



Nancy Raye Gilderhus

August 23, 1944 - December 19, 2025

Nancy Raye Gilderhus of Fort Collins, CO died peacefully on December 19, 2025. She was preceded in death by her parents Homer and Lesley Loutzenheiser; sister Jean Mann; and husband Mark Gilderhus. She is survived by daughters Kiki Gilderhus (husband Chris Fisher, daughter Della Fisher) and Lesley Jones (husband Matt, children Jake and Morgan).

Raised in Gothenburg, NE, she graduated from the University of Nebraska. She had a long, successful career as an English teacher in Loveland, CO, first at Bill Reed Middle School and then Thompson Valley High School. She was fiercely intelligent, passionate about books, and she loved literature. Her article "The Art of Storytelling in Leslie Silko's Ceremony" was published in English Journal (1994) and this led to her appearance on NPR's Talk of the Nation to discuss the novel.

Nancy was a joyous, funny presence who valued her family and friends. She was an impeccable hostess and made those around her feel valued and special. As an artist, she created intricate and colorful quilts which expressed her love for the people in her life. She loved her grandchildren, traveling, what she called "good trash" (Judith Krantz, I'm looking at you), Barbara Streisand, the Museum of Modern Art, detective novels, Neal Diamond, Nebraska football, and cooking.

A special thank you to the excellent staff at Centre Avenue Health & Rehab who cared for her.

A Celebration of Life is planned for Saturday, January 24, 2026, 4:00pm at Bohlander Funeral Chapel, 121 West Olive Street, Fort Collins CO 80524.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN **24**. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (MT)

Bohlender Funeral Chapel
121 W. Olive Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Tribute Wall

KG

“ To Kiki and Leslie: Knowing your mother through our mutual friend Bev Schmitt was a gift. Bev's love and devotion to your Mother, Dad, and you girls ran deep. You know that, but I just want to remind you of that treasured friendship. I admired your Mother's spirit, her zest for life, her teaching talents, her laughter, and her devotion to you. I send my love and condolences. Wishing you comfort and peace.

Katrina White Graydon - January 11 at 12:45 PM

JC

“ Nancy and Mark were so welcoming to me when I arrived at TCU; they hosted any number of gatherings that made the department feel like family. She was wise and fierce and funny; I always admired her strength and generosity.

Jodi Campbell - January 05 at 04:00 AM

CH

“ Nancy took me under her wing when I moved to TX. We were both Huskers and took a liking to each other instantly. She was generous and kind and talented and lovely. I will miss her so very much.

Charlotte Hogg - January 04 at 07:59 PM



“ Nancy and Mark were the highlight of my grad student days at TCU. Two of the kindest, most generous people I ever knew. I still quote them both in my history classes. Forever grateful!

Bart Pointer - January 03 at 11:08 PM

CP

“ I only knew Nancy when she lived at Centre Avenue. As a charge nurse there I got to know her by taking her back upstairs after she had her meals downstairs. Over time those elevator rides were filled with laughter. After I left Centre Ave I still would visit Nancy. She was interested in my life and made me feel special. I can only imagine the impact she had on her students. I will miss Nancy and the laughs we shared.

carol peacock - December 31, 2025 at 12:10 PM