



Mary Sexton Nick

June 10, 2022

Mary Sexton Nick passed away June 10, 2022. She was born in Marshfield, WI, the first of six children of Marianna Sexton Look and John Henry Look, Jr. She lived a charmed childhood on Fond du Lac's Cottage Avenue- playing kick the can on this street's "safe" one-way block; cutting through Coon's back yard to shop at Moses' Meat Market; ice skating at McDermott Park; attending Sunday Mass at St. Agnes Hospital's old chapel rather than her "home church"; and, of course, summers at Lake de Neveu.

After high school graduation, she attended both Alverno, and St. Norbert Colleges. In 1968 she was married at St. Mary's Church in Eden, WI.

Despite Mary's vow to never return to Fond du Lac after high school, she decided to "bloom where you were planted"- and bloom she did. She returned to Fond du Lac in 1978 to raise her three children in the "GreenHouse" on North Park Avenue. The house was known for flying seasonal flags and the many garden paths on the property.

With her children in school and doing well, Mary enrolled in the nursing program at Marian College. She graduated in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.

In 1993 she furthered her education through a St. Agnes Hospital scholarship to attend Emory University's Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing Education Center in Atlanta. Her skills gained through this course enabled her to best assist her patients in achieving their goals of ostomy self-management and wound healing. She was proud to be on the staff of St. Agnes' Wound

Clinic and enjoyed mentoring young nurses in dealing with/managing what she referred to as the “4 Ps” in this specialty area: Puke, Poop, Pee & Puss. Her excellence in nursing practice was recognized in 2005, with her receiving the “Nightingale Award” sponsored by Affinity Health System.

Away from work there was: “Livre-ated Ladies”-a book club she belonged to for 35 years (though she freely admitted to never having “read” a single book during that time). Then there was the: Domino Dolls; Bunco Babes; PEO Chapter K; St. Paul Cathedral's Mouse Factory; and the Lake de Neveu Girls annual get together- with the latest being a collective 75th Birthday celebration in 2021.

Her passion for travel led her near and far- She had two opportunities to travel to Egypt by cruise ship. The first cruise included stops in The Holy Land (no- not the Mt. Calvary area); the second being the ill-fated Covid Nile River Cruise in 2020 where, miraculously, she was of the select few on the trip that didn't contract the virus.

Her travels inspired much of her home's sense of style: Be it oyster shells hauled back from Savannah GA; historic bricks stolen from Old Town in Alexandria, VA; or “borrowed” plant clippings (possibly from the garden of someone reading this)- they all ended up gracing her beautiful Secret Garden and were featured more than once on FdL community Garden Walks. Many, many, many Hawaiian Decorating/Lifestyle books traveled back with her from her numerous and treasured trips to our 50th state. These books also influenced her home's gracious sense of style (So- Anyone with a coffee table that's in need of a nice book?).

Her passion for cooking was enjoyed by all who knew her. While New Orleans-style cuisine centers around the well-known “Holy Trinity” of onions, celery & bell peppers; Mary's Holy Trinity was- cream, butter & cheese: Yes- what's not to like?!?

A final passion (weakness) of hers was animal rescue. The dumbest dogs and smartest cats- she adopted and loved them all.

She treasured her friendships- many lasting 75 years- including: grade school,

neighborhoods, nursing associates, faith communities, and especially her cousins in the Snarski, Olson, Sexton, Farley, and King families who Mary loved dearly. She was a dedicated volunteer for the needy, hungry, and homeless in her community: A lifetime of love and commitment.

She is preceded in death by both her parents, King Tutankhamum, George Washington, and Queen Victoria. She is survived by her siblings: John (Kathleen), David (Susan), Peter (Jean), Paul (Diane), and Anne. She is further survived by her children: Brian (Laurie), David (Maggie), Catherine (Joseph) Leventhal, and six grandchildren: Morgan (Jennings) Erickson, Mackenzie (Bailey) Nick, Marianna, Benjamin, & Emily Leventhal, and Marena Nick.

SERVICE: Memorial service will be held on Thursday, June 30, 2022 at 10:00 AM at Hope Lutheran Church, 260 Vincent Street, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Memorials may be directed to
Lake de Neveu Preserve, Inc.
N5289 Club de Neveu Dr.
Fond du Lac, WI. 54937

The hardship of Christian life is temporary; the reward of Christian life is Eternity.

Previous Events

Service

JUN **30**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Hope Lutheran Church
260 Vincent St
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Tribute Wall

AF

“ Amy Frigo sent a virtual gift in memory of Mary Sexton Nick



Amy Frigo - January 25, 2025 at 11:30 PM

AF

I met Mary for the first time in 1999 when I was hospitalized at St. Agnes hospital in FdL with gang green in my left foot. I have to admit that I was a bit intimidated by Mary at first but that didn't last long.

As she was assessing my wound, I asked her what she was in charge of because I realized she wasn't just an RN. She replied she was in charge of the "Four P's." I then asked Mary what that was and she quickly said "pee, poo, puke, and puss." I started to laugh and Mary looked up at me and I looked right at her with a big smile on my face and said "You need a new hobby!" Mary and I both started laughing and we hit it off right then.

