



# NANCY R. KORDYAK

OCT 8, 1940 - DEC 6, 2008



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# **NANCY R. KORDYAK**

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**O**ur friends and family –

It is with counted blessings I share with you the conclusion of the phenomenal life of Nancy Kordyak – an extraordinary woman who will be so missed by us all.

Born in Loma Linda to Ralph and Hazel Feil, Mom spent her entire life in San Bernardino. Growing up in Muscoy (yes, we will always tease you can take the girl out of Muscoy but not the Muscoy out of the girl), she came to love the piano at a young age, and it carried throughout her lifetime. She was a graduate of San Bernardino High School in 1958 and was lucky enough to attend her 50th high school reunion this October (what a class!). From high school she went on to Long Beach State and by the young age of 21, was hired as an elementary school teacher with the Rialto Unified School District where she spent a 40-year career with another love – children – as a kindergarten teacher and administrator.

Mom brought an incredible level of love, support, and understanding to all her family, friends, those she worked with, and her students. For 46 years, she shared a marriage filled with humor, love, and yes, sometimes feistiness, with my dad, Don, and for 33 years I was truly blessed to have her as my mom. She was a second mom to my husband, Kevin, and a grandmother above all grandmothers to our children, Cameron and Alexandra. We will forever be thankful of Mom's decision to retire so she could be a full-time grandma and the most important teacher in our children's lives. We could not have been any luckier.

May Mom's love for children and music continue to live on in all of us. We invite everyone to Sturges Center for the Fine Arts at 780 North E Street in San Bernardino on Saturday, December 13 at 10:30 a.m. and join us in a tribute fitting for our Nancy K – one filled with music, laughter and love.

To ensure today's children have the same opportunity to appreciate music equal to



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the way her students did, our family requests donations be made to the music program at Clare Cherry School, 3512 North E Street, San Bernardino, California 92405 where children – ages 2 through 6th grade – will continue to learn and experience music as part of their education.

Here's to everyone that helped make Mom's life great – and may we all celebrate knowing she made our lives better.

Always, Carrie Kordyak Gilbreth



## Tribute Wall

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LM

**Lora Zeenath Mann** posted:

Nancy's first year as assistant principal at Fitzgerald Elementary was during my 5th grade year. The principal at the time was Anne Lynn who replaces Robin Valle's position that year, whilst Nancy was hired after Judi Steenson. Nancy was a very sweet lady and I took every chance I had to visit with her on the playground at recess. Just as Mrs. Valles used to do, she would wrap her arm around me while walking with her and always asked how I was. I didn't know until several years ago after moving to Goshen, Indiana and after getting in touch with my former 3rd grade teacher, Kelly Graham that Nancy passed away and had Kordyak Elementary named after her. It is a special tribute and honor to her legacy.

May 13 at 10:57 AM

JE

**John Emerson** posted:

I met Nancy when I was 20 years old and attending University of Redlands. I had the opportunity to start observing a sixth grade class while training to be a teacher. Nancy was a kindergarten teacher at J. P. Kelley in Rialto where I was observing. I played guitar and after I met her, I helped develop the Christmas program for the school with her. What a wonderful person. Because of working with her and being at Kelley before I graduated, I was hired by Rialto to teach without even an interview. I taught 6th grade for three years but in my fifth year there, Nancy, Rhoda Brassfield and I (mainly them) came up with the idea to teach an ungraded primary - open classroom - K-3. What a gift it was team with two of the finest teachers in Rialto. Our program was visited by teachers all over Southern California. I am so grateful for the friendship and opportunity to work with Nancy daily in the classroom. She will always be part of my life. Thank you, Nancy.

March 21 at 11:15 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

It is still hard for me to reckon with the death of Nancy. She was a great friend--we shared life from Sturges 7th grade in Miss Murphy's class through high school and college. She was there for every important event in my life. And what a teacher! She was so talented with her music as well as caring and compassionate spirit. She loved children and they loved her. Judy Price Mercadante, Pat Wood Bobbitt, and I will miss the 4th member of our foursome; we looked so forward to our luncheons, birthdays, and Christmas greetings. Carrie and her family are a living legacy of what Nancy was able to achieve in her lifetime. Sweet memories surround us all. Nancy was truly one in a million and her goodness lives on and reminds us all of what is important in life. ##imported-begin##JoAnn Hunt Papavero##imported-end##

February 5 at 5:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** posted:

It was a joy to see Nancy at our 50th reunion. She shall be missed.##imported-begin##Ken Mummery##imported-end##

