



Nancy Otis Porter

June 27, 2016

Nancy Otis Porter, 68, passed away peacefully from cancer on Monday June 27, 2016 surrounded by her family.

Nancy was born in 1948 in Manchester, New Hampshire, the daughter of the late Edith Fulde and Gordon M. Otis. The family moved to Lancaster in 1952. Nancy was a graduate of Lancaster Country Day School, Centenary College and the University of Denver. After college graduation, Nancy worked at the Home for Little Wanderers in Boston, Massachusetts.

In 1972, she married Frederick U. "Fritz" Porter of Essex, Connecticut at First Presbyterian Church in Lancaster.

For many years Nancy was a lower school teacher, substitute teacher and volunteer at Lancaster Country Day School.

Nancy was a dedicated wife and mother. She was best known for her consistent optimism and care for family and friends. She always offered an ear to listen, a shoulder to cry on and an encouraging voice. Her infectious enthusiasm lifted many spirits for a long time.

Nancy's late twin brother, Gordie, introduced her to Martha's Vineyard which became a passion for the rest of her life. The natural beauty of the island attracted her. She and her family enjoyed many summers at their home "We

Did It” with a warm community of friends and loved ones.

Nancy was a member of First Presbyterian Church Lancaster where she served as a Deacon. She also served on the board of the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster as events chair.

She was preceded in death by her brother Gordon M. Otis, Jr. She is survived by her husband Fritz; her son Fritz and his wife Mary Margaret of Charlotte, North Carolina, and their sons Hill and Mason; her son Colin and his wife Elizabeth of Boston, Massachusetts, and their son Colin. She is also survived by a sister, Priscilla “Pril” Scudder of Annapolis, Maryland and many beloved nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Service to celebrate Nancy’s life will be held on Wednesday, July 6, 2016, at First Presbyterian Church, 140 East Orange Street, Lancaster, PA 17603 at 11:00 a.m. A reception will follow the service to greet the family. The family will also receive friends on Tuesday, July 5, 2016 at The Groffs Family Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc., 528 West Orange Street, (corner of W. Orange & Pine Sts.), Lancaster, PA 17603 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Burial will be private at the family’s request.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Nancy’s memory to the Historic Preservation Trust, 131 North Prince Street, Lancaster, PA 17603 or First Presbyterian Church of Lancaster.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **5**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

The Groff's Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc
528 W Orange St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 394-5300
admin@thegroffs.com
<https://thegroffs.com/>

Memorial Service

JUL **6**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
140 East Orange Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Tribute Wall



“ *Nancy Otis Porter*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *Dear Fritz and Colin,
I will always fondly remember Nancy from our times together at the Janus School. She and I with others began the Janus Parents Association to support this school that we both felt strongly about. It was a pleasure knowing her.
My thoughts and Prayers to you all
Wendy Hershey*

Wendy Hershey - July 06, 2016 at 02:21 PM



Hi Wendy, believe it or not. I'm seeing this for the first time. I didn't even realize there were comments here. Thank you so much for your kind words about my mother! Janus is some of the best memories of mine and it was so nice to have my mom be part of it. Thanks again for your kind words and hope you and your family are doing well!

Colin Porter - December 03, 2025 at 06:05 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Mrs Rentz's First Grade, LCDS, 1954*



Hal Dunlap - July 03, 2016 at 02:29 PM

HD

*First Row, Libby Slaymaker, Stefan Latshaw, Hal Dunlap, David Holly, Nancy Otis
Middle Row, Susie Ashbey, David Briggs, Janie Chafee, Genevieve Edwards, Steve Musser, Damaris Daffin
Last Row, Connie Dyall, Bruce Mann, Mrs Rentz, Wendy Holden, Gordie Otis*

Hal Dunlap - July 03, 2016 at 02:34 PM

LS

Oh, Hal!! Thanks for finding and posting this wonderful picture!!