The two and a half weeks I was in the hospital I had the pleasure of getting to know this amazing woman.

Mary was intelligent, interesting, funny, caring, and giving. I am so blessed to have had Mary Nick, several times as a wound nurse and learned so much from her over the years.

There will NEVER be another Mary Nick, but her legacy will live on in the hearts of anyone who was fortunate enough to have had the blessing of knowing Mary.

May God bless you Mary.

Amy Frigo - January 26, 2025 at 12:39 AM

JB

“*Mary was truly a special and unique lady. A skilled wound care nurse remembered by many patients and their families over the years and her skills and knowledge missed when she finally retired. A lot of fun to be around and missed by many. Peace and comfort be yours Mary. My sympathy to her family.*

June Bahr - July 25, 2022 at 02:37 PM

NB

“*Please accept our deepest condolences . We were privileged to eat Mary's delicious meals at the lake and to tour her whimsical and enchanting garden. Mary seemed invincible. What a life well lived!*

Nadine and Randy Borngraeber

Nadine Borngraeber - June 30, 2022 at 02:04 PM

CA

“*Dear, dear Mary. She & I became friends in our “work-world” at Agnesian. Following retirement, we reconnected on a Walleye Weekend when she hollered my name across a busy road of attendees and we talked for probably 1/2 an hr catching up. Visits to her beautiful garden, breakfasts at Panera (she loved the spinach soufflet) and phone calls ensued. As her illness proceeded, she wanted to be sure I called her before I left for the winter & as soon as I got back. Last year I received a touching card thanking me for our friendship. That’s Mary! Your faith was an inspiration, my friend. I wish I had taken a picture of the tattoo on your foot—the one that reminded you when you looked down at it each morning that you were a child of God!*

Sincere sympathy and comfort to all the family. Your mom, sister, grandmother was so loved and cherished by all who knew her.
Cathie Aschenbrenner

Cathie Aschenbrenner - June 30, 2022 at 12:17 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mary Sexton Nick.*



June 29, 2022 at 01:48 PM



“ *Ever Upward Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Sexton Nick.*



June 29, 2022 at 01:47 PM



“ *Mary was a constant in my life every summer from when I first met her as a child (at age 9 or 10). We spent our summers at Lake de Neveu (I was from the Chicago area) which was an idyllic and magical place. Mary’s honesty, sense of humor, and spirited personality made her a unique and special friend. We lost contact for some years after college but renewed our friendship in recent years when Mary organized a yearly “lake girls reunion.” The lost years seemed to disappear as we visited her both at her home in Fond du Lac and at her sister Anne’s at the lake. She had a lovely garden and shared special family recipes during these cherished get-togethers. I feel blessed to have had Mary in my life and will always remember her kindness, her wit, and her love of life.*

Barbara (Renz) Patterson

Barbara Patterson - June 25, 2022 at 10:27 PM

KM

“ Dear Look cousins, my heart goes out to you all and to Mary's children and grandchildren. I have many sweet childhood memories of playing with Mary at summer cottages and at your family home on Lac de Neveu. Less memories after we all grew up and moved further away with our own families, but the few times I did spend with Mary when we were adults, I was struck by her honesty, her caring for others, her generous spirit, and her incredible creativity. Happily, I was once able to visit her garden and home and be treated to her warm hospitality. May your happy memories ease your grief in thi (s time of loss.
Kristen Murtaugh (Krissie Oson)

Kristen Murtaugh - June 23, 2022 at 03:28 PM



“ Rays of Light Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Sexton Nick.



June 22, 2022 at 01:18 PM

MW

“ was blessed to have Mary in my RISEN Group. Enjoyed the many times we met after the program ended.
God Bless

Mary Willis - June 19, 2022 at 12:07 PM

NP

“ *Such fond memories of Mary, where we girls spent carefree summers at Lake deNeveu. I loved her honesty, and you always knew where you stood with Mary. We reconnected many years later, and I'm so thankful we did. Mary loved being our hostess, cook and entertainer. I never knew someone who loved life as much as she did. I miss her so much.*

Nancy Prillaman - June 17, 2022 at 11:58 AM

TM

“ *Dear Mary, My most heartfelt blessings to you in heaven. Thank you for all you did for others in need! Thank you for sharing your home and garden with the community. Blessings to you and your family.*
Terry Mabee

Terry Mabee - June 16, 2022 at 10:41 PM

NH

“ *I have been blessed to have been your friend
There will never be another Mary !! You were unique in so many ways. I will treasure the gifts you have given me especially your friendship.
Rest In Peace. You truly will be making the garden in heaven, Heavenly ! You will be missed* 💕💕



Norlene Haase - June 16, 2022 at 06:43 PM

MB

“ *Laurie and family, we are so sorry for your loss.*
Jim and Mary Blank

Mary Blank - June 16, 2022 at 06:09 PM

JG

“ To Mary, a fabulous gardener, cooker and straight shooter. I'm remembering the large croquet set made from bowling balls on your front lawn during a special garden tour years back. Thank you for the artfull inspiration. Juli

Juli Garton - June 16, 2022 at 05:36 PM

JV

“ Fly high Mary. Thanks for your friendship, and all the laughs



Julie Van Vleet - June 16, 2022 at 04:06 PM