January 23 at 5:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Dear Don,I just heard the sad news of your wife's passing. I wish you and yours gods comfort. May your future be filled with all pleasant memories of Nancy. ##imported-begin##Al Merwitz##imported-end##

December 22 at 5:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

I was one of the lucky parents whose children were part of Nancy's educational touch. Being with her at Hughbanks Elementary was a blessing. She was a wonderful role model and example to all. It was also a blessing to watch my daughter Sara sing with Henry Vapa Performing Arts at her Celebration of life. That auditorium was a tribute of who she was, to all who knew her. Thank you Nancy for being a "light " to all who knew you.##imported-begin##Barbara and Frank Horzen##imported-end##

December 15 at 5:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Dear Donald, So very sorry for your loss. May Gods love comfort you and your family. ##imported-begin##Bill & Carolyn Rogers##imported-end##

December 12 at 5:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Carrie & Family, our hearts and prayers are with you all. The few times I met your mom, I was struck by what a radiant beam of light she was and still is as she shines through you and all whom she touched. A big virtual hug to you all.##imported-begin##Mary Baerg##imported-end##

December 11 at 5:00 PM



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**Anonymous** posted:

Ms.Kordyak has always been and will always be my most favorite teacher. I loved her so much, that even after I went on to junior high, and high school, I went back to visit her. She was a wonderful lady/teacher. She will be greatly missed.##imported-begin##Lisa (Finch) Daniels##imported-end##

December 11 at 5:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

I would like to express my deepest sympathy to the family of Nancy Kordyak (aka Mrs. Kordyak). I was one of her first grade students quite a long time ago. Not many teachers have stood out in my mind except for Mrs. Kordyak. She was an extraordinary teacher and a wonderful person. I remember she used to play the piano for us in class as long as we were being good. I'm sure she will be greatly missed by so many people.##imported-begin##Sean Sutherland##imported-end##

December 11 at 5:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

What a genuine and great lady. I missed her when we moved from the neighborhood and will miss her more now. What a beautiful tribute you wrote to her Carrie. My heart goes out to you all.I know she is shining down on all of you.Thoughts and prayers,Terry Creason ##imported-begin##Terry Creason##imported-end##

December 11 at 5:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Carrie...Your Mom was my kindergarten teacher way back in 1967-68. I remember her smile and she was kind and a very special teacher. I was blessed to have her as my teacher because she made school fun. Over the years she and your dad would eat at Nena's Mexican Restaurant and they would see my Mom (she worked there)and they would talk about me (good things of course) May God bless you and your whole family. I'm sure that she was a wonderful Mom and will be truly missed.##imported-begin##Ben Montijo##imported-end##

December 11 at 5:00 PM



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**Anonymous** posted:

I am a classmate of Don's from SBHS of 1953 and was a co-worker of JoAnn Kordyak. We, of the Class of 1953 extend our condolences to all the members of Nancy's family.##imported-begin##Adrienne Ables Philpott##imported-end##

December 11 at 5:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Nancy truly was a remarkable woman. She was admired and respected by all who knew her. She had a wonderful sense of humor, an awesome smile, and an unforgettable laugh. She will be greatly missed and forever loved by all.##imported-begin##Kaye Espinosa##imported-end##

December 11 at 5:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

We are very saddened by the passing of Nancy. She was a great LADY. She will be missed greatly.##imported-begin##Tony and Katie Ankrum##imported-end##

December 10 at 5:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Carrie,What a beautiful and joyful celebration of your mother's life in today's paper. We are saddened by her passing, but we are delighted that she is remembered and revered so deeply by you. Your love for your mother must be one of her greatest legacies.Our Condolences,Jim and Judy Kissinger##imported-begin##Jim Kissinger##imported-end##

December 10 at 5:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

What a wonderful person Nancy was. She was truly blessed with the most pleasant smile and just such a kind soul. She will be missed by all but always remembered in our hearts.Bless you Don, Carrie, Kevin and kids.Love Carol##imported-begin##Carol Kirtland##imported-end##

December 10 at 5:00 PM



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**Anonymous** posted:

A smile is on my face every time Nancy's name is mentioned. Class act and made me laugh all the time. We laughed more than talked at work. We laughed even more outside of work as well.

##imported-begin##John Galenec##imported-end##

December 9 at 5:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

My heart goes out to you all. Nancy was such a beautiful lady, and I enjoyed talking to her each time she came to the salon. She had such great advise for me with raising my children, and I just loved her laugh. We will all miss her at State Street Salon, and pray that your memories, and God's love will help you to heal each day.##imported-begin##Tracy Gossert##imported-end##

December 9 at 5:00 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring NANCY by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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