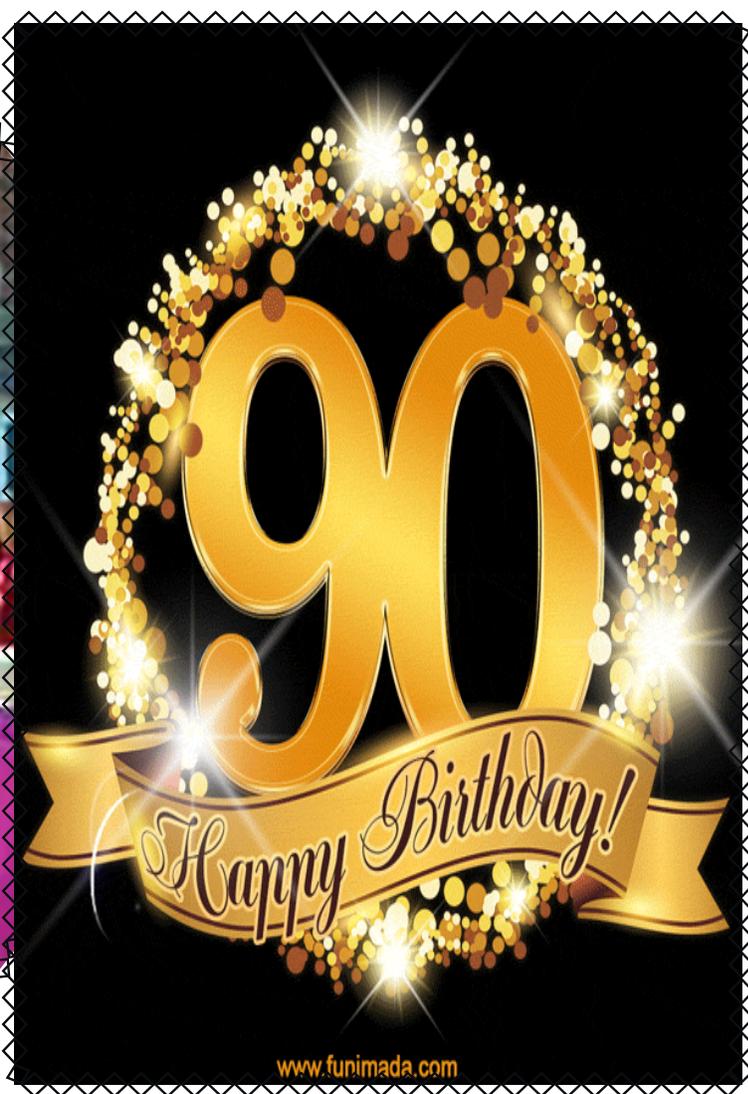


# THE YOUNGEST OF THE “ORIGINAL GANG OF TEN” TURNS 90!

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## Gardner Newsletter



# Beulah Griffes is 90 Years Old!

**H**ow many people do you know share the name “Beulah?!” I only know of one, Aunt Beulah Griffes, the youngest member of “The original Gang of Ten.” She turned 90 this February 11th, and her family and friends sent many best wishes and congratulatory messages upon her reaching this amazing milestone in her life. Although get-togethers and parties have been given short shrift because of the pandemic, there is an abundance of love and good will being extended to Aunt Beulah as she begins her 90<sup>th</sup> decade.

I wonder why Grandma and Grandpa Gardner chose “Beulah” as their youngest child’s name. Does Aunt Beulah herself know why she carries that moniker?

Perhaps we should ask her sometime. She might surprise us with the answer.

To many people, the name “Beulah” conjures up images of a more old-fashioned time in rural America where older southern ladies were caretakers of children and in charge of all domestic chores. Beulah Bondi was an actress of the 1930s and 1940s who played Jimmy Stewart’s mother in four films and was the first person to receive the “Best Supporting Actress Award” when the category was first created.

To go back much further, Biblical research shows us that the old Hebrew word for “Beulah” has to do with marriage and goes way back to the prophet Isaiah when he prophesied that the Children of Israel would finally enter the Promised Land to multiply and prosper. The old hymn “*O Beulah Land, Sweet Beulah Land*” seems to commemorate this promise and later on it became synonymous with “Heaven.” After hearing this song many

times when I was a child, I remember wondering aloud, “Exactly what is ‘Beulah Land’?!”

As a point of fact, though, perhaps Grandma Gardner had a more practical reason to name her youngest daughter, Beulah. Grandma Gardner’s great grandmother’s name was Beulah Parmenter. She was born in 1794 in Sudbury, Massachusetts and died in 1884, just two years before Grandma Gardner was born. Beulah

Parmenter married Solomon Dutton (Grandma Gardner’s great grandfather). And it is through the Dutton line that we trace Grandma Gardner’s lineage to Thomas Dutton who came over from England during pre-revolutionary war times.

