

NANCY LOUISE RENICK

March 27, 1933 - July 18, 2026

Nancy Renick, 93, a Grosse Pointe resident for over 65 years, died July 18, 2026. Nancy was preceded in death by her husband, John "Jack"; her parents, Amedeo and Elvera Masi; a brother, Fredrick; and a grandson, Stephen Renick Durand. She is survived by her daughters, Ellen (Peter) Durand and Elizabeth (Troy) Bracher, grandsons, Robert (Melanie) Durand, Jack Bracher, Christian Bracher, and George Bracher, and one great-grandson, Bennett Stephen Durand, as well as her brother Richard (Betty) Masi and her sister Louise (Charles) Ratonyi, three nephews, and two nieces.

Nancy was born on March 27, 1933, in Erie, Pennsylvania, the oldest of four children. The family soon moved to Dearborn, Michigan, where Nancy graduated from Fordson High School and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Wayne State University.

While attending Wayne State, Nancy met the love of her life, Jack Renick, and they married on June 15, 1957, beginning a partnership built on love, faith, and family that would inspire all who knew them. Nancy began her teaching career at Clara B. Ford Elementary School in Dearborn, Michigan, and later at Barnes Elementary School in Grosse Pointe Woods. Nancy's love of working with children, combined with her entrepreneurial spirit, inspired her to start the Sunningdale Nursery School at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, where she and Jack continued to be parishioners for over forty years. In 1958, Nancy helped to establish the Country Club of Detroit Day Camp that she co-directed for over 30 years, eventually handing the reins over to her daughter, Ellen.

Nancy's entrepreneurial ambitions, combined with her love of children, fueled her career move to becoming a retail store owner, opening the Ten O'clock Scholar in the Village of Grosse Pointe and launching her reputation as the "Toy Lady" to generations of families in the Grosse Pointes. After ten years, she reimagined the business and opened The Village Toy Company, this time in partnership with her daughter, Ellen, that lasted 25 years. For Nancy, the toy business was never simply about selling toys—it was about creating wonder, encouraging imagination, and making childhood a little more magical.

Throughout her adult life, Nancy was an active and faithful member of St. Michael's Episcopal Church and Christ Church Grosse Pointe. Nancy dedicated herself to serving others both in Grosse Pointe and the Detroit area, generously volunteering her time, creativity, and boundless energy to the St. John Hospital Fontbonne Auxiliary, Libre, and serving as president of Ibex.

Above all, Nancy treasured her friends and family. She loved playing bridge and mah-jongg, regularly attending the Michigan Opera Theater and Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and traveling the world with Jack, her favorite trips being to see family in Italy.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, October 2nd, at 4:30 pm, at Christ Church of Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd. Grosse Pointe Farms. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Christ Church Grosse Pointe Carstens Literacy Initiative:

<https://christchurchgp.org/in-memoriam>