



## Nancy A. Gardner

March 25, 1948 - September 6, 2020

Nancy A. Gardner, 72, of Blacksburg, passed away peacefully at her home on Sunday, September 6, 2020.

She is survived by her husband, Gene; sister Susan ZurSchmiede; children Jenny Sutphin (John), Dan (Shannon LaSpina), Matt; and five grandchildren.

Nancy worked as a teacher in Montgomery County schools, and as a licensed professional counselor at New River Community Services and in private practice.

Condolences may be expressed online at McCoy Funeral Home. A celebration of life memorial will be scheduled at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her honor to The ALS Association-DC/MD/VA Chapter, 30 W. Gude Drive, Suite 150, Rockville, MD 20850 or online at [webdc.alsa.org](http://webdc.alsa.org). Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

# Tribute Wall

BS

“ Our family met Nancy (and Gene) when we moved to Deer Run 2 1/2 yrs ago. We often said that they welcomed us better than people in our own hometown! They shared a couple small birthday celebrations with us when we knew no one else, and that meant a lot to our little girls. Nancy even gifted them a cozy cupcake blanket that our middle child still sleeps with every night. We were in awe of her determination through her ALS struggles. What a sweet soul!

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**Brittany Smith** - October 31, 2020 at 11:27 PM

JH

“ You help me through so much you was a blessing on earth

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**Justin hunt** - October 23, 2020 at 12:02 AM

BZ

“ When we moved to Deer Run Road, only 24 hours past before we opened the door and the most welcoming couple stood on our doorstep: Gene and Nancy Gardner. They were not just friendly but truly interested in us and making us feel welcome on the hill. I was bowled over by their true generosity of spirit. I was especially touched by Nancy's warm smile and her reassurance she enjoyed company including the company of teens. My daughter was only 14, but she spoke to her as if she were an adult and I wish we had gotten to know her better. Her beautiful spirit lives on. Sending love, Bonnie & Steve

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**Bonnie Zare** - September 20, 2020 at 08:43 PM

DG

“ I would like to have a tally of how many baby blankets, booties and sweaters Nancy knit or crocheted for so many newborns of people she loved so dearly! As friend and sister-in-law of Nancy, my children were the recipients of so many wonderful hand-made gifts that Nancy made with so much love. When our oldest children, cousins Jenny and Christine, were about three years old, Nancy sewed matching 'Holly Hobbie' floor length dresses for them - a creation of art! The girls looked adorable in these dresses that were made with so much love. To the very end Nancy lived by the motto of "Food is Love". In October, 2019, soon after ALS forced Nancy to transition to using the feeding tube as her only source of nutrition, Charlie and I visited with Gene and Nancy for a weekend. Our son and granddaughter from Virginia also joined us for an afternoon and Nancy prepared a wonderful meal of lasagna, salad, bread and an awesome dessert, even though she could not eat a bite of food. It felt a bit awkward until Nancy said something to the effect of "I'm just enjoying watching all of you eat this food!". Spoken of course through her phone. Just one more example of Nancy's desire to serve others with love. As I move through this week, I realize how much I will miss my weekly texts and emails with Nancy. I feel blessed to have had such a wonderful friend and sister-in-law. Rest in peace, Nancy. Dianne

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**Dianne Gardner** - September 12, 2020 at 09:41 PM



“ 16 files added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Nancy Gardner** - September 11, 2020 at 02:22 PM

CG

“ In 1971, my brother and I both married Southern Belles--southern Indiana that is. Dianne and Nancy had met in high school. The rest of the seventies brought us six beautiful children born in “stair step” fashion as well as many visits between Indy and Lafayette and then to the mountains of Virginia.

Nancy and I are extroverts who married two introverts. During our visits, one of my favorite times were early mornings when we chattered away over cups of coffee as Nancy would begin preparing one of her famous breakfasts.

Ever since high school days, I have preferred to be called “Charlie,” but I let Nancy call me “Chuck”-- which she would say with a mischievous grin! Her huge smile always filled the room with love. Even when ALS took away her voice and often crushed her spirit, the outline of her smile remained, continuing to communicate that love to everyone she encountered.

The last time Dianne and I saw Nancy, besides saying, “I love you,” I told her, “You are beautiful.”

Nancy, we feel the pain of your absence beginning with Gene and cascading through your family to countless others. But we also continue to feel the presence of your beautiful love, now not bound by space and time and enfolded in the Great Love that holds us all.

