



## Nancy Emma Ray Pawel

February 14, 1928 - July 15, 2021

Nancy Emma Ray Pawel passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on Thursday, July 15, 2021 at the age of 93. Nancy's family will miss their Oma dearly and will cherish her memory always.

Nancy was born in Boston, Massachusetts on Valentine's Day, February 14, 1928 to Anna Urban and Carlon Weston Ray. Her family descended from both Myles Standish and John Alden, passengers on the Mayflower. Graduating with a degree in Chemistry and a Minor in Art History from Wellesley College, she was also known around campus for her "joie de vivre" and later proudly giggled about her picture in a swimsuit in *Cosmopolitan*. After graduation, she worked at Tufts University Medical School, and in 1951 in Newton, MA she married Thomas Ernst Pawel, who she had met a few years earlier at a Harvard Business School mixer. Together, they moved to San Antonio where she did biochemical research at the School of Aviation Medicine, which at the time was at Randolph Air Force Base.

After quitting her job to become a mother, she started taking art classes at the McNay Art Institute where, given her chemistry background, she became fascinated with fired glazes for her stoneware and porcelain creations. In 1969, Nancy was offered an Art faculty position at University of the Incarnate Word (UIW), where she taught beginning and advanced ceramics for 32 years and where she studied for and received her Master's Degree. Nancy's basement "Pot Shop" was a special place. She loved her students both young and old. She thrived mentoring them in art and life, and always loved seeing

them long after graduation.

Nancy is widely known for her collectible castles, ladies, celadon bowls as well as her public commissions which could be viewed across the area at the San Antonio Botanical Center, Hilton Palacio del Rio, Saint Mary's Hall, Kelly Air Force Base, two Morningside Ministries Communities, including the Chandler Estate, the Natatorium at UIW, and several large Texas ranches. She won numerous awards and participated in many juried shows, including The Taipei Cultural Center in Taiwan. Her awards included San Antonio Express News "Outstanding Woman in Art" and "Artist of the Year" by the San Antonio Art League, as well as the featured artist of the National Council of Jewish Women and recipient of the San Antonio Conservation Society Lynn Ford Craftsman Award. She was honored to be selected and participated with other clay artists from around the world in the First International Ceramic Artist Workshop in Ichon, South Korea and was a delegate to the World Craft Council in Kyoto, Japan.

In addition to her career in art which has spanned over six decades, Nancy along with her husband Tom, founded Concord Oil Company in 1956. In 1986 Concord donated 1,500 acres in West Bexar County to Texas Research & Technology Foundation (TRTF) to build the Texas Research Park. The endowment funding TRTF operations is now named the Nancy & Tom Pawel Endowment.

Nancy enjoyed people and parties. She was a member of many civic, social and art organizations throughout her lifetime, including the Junior League, Wellesley Club, Forum, Timely Topics, History Club, San Antonio Country Club, Argyle, San Antonio Art League and San Antonio Potters Guild.

Special thanks and recognition are extended to Cristina, Blair, Lena, Michael, and niece Caroline whose support has been so critical in these past few years. The Pawel family are thankful for wonderful caregivers, most recently Debbie, Jennifer, Letty, Nora, Lisa R., Millie and Casey. The advice of Dr. Scott Campbell and Nurse Lisa was so important and gave us great comfort. We are appreciative of Peter Stainken who kept the house humming, and so

indebted to so many others. It truly has taken a village.

Nancy was preceded in death by her husband of almost 53 years, Tom Pawel.

We believe they are now dancing together again as they so loved to do.

Nancy is survived by her three daughters and five grandchildren; daughters,

Margaret Pawel and husband Tom Stewart, Elizabeth (Lisa) Pawel and

husband Rick Schlesinger, and Charlotte Pawel; grandchildren, Zachary

Pawel Schlesinger, Margaret Elizabeth (M.E.) Jonas, William James Jonas,

IV, Myles Standish Jonas and Alden Anderegg Jonas. Nancy is also survived

by her amazing Concord/Newton family.

