

Jane Anastasi Gasperson

1951

TEACHER, EUCHARISTIC MINISTER, COMMUNITY SERVICE

WRITTEN BY JANE ANASTASI GASPERSON

Jane Anastasi Gasperson, a second-generation Italian American, was born in 1951 to Joseph Anastasi and Angelina Melicia Anastasi. She has one sister, Jodi Anastasi Duckett.

Her grandparents, Joseph and Jennie Anastasia and Salvatore and Angelina Melicia, were all immigrants from Sicily in the early 1900s.



Joe, Angelina, Jane, Jodi.

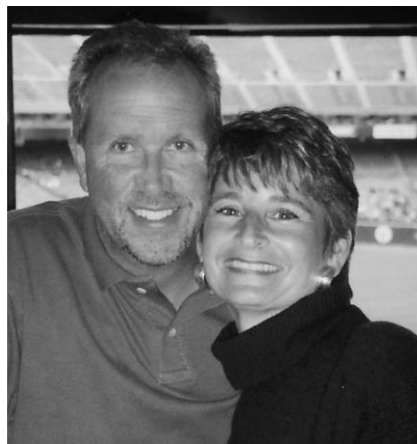
Both families were involved in the local fishing industry--the Anastasias with the Anastasia Fish Market on the old Monterey Fisherman's Wharf and Salvatore Melicia with his two purse seiners, the *New Limited* and the *Sherman Rose*. They worked tirelessly in order to make a better life for their families.



Jane's parents, Joseph and Angelina, owned Mike's Seafood Restaurant (the first restaurant on the wharf) and Casa Carmelkorn for over 50 years, where aunts, uncles, cousins, sister Jodi, and Jane and her husband, Gary, worked. It was a family affair!

Jane attended Santa Catalina School for 12 years and went on to graduate from Santa Clara University in 1973 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Science. A few years later, she earned her teaching credential.

In 1974 Jane met her future husband, Gary Gasperson, at a Marotta family barbecue, and a year later they were married at San Carlos Cathedral. They are proud parents of two sons, Joseph and Michael. Joseph resides in Pacific Grove with his fiancée, Bekah, and is grateful to live and work on this beautiful peninsula. Michael lives in Portland, Oregon, and is married to Mandy and has two precious children, Hudson and Harper. Jane loved attending her son's sporting events, and now, she enjoys her grandchildren's games!



Gary and Jane Gasperson.

For 15 years Jane taught preschool and kindergarten at Santa Catalina Preschool and felt privileged to be working with founder and director, Kathleen Ryan. Together they shared their skills and talents, preparing youngsters for their future school experiences and interacting with the families.

Jane owes her desire to perform community service to her parents. They, along with Jane's uncle, Phil Anastasia, supplied the Carmelite sisters at the Carmelite Monastery of Mt. Carmel with fruits, vegetables, fish and other provisions once a week from the market for over 50 years. Many of these items were provided by Russo Produce and Monterey Fish Co. When Jane's beloved parents passed away, Jane promised to continue this special ministry. She considers being able to make these weekly deliveries a true blessing.

A member of the Italian Catholic Federation Branch #36 for over 20 years, Jane has served as a board member as the Orator for ten of those years. As an orator, she has many duties. Most importantly, she promotes the branch's religious program-- religious retreats, prayer groups and weekly Mass. Her duties include the opening

and closing prayers for monthly dinner meetings, board meetings, Lenten dinners at the San Carlos parish hall and other Italian cultural events. When an ICF member passes away, Jane writes a eulogy and leads the rose ceremony in which the family members of the deceased are each presented with a rose.

Following in her grandparents' and parents' footsteps, Jane is a lifelong parishioner of San Carlos Cathedral. She is a lay presider, Eucharistic minister at Mass and to the homebound, altar server, lector, and the Rites of Christian Initiation team member. Jane's parents were very instrumental in collecting generous donations towards the restoration of San Carlos Cathedral in 2008-2009 (under the dedicated leadership of Fr. Peter Crivello) as well as personally donating to the cathedral and other significant ministries. San Carlos Cathedral was Joe and Angelina's second home, as well as their daughter Jane's.

Jane's mother, Angelina, was in the first class to graduate from Monterey Peninsula College and was also the school's first homecoming queen. In her mother's honor Jane has been a member of the MPC Alumni Committee since 2014 and served as co-chair since 2017. (As an adult, Jane enjoyed attending MPC classes.) The MPC Alumni Committee celebrates the success of its student/athletes and fundraises to provide for local senior high school students and continuing MPC students.

Jane is very grateful for her Italian heritage and cherishes her faith, her church community, her loving family and friends. She is who she is today because of all these elements in her life and, of course, God's amazing grace. Jane can easily be described as bright and charming. Her outgoing personality envelops those around her and draws them in. Jane's warmth sets friends and strangers at ease and makes whomever she meets quickly feel like an old friend. Jane was truly humbled to be honored by the Italian Heritage Society.

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