children in her new Oak Park, Michigan home. She missed dancing and soon was hired by the PTA of Dewey School to teach afterschool dancing to elementary school children. News spread and Southfield and West Bloomfield Schools asked her to teach their children. She taught thousands of children the love of dance! Her slogan, "Mrs. Gantz loves to Dance".

Blanche and Harry relocated to Florida when they retired and moved into a new Century Village where Blanche soon found herself teaching dance to seniors for a few years. She didn't find them as much fun as the children. Their last move was to Santa Barbara, CA to be near her daughter, for 15 lovely years.

Blanche's passions: Tap dancing, summers in Charlevoix MI, Florida, her children, her grandchildren, and her great grandchildren.

Blanche was predeceased by her husband, Harry Leo Gantz; her parents, Nathan and Becky Ratner; and her sister, Mollie Nucian. She is survived by her daughters; Joan Rosenberg-Dent (Gantz), Linda Amooore (Gantz); son-in-law Thomas Dent; grandchildren Eric, Matthew, and Julie Rosenberg, Lisa Franchi, Cassie Amooore; and great grandchildren Gabriel, Jesse, Levi, Tazio, Arianna, and Alice.

OFFICIATING:

Rabbi J. Krakoff

INTERMENT

Clover Hill Park Cemetery

SHIVA:

The family will observe Shiva Privately

CONTRIBUTIONS:

If you would like to further honor the memory of  
Blanche Gantz

you may do so by making a contribution to:

Front Porch Communities Foundation,

VDM Resident Assistance Fund (in honor of Blanche Gantz),

3775 Modoc Road,

Santa Barbara, CA 93105

<https://frontporch.net/philanthropy>

# Cemetery Details

## Clover Hill Park Cemetery

2425 East 14 Mile Road  
Birmingham, MI 48009

# Events

**Details are pending.**

# Tribute Wall



“ Hebrew Memorial Chapel created a Webcast in memory of  
**BLANCHE GANTZ**



Hebrew Memorial Chapel - February 24, 2022 at 12:38 PM



*Thank you Aunt Blanche for sharing your love to dance and passing that love on to me - along with my love ( and compassion) for Judy Garland. Your memory IS a blessing to us all.*

**Tami Manton** - February 25, 2022 at 11:22 AM



*Beautiful tributes! xoxo*

**Tami Manton** - February 25, 2022 at 11:39 AM

SG

*Lovely tribute!*

**Sheree Green** - February 25, 2022 at 11:47 AM



*Absolutely BEAUTIFUL, starting with Joan, to Eric, Matt and Julie. Super memories and feelings. So much love!!!! Thank you all for being there. Feeling the love all around!*

**Linda Amoore** - February 25, 2022 at 11:49 AM



*Thanks MOM, for your talent, creativity, community involvement , cooking, gardening, sewing, good taste in all areas, and heaps of fun, love of nature, baseball, swimming, massive family dinners..... and so much more!!! Quite a mom, sister, cousin, aunt, wife, daughter,grandmother, great grandmother, and dance teacher. We'll miss you! and think of you, hear your words, and feel your love, always.I know you feel our love.*

**Linda Amooore** - February 25, 2022 at 11:59 AM

RM

*Beautiful tribute to a lady that deserves the love and respect she gave in return.*

*Roslyn Mendelson*

**roslyn mendelson** - February 25, 2022 at 12:10 PM



*well done, so very much so... thank you from across the Ocean... very grateful to have been able to attend! Mom has had a most beautiful send-off, with so much love all around!!!!*

**Linda Amooore** - February 25, 2022 at 11:01 PM

LS

*Thank you for sharing this beautiful and touching service. I feel enriched learning more about dear Blanche, my mother's cousin, who I hardly had opportunity to know, yet who feels like a kindred spirit in her love for teaching dance. May her memory be a blessing to all.*

**Lauren Singer** - March 02, 2022 at 01:51 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Kelly Sheridan** - April 14, 2023 at 01:31 PM