The Dutton House is a historical landmark in Sudbury, Massachusetts where



you can visit even today. You can also take a tour of the Wayside Inn where Grandma Gardner’s Uncle Horace was once a caretaker. *The Gardner Newsletter* has published several items about Grandma Gardner’s Sudbury, Massachusetts connections and Uncle

Raymond has researched her roots (and by extension, ours) to pre-colonial America.

We could go on and on about Aunt Beulah’s engaging personality and her endless amount of admirable character attributes that we should all emulate until we actually *do* arrive in “Beulah Land.” I’m thinking there still wouldn’t be enough time to list them all. However, it’s impossible to sing

praises about Aunt Beulah without including all her sisters. The “Gardner Girls” - all six of them - embody and still exemplify what being a spiritual, loving, caring, selfless, loyal, humble, and empathetic human being should and can be.

Some psychology researchers have noted that the bond between siblings could be even stronger than the child/mother bond. There’s no doubt, though, that Aunt Beulah is who she is today because of her parents and siblings (probably like most of us). That’s not to say, though, that she’s not her own unique self. Her wonderfully charismatic children (our cousins for many of you) - Lenny, Sharon, Jay, and Sheryl and her stepchildren, Shirley and Mike, can share stories that affirm Aunt Beulah’s resiliency and strength. I’m hoping they will.

And that’s exactly my point. Don’t be misled by Aunt Beulah’s slight, lithe frame and youthful visage or her calming and mellifluous, dulcet tones when she speaks or sings; there’s a mighty Rock of Gibraltar inside there! I’ve seen it; her children have experienced it; and I hope you will realize and come to appreciate it too as she plunges headlong into her 90’s.

Happy Birthday, Aunt Beulah!



*- Geri Rosser*

**“I’m asking God to show me how I can be a part of healing, helping, and restoring people of color to a place of equality in our society they’ve never truly known or enjoyed.”**

## Here is an inspirational Facebook post from Geri Rosser

ong post warning!

When I was in grade school, my family lived in a little, Christian college town. The home we rented was large and right across the street from the college, so we took in student boarders with our landlord's consent. One of our boarders was an engaging British Guianan woman who loved me like her little sister. While there she started dating a school superintendent from another state who would come and visit occasionally. They both joked with me and made me feel like a part of their soon-to-be family. One day they were going to go into the city nearby to grab some items my friend, Patrean, needed, and I asked if I could go along. They were just a little reticent, and they had good reason. Both of them were black, the city they were going to was in the throes of the mid-60's civil rights protests, and it was one of the hotbeds for brutality against blacks. Being seven or eight and largely insulated from those current events, I had no clue what I was asking. In the end, they reneged and allowed me to go with them.

As we got closer to the city, I heard them debating on the route they should take, with as much trepidation in their voices as I had ever heard before. Again, they should have been fearful, because they were two black people driving into an area where race riots had abounded over

the last few weeks, with a little white girl between them on the bench seat. If the police had stopped them, they might have been accused of kidnapping or something worse. In the end, we were able to get the items needed, and returned home without incident.

That memory has stayed with me over the years, but I never really made the right connection with it until these past few weeks. A friend's article on repentance (Thanks, Alan Scott.), and a sermon preached last Sunday by a local Vineyard pastor that was shared with us have both spoken volumes to me. I've been shocked, saddened, angry, dismayed, heartbroken, and frustrated by a life taken in the name of policing. But I've also been opened up to the injustice that I have not acted upon for so many years, especially after having been made aware of it at such a young age. I need to ask forgiveness for listening to report after report of injustices against my brothers and sisters of other races without acting on that knowledge, to try to change minds and hearts to see everyone as God's creation, worthy of respect and dignity. I'm now asking for that forgiveness. I never realized until the past few weeks the very real fear people of color have to live with every day.

This song has been on my mind and heart for the last two weeks. It has normally been used as an invitation at the end of a church service, but right now it's my prayer. The only place I can go is to my Lord for true forgiveness. But I don't want it to end with the salve of sins forgiven—I'm asking God to show me how I can be a part of healing, helping, and restoring people of color to a place of equality in our society, a place they've never truly known or enjoyed. There are sobering ironies in the lyrics . . . may they speak to your heart as they have mine, and lead us to action. Black Lives Matter!

# Jesus I Come

Out of my bondage, sorrow, and night,

Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come,

Into Thy freedom, gladness, and light,

Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my sickness into Thy health;

Out of my want and into Thy wealth;

Out of my sin and into Thyself,

Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,

Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come,

Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,

Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm;

Out of life's storms and into Thy calm;

Out of distress to jubilant psalm,

Jesus, I come to Thee.