Libby Steckler - July 05, 2016 at 08:21 PM

LS

*Dear Fritz and family--I am devastated not to be there tomorrow to be with all of you--to see the boys--now grown--and their boys, all of whom Nancy loved so very, very dearly. I feel I have known Nancy most all of my life. I walked to school daily with Gordy and Nancy. I loved their dog Sparky and their Mom, Mrs. Otis. We all just grew up together. Time and circumstance have kept us separated physically for many years--but our hearts and souls bonded so very long ago. We had and have forever, the bonds of friendship forged in childhood--never to be forgotten. Nancy will never be forgotten by anyone who knew her. Don and I send our love and deep sorrow at her loss--though, she cannot be lost but grow more dear every time we think of her.
With love--Libby and Don Steckler*

Libby Steckler - July 05, 2016 at 08:30 PM

HD

I forgot about Sparky! Addendum to photograph caption: Not present, Sparky, the Otises' dog, whose attendance was very sporadic.

Hal Dunlap - July 06, 2016 at 01:09 PM

BM

So sorry to hear this Fritz. Hope you and your family are well. Enjoyed visiting for 40 years.

Bruce Mann - August 14, 2016 at 11:21 PM

CK

“ Fritz, and family,
Our prayers and thoughts are with you. We remember her well,
always supportive of her family and friends. I remember her coming
to all of Fritz's baseball games, and taking care of the father.
Craig and Linda Kirchoff

Craig Kirchoff - July 02, 2016 at 05:31 AM

RH

“ Dear Fritz and family. Nancy will always light in our lives and work at
the Trust and in community. She leaves a fine legacy for us to
contribute to by sharing memories of her commitment to positive
change. May you all find strength and her soul be at peace. Randy
Harris.

Randy Harris - July 02, 2016 at 12:36 AM

PG

“ Dear Fritz, Fritz, Colin and your families,

I have such wonderful memories of Nancy from our days teaching together in Kindergarten at LCDS. When she brought baby Fritz to show the children and told them his name was Fritz, Timmy Groff expressed major disappointment. "You should have called him Fonzie," he said. Her face lit up; she smiled and shared one of her heart-felt infectious laughs. Seems everyone approved of baby Colin's name -- no TV character suggestions when she brought him in for show and tell.

*What a woman! Nancy's compassion and friendship touched my life in many ways, leaving me enriched for having had the experience of working beside her as we cared for young children.
With much love to you all at your time of loss,*

Paula Bresler Graham

Paula Graham - July 01, 2016 at 11:36 AM

PG

Oops, my mistake. . . think Timmy's last name was Watt, not Groff.

Paula Graham - July 01, 2016 at 12:00 PM

AR

“ Dear Colin, I am truly sorry to hear of the loss of your mother Nancy Otis Porter. Please accept our condolences and may our prayers help comfort you and hasten the journey of her soul to Heaven.

Ada Reiter and the NETA team Boston

Ada Reiter - June 30, 2016 at 02:11 PM



JW

“ Dear Fritz and family, we sadly say good bye to a long time friend who raised her children at the time of ours. We have always known her warm smile and appreciated Nancy's interest in all that surrounded her.

Our prayers and sympathies are with all of your family in this time of loss. We can only take comfort knowing she is in a better home now and free from pain.

Judy and Paul Ware

Judy Ware - June 29, 2016 at 07:34 PM

JF

“ Dear Fritz, Colin and Fritz,
Nancy was a gift to us all. Her sweet nature was an inspiration. She is missed!

You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Jo Anne Farley

Jo Anne Farley - June 29, 2016 at 07:24 PM

LK

“ Fritz and Colin and Fritz -- There was no one who did better at making everyone around her happier for her presence. What a wonderful woman. We are very glad we got to know her. Larry Keating

Larry Keating - June 29, 2016 at 11:50 AM

WH

*Dear fritz And children..
HOW fortunate I was to share a wonderful childhood with Nancy and Gordon and our school friends. She was a darling girlfriend thru college. Our many memories and laughs I pass, on to Fritz, a stalwart husband. FEW friends create history this special. In sadness and love,
Wilsie*

Wilsie hartman - June 30, 2016 at 04:36 PM

LW

*Fritz and family,
Having only recently learned of Nancy's passing, we are so sorry that we were not able to pay our respects to your family earlier. I know Rocky was so upset because he has kept in touch with you and so enjoyed hearing stories of Nancy and your family. I knew Nancy as an extremely positive and gracious woman. Her beautiful smile is captured in her picture here. We always loved your boys and her love for them was unconditional. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. With sympathy and with the hope and faith, Rocky and Linda Watson*

Linda Watson - September 08, 2016 at 05:02 PM