*This pic is almost 50 years ago. I still remember the lessons in the Green School gym. She had such an impact on me.*

**Kelly Sheridan** - April 14, 2023 at 01:34 PM

WE

“*Mrs. Gantz was a gem; Oak Park’s Dancing Queen! She was beloved by students and parents alike. “From ballet to tap to modern jazz, I learned “... a word in French today...”,how to beat the “Bunny Rabbit Blues”, and about “ The Little Green Men from Mars” In 6th grade she brought us, along with Petula Clark, “Downtown”! (I still remember much of her choreography.) 😊 She helped me become more confident. Her recitals were awesome, and the costumes—oh, those costumes! I still have the trophy she gave me on my last recital. I phoned her in California a while back,to expressed my gratitude and thanks. It was nice to talk with her and reminisce. I know she’s dancing in Heaven!*”

**Wendy** - February 27, 2022 at 08:14 PM

SG

“*My mom, Edith, and Blanche were cousins. My mom went to Blanche’s wedding and fell in love and eventually married the groom’s twin brother. My Aunt Blanche and Uncle Harry lived a few blocks away. I was always visiting. They were my closest relatives. My Aunt Blanche was also my dance teacher throughout elementary school. She loved to show me off with the latest dance steps to all the other relatives. My aunt was very generous and made me a bridal shower. I keep going back to the memory of the last time my mom and Blanche spoke on the phone. My mom’s voice quickly changed to a young girl’s voice. They laughed and giggled like schoolgirls. I will deeply miss my Aunt who was such a strong presence in my life.*”

*-Sheree Gantz Green*

**Sheree Green** - February 25, 2022 at 09:31 AM



*cousins and sister in laws, and houses around the corner from each other both with fire hydrants! So many wonderful memories flow, so glad you are still in my life!!*

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**Linda Amoores** - February 26, 2022 at 11:12 PM



*Uncle Harry & my dad (George) a/k/a "the Gantz Twins" were inseparable. They were partners in their family business and saw each other every day. In 1954 it was time to move from their rented residences and purchase homes. My mother (Edith) and Aunt Blanche strongly encouraged their husbands to act independently. The twins listened, and kept their house searches secret. I remember my dad calling uncle Harry late one Sunday afternoon to tell him that he and my mother had purchased a house in Oak Park that morning, and to his surprise, unknown by either, Harry had done the same about an hour later. Same builder, same elevation, same color, Around the block!*

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**Mark Gantz** - February 27, 2022 at 11:14 AM

CA

“ I try to think of genuine memories of Granny from my younger years, and I think of me putting my own spin on a dance show for Granny and family to watch. Poses on an inflatable doghnut in Joan and Tom's pool. Singing 'a penny a kiss' with Granny, with me adding an inexplicable baritone "jug" at the end of the song, because it sounded right to me- and her laughing like I made the funniest joke. She always had treats in the freezer- I don't think I've touched a fudgesickle since I had too many on a Pembroke Pines visit. Most recently I visited in Santa Barbara, during her last month, and we were able to wish my mum Lin a happy birthday, and even sing together. Most of the time that visit she was happy to just have a warm hand to hold, and I'm happy I was able to be the one to give it, if even for only two short visits.  
After more than 100 years, with many who remember her from 60+ years ago, hers is definitely a life to be celebrated, not mourned.  
May we each leave such a legacy.



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**Cassie** - February 25, 2022 at 03:20 AM

LI

*Lovely!*

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**lin** - February 25, 2022 at 04:47 AM

LF

“ Grandma Gantz was an incredible person who has influenced me greatly.