Charlie Gardner (aka “Chuck”)

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Charlie Gardner - September 11, 2020 at 10:05 AM

CG

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Charlie Gardner** - September 11, 2020 at 10:00 AM

CG

*This photo of Dianne and Nancy is from 1972.*

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**Charlie Gardner** - September 11, 2020 at 10:07 AM

KS

“ *Gene -*

*Our thoughts are most certainly with you and the entire family. Susan and I recall fondly the ole MSL/WPI days and hearing stories of your family. Nancy was such a big part of the family and she will be missed. Our deepest sympathy.*

*Kevin Stieper and Susan Bixler*

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**Kevin Stieper** - September 11, 2020 at 06:57 AM

PW

“ How can I begin to recount Nancy’s virtues.

*We moved to Deer Run Road in Blacksburg in 1990 and Nancy and Gene followed a few years later.*

*So, Nancy has been in our life for many years. While I was awed by her love and commitment to her family and profession. It is my interactions with her that resonate with me most.*

*What I remember most are our evening walks on our hill, our enthusiasm for “ dancing with the stars”, our concern for the world, our enthusiasm of home Cooking (which means us eating Nancy’s food), our enthusiasm for crafts and jewelry ( which means me wearing Nancy originals).*

*So, I guess you can get the gist of Nancy. Always tuned in to other people’s needs, always giving of her time and herself. But the single incident I recall the most was her caring nature when we lost our son, Brian, in 2010. Nancy was there when I needed her and knew when to pull back and let us grieve.*

*The angels now have a beautiful sole in their presence.*

*She will always be in my thoughts and memories.*

*With great love and gratitude to an irreplaceable friend.*

*Pamela Weaver*

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**Pamela Weaver** - September 10, 2020 at 11:12 AM

BE

“ Gene: We are holding you and all the family close in our thoughts and prayers. So many wonderful memories of Nancy in Louisville, Lafayette IN and here in Christiansburg.

*Love, Tassy and Bill Eigel*

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**Bill Eigel** - September 09, 2020 at 08:09 PM

NN

“ Nancy was my first friend when I moved to Blacksburg -- and I can't imagine a better one. She and Gene have been in my life for almost 25 years since. Nancy often said that God is love and she was always doing God's work - as a wife, mother, grandmother, counselor, and friend. She put her love and concern for others ahead of herself and always kept track of how others were doing. She was the ultimate hostess. It was impossible to walk into her house, even within days of her death, and not be immediately offered something to eat or drink. Come to think of it, Nancy also proclaimed that food is love! She was an enthusiastic and excellent cook as all who shared a meal with the Gardners can attest. The world and my world is a little less bright without Nancy in it. Nancy, Gene, and family will always be in my heart.

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**Nancy Norton** - September 09, 2020 at 04:16 PM

CS

“ I have so many happy memories of Aunt Nancy...Rich desserts (chocolate!), and birthday cards, and "Virginia is for Lovers". Gardening talk and shared frustration about pesky animals eating the tomatoes. Mostly though when I think about Nancy I remember her big smile and laughter- a visit with Nancy always made us happy. Gene, Jenny, Dan, and Matt: know that my whole family is thinking about you. We wish we could be with you to remember Nancy in person but we are with you in spirit!

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**Christine Seitz** - September 09, 2020 at 03:02 PM

VT

“ *"I will always remember that Beautiful Smile, and Her loving Spirit. So often she would cross my mind and the first thing i could see was that beautiful smile, praying for her was so easy to do , MS. Nancy will be greatly missed. To be absent in this world is to be present with the Lord, The cares of this world are over for Ms. Nancy, no more pain . Rest on Sweet Angel God hands are large enough to hold all that sweetness. Until we meet again.*

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**Valarie Thompson** - September 09, 2020 at 12:58 PM

JG

“ *My aunt Nancy never missed any of our birthdays. My wife, my two boys and I always got a card on our birthday and knew she was thinking of us. Sometimes they were homemade and they were always thoughtful and never a day late. Even when it became difficult for her to type, she still left a message for my wife on Facebook just a few weeks ago on her birthday. It took her a few tries but she was determined. We'll miss the cards and we miss her even more, but we know she's still thinking of us in her sincere and selfless way.*

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**Jon Ray Gardner** - September 09, 2020 at 09:15 AM

NW

“ *Gene, I am so sorry to hear of Nancy's passing. I remember her the most from my early college years at Purdue when you and Nancy would have me over for dinner. It was great to have a home cooked meal! I remember she had a great smile. May all your great memories of her fill your heart with joy. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Nancy Weyl*

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**Nancy Weyl** - September 08, 2020 at 06:28 PM

LH

“ Nancy was one of my first friends in Christiansburg along with others in her neighborhood. Newcomers Club brought us together and we remained friends over the years. Such a sweet and tender heart, plus so much fun. I’m so glad I was able to accidentally see her at the Barter Theater when I first moved back to Virginia. She was so brave about her illness. Always that amazing smile. The world has lost a treasured friend to so many. I’m sure she has been received into heaven with joy. “Well done my good and faithful servant. “. Praying for comfort for her family.

