



Nancy Francis

May 12, 1932 - July 5, 2024

Nancy Francis passed away while working in her patio garden on July 5, 2024 in Napa Valley, CA, at age 92. She was born in Glendale, CA and was a graduate of Hoover High School. She completed her B.A. at Pomona College. After spending time in Athens, GA and Seattle, WA, as a US Navy military spouse she worked for several years in Palo Alto, CA, to put her husband through law school. Nancy settled back in Southern California, where she raised her three children Kerry (Healdsburg, CA), David (Wooster, OH), and Robin (Napa, CA). She later moved to Oakland to be closer to her daughters, and then to the Meadows of Napa Valley where she lived independently in her final years. She leaves grandchildren Garrett (US Navy, San Diego, CA), Carrington (Bozeman, MT), Isabel (Columbus, OH), Silvia (Oakland, CA), and Lia (San Francisco, CA and New York, NY), in addition to a wide network of friends and extended family. Nancy was known for her ability to keep people together and as a matchmaker of connections. Once someone was in her circle, they were added to her birthday and anniversary address book, which she used to maintain relationships through phone calls, cards, newsletters, and news clippings that she thought would be of interest to the recipient (affectionately called “homework” by her grandchildren). She diligently kept generations of family and friends connected through her annual Christmas letter. Friendships meant a great deal to Nancy. At the recent passing of a dear long-time friend, she remarked “at least I still have the capacity to make new friends.” She was considered

a

second mom by many, and over the years opened her home as a landing pad to many young adults.

She loved to play tennis and was a devoted supporter of museums and theatre. In her middle

years she was a volunteer extraordinaire, dedicating time and energy to the American Field

Service, the Assistance League, the Lanterman House Museum, the Oakland Museum of California, and the Oakland Architectural Society. She also loved to travel, often recruiting friends to accompany her on adventures to far corners of the globe, and sometimes tagged along

with her children and grandchildren on their own escapades.

She had a reputation for hosting exquisite holiday events and meals. She loved to celebrate, and

embraced any chance she could to bring people together. She loved to cook and eat good food

and to drink good wine. She cherished many meals with family and friends throughout her life,

and wished that her life be celebrated with a wine party. Services and a celebration of life will be

planned for a future date. Donations in Nancy's name may be made to a charity of your choice or

one of the following:

Lanterman House

4420 Encinas Drive

La Cañada, CA 91011

<https://www.lantermanhouse.org/>

818-790-1421

Pomona College

333 N. College Way

Claremont, CA 91711

<https://www.pomona.edu/support-pomona>

909-607-6096

Oakland Museum of California

1000 Oak St

Oakland, CA 94607

<https://museumca.org/>

(see donate tab)

510-318-8400

Tribute Wall

MP

“ Kerry, Robin and John,

I loved Nancy very much. She was a great support to me and the Lanterman House as Board President and a devoted volunteer. She would call me often at work after she moved to Oakland, just to ask how my family, the museum, and I was doing.

She was so considerate and kind; always interested in the lives and emotional well being of her friends. Her caring and independence, even as she aged, is a model for me. She was so proud of her children and grandchildren and your accomplishments; I know you will miss her greatly, as will I.

*All my best,
Melissa Patton*

Melissa Patton - July 21, 2024 at 07:27 PM

CK

Kerry, Robin and David - I am sorry to read about your mom. I was afraid she had passed when I didn't received her Christmas card. She was a special neighbor as I was growing up and I know a good friend to mom. Best, Christy Van Rooy Keppel

christy Van Rooy Keppel - January 21, 2025 at 08:09 PM