*She had great taste and an eye for quality and talent, and was always very open in her opinions and assessments of such.*

*Not everyone would live up to her standards all of the time, but her love of family was absolute and unconditional.*

*She always made me feel so special, she would take me shopping for smart new outfits and have things kept aside from moments apart that we missed together. Her freezer in Michigan would have snowballs saved from winter to throw in a summer visit, and she would always have an extra outfit made for me to play in from her dance concerts. I would sit at the kitchen table for hours eating carefully selected delights as she stroked my hand, listening to her stories and opinions of contemporary issues. Even in her very late 90's she was arranging with Aunt Joan to have my favorite fruits and blueberry blintzes on arrival for my visit.*

*Living so far away in Australia I would not see her often, but when I did I would stay with her and grandpa for a few days or a week at a time, and even stayed for months while grandma recovered from hip surgery.*

*We would start the visits not really knowing each other, then rediscovering, understanding, and adoring each other.*

*Last time I saw her when she said goodbye she meant it. She did not like getting old at all, and it was hard for her to loose the youthful qualities and abilities she valued so much.*

*It's painful for me to let go of her and who we were to each other, but I'm glad she is at peace. I imagine her laughing, singing, dancing and bossing everyone around with all of her former gusto, Blanche Gantz the boss.*

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**Lisa Franchi** - February 24, 2022 at 11:10 PM

LI

Lovely

*Lisa and Cassie; what wonderful memories of Grannie!*

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**lin** - February 25, 2022 at 04:54 AM

DF

“ So many wonderful memories of Mrs. Gantz. The classes, rehearsals and the big dance recitals. May her memory be a blessing.



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**Debbie Friedman** - February 24, 2022 at 09:17 PM

LI

*Thanks for the article you've saved! You look like a really darling dancer, so thrilled so many enjoyed her classes!*

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**lin** - February 25, 2022 at 01:25 AM

JB

“ I spent many years with her as my dance teacher at Key School. Ballet, tap, and jazz! She was a very special lady who influenced lots of young girls to continue in dance and other physical fitness activities. May her memory be a blessing.



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**Joyce (Schlafer) Boin** - February 24, 2022 at 11:18 AM

JK

“ I am so sorry for your loss Linda. I was a young child at Dewey in the 60's and your mom was my introduction to “show business“! We rehearsed like troopers while your grandmother served as her loyal dance captain She made each and everyone of us feel like we were on Broadway that night of the recital. The costumes! The stage lights! The opening number! The finale! Such wonderful memories. Mrs. Gantz loves to dance because she has ants in her pants!

Jeri Gallant Keer - February 24, 2022 at 08:24 AM

LI

She changed “ants in her pants” to “Mrs. Gantz sure can dance”! Bit more positive spin! Thank you for your great feelings of show business and my grandma, who helped the young ones change clothes. I too was at Dewey 50's and 60's..

lin - February 25, 2022 at 01:16 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Linda Amooore - February 24, 2022 at 04:37 AM

SD

cousin linda, and joannie, so sorry for your loss....RIP!!! cousin blanche

steven davis - February 24, 2022 at 07:47 AM

LI

Thank you!

lin - February 24, 2022 at 11:31 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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Linda Amooore - February 24, 2022 at 04:22 AM



“ only one memory? Theres so many, all my life of 72 years!!! When I was old enough to use moms Instamatic Camera, she assigned me "Finale Photo", as well as starting the record for the finale.. As "Hey Look Me Over" would end every recital, I would shoot the memory of the song, "whenever your down and out, the only way is UP" and her hand and arm would shoot straight up high.. and ends with "LOOK OUT WORLD, HEAR ME SHOUT WORLD, HERE I COME!!!!" with moms arm and all the dancers arms "UP" reaching high! CLICK on the camera. I stayed in position, focused on mom to take photos when flowers were presented to her by the PTA. I believe that was often Bev Saks mother!! Loving and proud memory from Youngest daughter, Lin(da)

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Linda Amooore - February 24, 2022 at 04:10 AM



“ Dearest Joan,  
Though I never met your Mom in real life, I feel that I've known her for years through your stories. Our reminiscences of family life are dear to me, and our shared memories have brought us joy...and some tears. But through our tears, let us celebrate the women who helped to shape our lives.  
Andrea Miller