Out of unrest and arrogant pride,

Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come,

Into Thy blessed will to abide,

Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of myself to dwell in Thy love;

Out of despair into raptures above;

Upward for aye on wings like a dove,

Jesus, I come to Thee.

needed return to action.

"It was a relief," said Parenteau. "I got to play with girls I had played with before, and it's a lot of fun and an easy way to get back into it because the season ends a little before soccer tryouts."

As you might have gathered by now, soccer is her first love, and Makenzie elaborated on her journey as a soccer player saying, "I started playing in second or third grade, and I just loved being able to play as a team. It's so competitive and everyone works together, and I love that."

On the field she likes being able to see the direction of where the game is going and she considers herself more of a play-maker and facilitator as opposed to goal scorer per se.

A second year member of the varsity Falcons, Makenzie described what it was like being out on the pitch in 2020.

"It was definitely difficult, but worth it," she said. "I worked with wearing the masks because I wanted to play soccer so badly."

Her soccer coach, Pete Kellaway, talked about Parenteau's work ethic saying, "Mack is a tremendous athlete and always gives 100% to the practice, to the game, or to the day. My favorite quote from Mack is at the end of every practice she always asks, 'Can we practice longer?'" She has tremendous heart and an unquenchable thirst to win. I think if she was playing her grandmother one-on-one in basketball and the game was to 11, she'd want to beat her 11-0 every time and would be mad at herself if she didn't. We are fortunate on the soccer team to have her as a player."



Makenzie spoke of how important athletics have been for her during this time saying, "It has been extremely important. It's such a good way to channel your feelings and it improves your mood. When we couldn't do track or soccer in the spring, I was feeling sluggish and sad; but, once we started even doing the workouts, it improved my mood and I felt better all day."

Switching gears a little bit, Parenteau talked about how this year has gone academically with the combination of remote and in-school learning.

"It's different, but it's better than being full remote. The teachers are working really well with us, giving people second chances, and giving us alternatives if we can't do something at home," she said.

Her favorite classes include an AP government and politics class, as well as health sciences.

Even though she still has two years left at North Country, Makenzie is already setting her sights on a potential nursing career in the future.

As for continuing to play soccer at the collegiate level she says, "It's crossed my mind. I would love to be able to and would be willing to put in the work to play at the college level, but I haven't quite figured it out yet."

As for now, she will continue her workouts with the track team in hopes that she will be able to get out on the track this spring, as well as have another season with the Wildcats

**(Editor's Note:** Perhaps you remember Makenzie Parenteau from the Spring 2020 Gardner Newsletter in which she wrote an inspiring article about her grandparents, Rod and Irene Ames. We always love to hear about folks from Makenzie's generation who are family and friends of the *Gardner Newsletter* subscribers. We're hoping Makenzie will contribute another article soon.)

**See you this Spring!**

### Getting to Know Makenzie Parenteau

By Mike Olmstead, Sports Editor of *The Newport Daily Express*

NEWPORT – With athletics being currently on hold, at least as far as competition goes, we have been talking to coaches and doing features on local athletes, usually seniors.

This week North Country indoor and outdoor track coach Lindsey Lefebvre nominated sophomore Makenzie Parenteau to be our featured athlete, so we sat down with Makenzie and talked about how she got into indoor track, her love of soccer, and a little bit more.

When it comes to track and field, Makenzie was relatively new to the sport when she signed up last winter.

She had attended a few track practices in middle school, but never really thought about jumping in with both feet until the start of the 2019-2020 indoor season. As she explained,

"I had Ms. Lefebvre as my geometry teacher and she had mentioned it because I wanted to stay in shape for soccer season," said Parenteau.

She ended up really digging the sport and the workouts that it provided.

"We do really great workouts, weight

lifting, long distance runs outside, sprints, so it definitely keeps me in shape," she said.

Had there been an outdoor season last spring, she would have continued on her new-found relationship with track, but that, of course, didn't happen.

Unfortunately, she and every other athlete that plays a spring sport did not get to play last spring as Parenteau was looking for other ways to stay active and in game shape.

And just like with what most people had to do for work and school, Makenzie was able to train remotely over the web.

"I was doing Facetime workouts with my Wildcat team," she said. "We would do them almost every day, and we would do them for about an hour and a half and our coach would have us run a mile or two after. The whole team was on the call and we did a variety of workouts. It definitely gave me something to do because I had nothing to do during the day."

When restrictions were eased during the summer, she was able to get back out on the pitch and compete with some of her Falcon teammates in the Northern Vermont Women's Soccer League, which was a much