Lynda Hartson - September 08, 2020 at 05:46 PM

KM

“ Nancy was a kind and caring friend. I can still picture her and Gene in our backyard helping us get ready for our son’s wedding. She was always ready to help. We enjoyed getting together for meals and experiencing her great cooking. She will be missed.

Ken McCleary - September 07, 2020 at 10:23 PM

KJ

“ Nancy became one of my first friends when we moved to Blacksburg in 2003. She had such a loving heart and was someone that I could really enjoy talking to. We had a lot of common interests, especially crafts and gardening. She will be greatly missed.

Kathy Jeffers - September 07, 2020 at 06:23 PM

GL

Nancy was a sweet and kind lady. Her courage and positive spirit during her final illness was inspiring. Much heart to Gene and family on this sad occasion.

George Lally - September 07, 2020 at 06:42 PM

CM

*Nancy was such a great friend! She helped me get through my lonely times on the mountain and many times in general. She always had time for a friend! I have many pairs of earrings that she made me which I wear and think of her. I lost a piece of my heart yesterday, all my love to Gene and her family! Love you Nancy, fly high! 💙💜💙💜*

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**Cheri Mahoney** - September 07, 2020 at 09:02 PM

KG

*“ ohhh the tears. I knew her for 20 years and I loved her. I am happy in the thought that Soleil has one of her people with her now. Thank you Nancy for being in this world. Katherine Good, Raleigh, NC*

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**Katherine Good** - September 07, 2020 at 06:08 PM

SW

*“ I had the privilege of knowing Nancy when she practiced at NRVCS. The world has lost an amazing person. She just impacted the lives of everyone she knew with her kindness and compassion and love. She was a special, special woman.*

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**Stephanie Whited** - September 07, 2020 at 02:47 PM

CD

*“ She has been such an integral part of my life in Blacksburg over the last 15 years, both professionally and personally. She shared in love in her words and actions with so many people in our community. It is hard to believe she is gone. Her spirit will remain our hearts.*

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**CC Dehoff** - September 07, 2020 at 02:23 PM

Cecilia  
Madhavar

“ I’ve only had the privilege of knowing Nancy for three years but it sure felt like I’ve known her all my life. Her smiles, kindness and generous spirit will be sorely missed.



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**Cecilia Madhavan** - September 06, 2020 at 09:56 PM

PR

“ Nancy’s gentle warmth and generous spirit will always be with us. Her legacy is woven into our community, our neighborhood, and into our lives. We are better, kinder, more connected people because of her. Alan and I are so grateful to have known her. We send our deepest condolences to her family and friends in this challenging time of transition.

~ Patty Raun

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**patty raun** - September 06, 2020 at 07:26 PM

BR

“ Nancy had a radiant smile, a loving heart, and a soul that shone brightly for all to see. We are all diminished by her passing.

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**Brittany Rose** - September 06, 2020 at 06:07 PM

CS

*Nancy was such a dedicated mother, grandmother, and wife. I always admired her crafting and cooking skills. She cared so much about her family and never knew a stranger. I am so grateful for knowing her and that she and Gene raised such a wonderful, beautiful son who is my son in law. The three beautiful grandchildren, we share, will always remind me of her warmth and goodness. Be in peace, my friend, Nancy. Rest In Peace, and may you be enfolded in God's loving embrace.*

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**Carol La Spina** - September 06, 2020 at 09:40 PM

MN

*Nancy, Gene, and the kids have all been more than just my patients for so many years. The world has lost an angel with Nancy's passing. What a kind, gentle, caring, and loving soul. Everyone who Nancy touched is better off for knowing her, even if it was brief. I truly feel that I have lost a friend and advisor and I will miss Nancy's smile and positivity. My heartfelt condolences go out to Gene, Jenny, Dan, Matt, and their families. May Nancy's memory be a lasting blessing for all to cherish.*

*Miles Newman*

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**Miles Newman** - September 07, 2020 at 09:57 AM

CL

*Nancy has a spirit that will live in my heart and actions. I knew her best through the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Blacksburg, VA. She and Gene are caring and loving people who gave a lot to this community and to the larger community. she struggle mightily through loss of control with ALS yet could dance and smile and ask about others. They welcomed caregivers with an open heart into their home to help. Gene was a problem-solver par-excellance anticipating what may be needed next. They communicated clearly and openly with one another. Thank you for sharing you lives and dying with us.*

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**cynthia luke** - September 07, 2020 at 10:24 AM