After a private interment, a Memorial Service to celebrate Nancy's Life will be

held at St. David's Episcopal Church at 1300 Wiltshire on Saturday, August 14

at 2 pm with a gathering following at a different location to be announced later.

The Service will be livestreamed at St. David's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/stdavidschurchandschool](http://www.facebook.com/stdavidschurchandschool).

In lieu of flowers, suggested contributions in Nancy's memory may be made to

Mission Road Ministries (8706 Mission Road, San Antonio, TX 78214), St.

David's Episcopal Church (1300 Wiltshire, San Antonio TX 78209), San

Antonio Potter's Guild (c/o Pamela Barclay, 246 Brightwood Place, San

Antonio TX 78209), or the charity of your choice.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

AUG **14**. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. David Episcopal Church  
1300 Wiltshire  
San Antonio, TX 78209

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Nancy Emma Ray Pawel.*



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August 13, 2021 at 01:51 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Nancy Emma Ray Pawel.*



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August 13, 2021 at 01:13 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to the family of the loss of a wonderful woman . It was a pleasure to work for Nancy and care for her til the good Lord took her home . Nancy will be thought of often and missed always .*  
*Jennifer Paredes*

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**Jennifer Paredes** - July 29, 2021 at 12:51 PM

DS

“ I taught at UIW from 1987-95. During that time in the English dept, I began visiting the Pot Shop and being mentored by Nancy in mixing glazes--she insisted we learn to do that--and learning the craft of making ceramics on the wheel and by hand. It was, in short, my therapy after teaching all week. We got to know one another very well, along with Eloise and Bill; the Pot Shop was a watering hole for people thirsty for conversation and creative practices. I did this for several years. It was a joy to be with Nancy, to listen to her stories and to be mentored by one of the finest teachers at the University. What a joy she was.

*Dennis Patrick Slattery, Ph.D. Distinguished Emeritus Professor at Pacifica Graduate Institute in Santa Barbara. I live in New Braunfels.*

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**Dennis Patrick Slattery** - July 23, 2021 at 03:14 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Nancy Emma Ray Pawel.*



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July 20, 2021 at 12:04 PM

WA

“ *Most sincere condolences to the family, very tough to lose a parent! You were blessed with parents that were top notch, and I hope you will cherish your memories of them, and how much they loved you. Sympathetically yours, Bill Askins*

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**William Askins** - July 20, 2021 at 11:44 AM

CC

“ Catherine Ciarrocchi lit a candle in memory of Nancy Emma Ray Pawel



Catherine Ciarrocchi - July 18, 2021 at 04:00 PM

CC

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Catherine Ciarrocchi - July 18, 2021 at 10:32 AM

CC

Nancy Pawel demonstrating throwing techniques to student Catherine Ciarrocchi, Pot Shop, UIW - 1987.

Catherine Ciarrocchi - July 18, 2021 at 10:35 AM

CC

Nancy's generosity, guidance, and spirit empowered our creative energy down in Pot Shop at UIW. It's where I felt most at home as a student and some of my fondest memories are from her classes and life experiences there. Thank you Nancy and blessings to all of her dear family.

Catherine Ciarrocchi - July 18, 2021 at 10:43 AM

LH

It was a honor and privilege to work for you Mrs.Oma.Pawel. Wish I could have known you much earlier.RIP 🙏❤️✝️

Laticia. Hays - July 18, 2021 at 02:28 PM

DB

*As a Wellesley classmate who knew and admired Nancy for 70+ years as a non-stop dynamo and paragon of accomplishments, I send deepest sympathy to her three girls and their families at this sorrowful time.*

*Dr. Gretchen Rous Besser, 1949 VP/Secretary*

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**Dr. Gretchen Rous Besser** - July 23, 2021 at 11:37 AM