



## Regina M. Barnett

April 14, 1929 - February 6, 2017

Regina Reynolds Barnett, 87, of Aurora, Ill., passed away Monday, Feb. 6, 2017 at GreenFields of Geneva. She was born April 14, 1929 in Gilman, Ill. Regina was a beloved teacher, dress designer, author, lecturer, wife, mother and grandmother. Her fierce independence, love of life and friendship will be missed by all.

After graduating from the University of Illinois with a BFA in 1952, Regina taught art in the Iroquois County public school system for two years before moving to Minneapolis to work as a designer for the Jeanette & Paula Dean dress label. After marrying attorney Joseph H. Barnett in November 1958, she moved to Aurora and continued to work as a dress designer for R&M Kaufmann through the births of their two daughters.

Beginning in the late 1960s through 2010, Regina was deeply involved in the development and expansion of Montessori education in the United States. In 1968, she and her husband, Joseph, became one of the founding families behind the Fox Valley Montessori School. The first of her three books, *Let Out the Sunshine: A Montessori Approach to Creative Activities* was published in 1975 and is still available today. She lectured nationally and internationally for Montessori and didn't "officially" retire until well into her 70s.

Regina is survived by her daughters, Rebecca and Benetta (Keith Kahrs); two grandchildren, Christopher Barnett and Charlotte Barnett-Kahrs; and her brother, Gerald Reynolds. She is preceded in death by her husband, Joseph; her parents, Robert and Julia Reynolds; an infant son, Joseph Stephan

Barnett; and her brother, Robert Reynolds.

Visitation will be held Thursday, March 9, 2017 at St. Peter Roman Catholic Church in Geneva, Ill., from 9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m., followed by Mass at 10:30 a.m. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Regina's name to the Morton Arboretum, the University of Illinois School of Fine and Applied Arts, PBS or the Art Institute of Chicago.

Arrangements were handled by THE DALEIDEN MORTUARY, 220 N. Lake St., Aurora, 630-631-5500. Please visit our interactive website at [www.daleidenmortuary.com](http://www.daleidenmortuary.com) where you may leave condolences for Regina's family.

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Previous Events

### Memorial Visitation

MAR 9. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Peter Roman Catholic Church  
1891 Kaneville Rd.  
Geneva, IL

### Memorial Mass

MAR 9. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Peter Roman Catholic Church  
1891 Kaneville Rd.  
Geneva, IL

# Tribute Wall

JR

“ *rest in peace regina , thanks for being a great cousin*

*jim reynolds*

---

**jim reynolds** - December 27, 2017 at 05:06 PM

MC

“ *Becca and Benetta, I remember your Mother as a gracious, kind woman, mostly from Holly Angels, but also from the couple of years I worked with your sweet, mischievous Dad at PB. May they both Rest In Peace.*

*Mary (Novack) Cherry*

---

**Mary Cherry** - March 05, 2017 at 07:34 PM

BB

*Thanks so much for your kind thoughts and wishes Mary. Love the description of Dad, very funny.*

---

**Benetta Barnett** - March 14, 2017 at 07:00 PM

NH

“ *Regina was a pioneer in multiple ways and a wonderful role model for many of us women in Aurora. We will be ever-appreciative of her dedication, talents, style and poise. We wish her daughters and extended family peace and happy memories of a life well-lived.*

*Nancy Hopp*

---

**Nancy Hopp** - March 05, 2017 at 04:49 PM

BB

*Thank you Mrs. Hopp, it was so great to see you. What a lovely tribute you have written, I am getting all teary eyed.*  
*Bena*

---

**Benetta Barnett** - March 14, 2017 at 07:01 PM

TG

“ *To Becca and Benetta, my sincere prayers for you both as you learn to deal with life without this wonderful lady. I remember the gentleness and respect she had for our children from Holy Angels who were models for her book. I still have my copy and recently looked at it, thinking of her patience and the two of you who were her helpers. Dan Gaudio was one of the lucky chosen ones who hopefully greeted her in heaven when she arrived. Although I will not be able to attend her funeral Mass, I will remember her at Mass that day. Blessings to you both. Terri Gaudio*

---

**Therese A. Gaudio** - March 03, 2017 at 09:47 PM

BB

*Thank you very much Terri, what a wonderful tribute. We appreciate the prayers at mass, so kind of you.*  
*Benetta*

---

**Benetta Barnett** - March 14, 2017 at 07:02 PM

TM

“ *Regina will always be remembered as one who valued and championed the empowerment and growth of children. I am grateful to have known her. My love to those who have loved her--in particular, Becca, CJ, Benna and Charlotte--my love to you all. ❤️*

---

**Tatia McFarlane** - March 01, 2017 at 10:34 PM

BB

*Thank you Tatia, Mom had such a good time in sunny CA with you and your family. Best to all  
Bena*

---

**Benetta Barnett** - March 14, 2017 at 07:03 PM