



**Nancy Witt Mulick**  
1946-2020  
Joyous; Artist, Teacher,  
and  
Mother

Dear Friend,

My connection with Nancy has always been through Barn Studio of Art functions along with some of our CU 'funraisers.' No word would fit both organizations' events better than 'funraisers.' 'Joyous' is a term that describes Pat Vanaman Witt and her two daughters Nancy and Carole; they have embodied the 'Vanaman Gal' delight in all things creative, dubbed The Art Spirit. When they hold court, their giggling is a package deal of infectious joy. Each has her own unique laugh. Nancy's airy chuckles were often followed by a breathless little sigh, that just started the engine of laughter all over again.

The connection between Pat and her two daughters projects unity. Both Nancy and Carole clearly idolized and embraced their mother's devotion to the "Art Spirit." This talented trio, especially in recent years, has invested their talents in the transformation of the Barn Studio from a business to a nonprofit institution. The few conversations that I had with Nancy this past year were about what projects she was considering for growing the appreciation of the Maurice River through what has become known as the Maurice River School of Art. The entire community of 'Barnies' has been inspired to

raise the same mainsail to perpetuate the Barn for future generations of artists. The trio's enthusiasm has played the primary role in creating that community energy.

Nancy always seemed to be filled with joy but she never lacked focus. You could see in her eyes and manner her ability to pause and hone in on a topic that demanded attention, a characteristic that is common to many excellent teachers like herself. Share joy and enthusiasm but never neglect to zero in on the subject with precision. She also sought and found accomplished artists to instruct at the Barn and perpetuate its future.

Her continual aura of warmth is what I, and so many others, will always remember. Nancy stayed connected to the friends of her youth and the extended family of the Barn. She always inquired about how the members of your family were doing. And she listened thoughtfully to people's responses. She also had the spicy sense of humor that made her maiden name, Witt, so fitting.

As she stayed at her mother's home over the past several months Pat relayed that Nancy did not complain and did not lose her sense of humor. Pat said her daughter brought great joy to everyone. Pat spoke of a recent baby arrival to the Barn family and observed, "One light goes out and shines down and another light takes its place. Nancy was a bright light."

I have thought about her son Garek's words: "I find myself wondering what would have made Nancy the happiest. I think she would have asked us to be happy, to remember her fondly, and believe that she had a long life well lived." Having personally passed the 65 mark, a long life may not have been my choice of words. But surely she led a full life, that filled many others with happiness. She will without a doubt be remembered fondly by all who met her. *She was so young.*

Her son Garek has captured his mother's spirit beautifully in his well-written obituary of her life.

Our condolences go to Nancy's family and friends as they struggle with their loss.

Sincerely,



Jane Morton Galetto  
CU Maurice River Board President



## Nancy Witt Mulick

1946- December 24, 2020

"I paint flowers so they will not die." - Frida Kahlo

When someone first thinks of Nancy Witt Mulick its likely that they think, "This woman has touched so many lives." A Cumberland County native, Nancy was born in Millville, NJ, on October 5, 1946. Nancy spent most of her wonderful life in both Columbus, Ohio, and in Millville, N.J. During her time in Columbus, Nancy was the long-time Chair of the Art Department and an Artist-in-Residence at The Wellington School in Columbus for 27 years, retiring in 2011. At the Wellington School she leaves a legacy of inspiring countless students and staff with her passion for art and creativity. She taught classes at the Rhode Island School of Design and The Gordon School when she lived in Rhode Island.

A lifelong creative force who worked in ceramic, paper, oil, gouache, and a variety of other media, in her role as Director of Special Programs at The Barn Studio Art, Nancy founded the Maurice River School of Art Workshop in July 2009. Since its inception, the annual workshop has evolved into the region's premier gathering of artists for a week each summer, culminating in an annual show at The Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts. Her guiding vision was to bring landscape artists from throughout the U.S. and overseas to her native South Jersey, with a special emphasis on the Maurice River and its environs, including the Delaware Bayshore. Nancy also envisioned providing the highest caliber of instruction, engaging many master artists from The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts as workshop instructors.

A graduate of Millville High School class of 1965, she was a member of the Debs Tri-Hi-Y Club and has remained close friends with its members for more than 60 years. Nancy holds a BA from Douglass College in Art History, an MEd from The University of Vermont and an MFA from the University of Massachusetts. Most notably, she studied with Donald Judd, Sydney Janis and Hui Kai Kwong at Douglass and studied Anatomy at The Boston Museum School with Tim Nichols and Ceramics with Jun Kaneko in Omaha, NE.

Her work is in collections in the United States, Europe, and Japan. Permanent collections containing her work include The White House, The Dard Hunter Paper Museum and The Ossabaw Island Collection.

How does one sum up a life well lived in so few words? You do not, but you do remember what made Nancy so special. Nancy brought her intelligence, wit, easy laugh, and passion for life to all she encountered. She loved adventurous travels, calling her son her dog Jacks name, spending time with her close friends, and surrounding herself with life, love, and as many beads as she could find. She left an indelible mark on all and leaves a legacy of art, life, love, and laughter.

Nancy Mulick beloved by her family and friends, is survived by her Husband, Professor James Mulick, her son, Garek Mulick, her sister, Carole Witt Mankin and brother-in-law Gary Mankin of Alexandria, VA, her brother Jason Witt and family of Corydon, Indiana, and her mother, Patricia Witt of Millville, New Jersey. She also lives in the memories of countless students, and her legacy lives in their many creative

achievements.

I find myself wondering what would have made Nancy the happiest, I think she would have asked us to be happy, to remember her fondly, and believe that she had a long life well lived.

A memorial fund to underwrite scholarships for classes for deserving teens at The Barn has been established to honor Nancy's lifelong dedication to youth and the arts. Donations may be made online at [www.barnstudio.org](http://www.barnstudio.org), or checks mailed to The Barn Studio of Art, 814 Whitaker Avenue, Millville, NJ 08332-0029. Please indicate "Nancy Witt Mulick Memorial Fund."

A celebration of Nancy's life is planned for June 5, 2021 at The Barn Studio of Art.



**CU ON THE RIVER**  
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