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Andrea - February 23, 2022 at 07:22 PM

JC

“ Dear Joan and Linda, I’m so sorry to hear of your loss. May her memory be a blessing.  
Jan (previously Citrin) Colman

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**Jan Colman** - February 23, 2022 at 08:44 AM



Thank you Jan

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**Linda Amoore** - February 24, 2022 at 04:16 AM

SN

“ To Joan & Linda,  
I have many memories of Aunt Blanch and will miss her too. She was always nice and I loved her too.  
Cousin Sandy

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**sandy Nucian** - February 22, 2022 at 05:58 PM



thanks Sandy xox

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**Linda Amoore** - February 24, 2022 at 04:16 AM

RM

“ Dear Linda - I know you will remember me - I am Roslyn (Roz) Davis. I am so sorry to hear about your mothers passing but you were so lucky to have her for so long. She was the nicest sweetest woman - and she was a major role model for jewish young girls at Dewey School. She taught us about being feminine - graceful - always positive and complimentary in every way possible. When you and I became friends it was a big bonus coming over to your house and seeing "The Tap Dancing Teacher" - You were always beautiful and sweet like your mother - she taught you very well. Not sure how long you will be in town - but if you see your way clear - I would love to see you. My heartfelt wishes go out to you and your family - and all your beautiful memories of her will comfort you for a lifetime. I cannot how old we have become lol....where did the years go. If you wish to call me - pls feel free and if you can't due to time schedules I truly understand. Take care of yourself Linda.

248 763 0704

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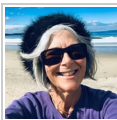
**roslyn mendelson** - February 22, 2022 at 04:24 PM

PS

Dear Linda and Joan. I know you don't know me, but I was a member of the PTA at Key School in Oak Park, and was the person in charge of the dance program. Your mom was the teacher and taught boys and girls . See was adored by them all. Also, when she started teaching in West Bloomfield, my daughter, who had taken lessons from her, Ilene Shapiro, was her helper. May her memory be a blessing. Phyllis Shapiro

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**Phyllis Shapiro** - February 24, 2022 at 12:28 AM



thank you so very much Phyllis!

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**Linda Amore** - February 24, 2022 at 04:14 AM



*Roslyn, I am in Australia, actually Tasmania. Can't sit to fly over so long, but I have over the years, many flights and visits!!!! Reach me on facebook. thanks for all the kind words and feelings!*

**Linda Amore** - February 24, 2022 at 04:45 AM

ND

*I took dance classes from your mom for many years. My daughter also was a student. The first day of class, she actually recognised me and had me do the warm up (Chicken Fat, of course) with the kids! I have such wonderful memories of her and many years of compliments on my dance training as I went on in a dance career. Her memory will always be for a blessing for what she contributed to the children.*

**Nancee Davis-Sharkey** - February 24, 2022 at 07:27 AM

AR

*I am so sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. I know you and your family are surrounded with love as your mom changed our lives, made us better and more aware of ourselves, the arts and being present! Comfort to you, I will always remember those magical dance days and your patient, loving mom. (I will never chew gum and dance at the same time!)*

**Audrey Ruhland** - February 24, 2022 at 08:28 AM

LI

*Great Audrey. Good gum lesson! Magical dance days! Moms beaming with delight at that!*

**lin** - February 25, 2022 at 01:08 AM

KS

*My name is Karen Siporin-Lowen  
We lived on Pearson (14530) across street from the Gantz Family....  
I have WONDERFUL memories of taking Dance Lessons at Dewey School...always looked forward going to class,  
Mrs. Gantz was always positive, patient and upbeat. Our "SHOWS" were beautiful and FUN!!  
Thanks for the memories....THANK YOU, MRS.Gantz  
May her memory be a blessing, RIP*

**Karen Siporin-Lowen** - February 25, 2022 at 01:03 PM



*lovely, thank you Karen....*

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**Linda Amore** - February 25, 2022 at 10:06 PM