Each of us can DO SOMETHING to make a difference ... THEY DID!

## The WOMEN who have INSPIRED my life and work

- Christine E. Pawelski, EdD



**Bertha Pawelski** age 91 of Des Plaines, IL passed away February 22, 2017 surrounded by her loving family. Beloved wife of the late Chester for 45 years - Loving mother of 7 children (Christine, Barbara, Corinne, Geralyn, Mark, John & Lynn) - proud grandmother of Amy, Courtney, Matthew, Jessica, Randi, Jennifer, Tommy, and Jimmy. *"She loved and supported her family and cherished the many, many friends in her life. Bertha was a lifelong Cubs fan and lover of butterflies, flowers and angels. We are sure her spirit continues to surround us."* (Memorial service March, 2017, IL)

F R I E N D



She was a ground breaking pioneer in the study, treatment, and habilitation of people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) since the 1970's. Her work helped clarify the constitutional guarantee of education and how it was applied to people with ASD in Ireland. Those efforts live on in the work of professionals she taught and, more importantly, the lives of the children and families she touched in the US and abroad.

She swam, hiked, walked, gardened, surfed, traveled, jumped fearlessly into pools deep in caves. She created art, from watercolor to welded metal sculptures. And she kept supporting each of us to the end saying ... KEEP IT UP ... plant those seeds ! N E I G H B

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"...What are some of the themes of Tommy's life? Her invariable and unflinching political engagement, in the most essential senses of those words, a commitment that defined her life. Her insatiable curiosity about our world, local and global, both its beauties and its horrors. Her watchfulness over and involvement with the lives of family and found family. Her joy, a singular enthusiasm that underlay her familial, social, and professional engagements. May her memory be a blessing."

(Excerpts from her Memorial Program at Morningside Gardens, NY on July 9, 2017)



... and then there were those 3 powerful women from Alverno College in 1969 who turned any student's world upside down which changed forever professionally when many graduated in 1972 ... challenging us to constantly ASK "What's it all about FOR YOU? What do YOU want to learn – SHOW ME...PROVE IT TO ME! Is that the BEST you can do? LOOK AGAIN. MAKE IT HAPPEN!"

## WE EACH HAVE OUR OWN INSPIRATIONS WHO "CALL US" THROUGHOUT LIFE TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!