



Sandra Gamber

December 5, 1947 - May 5, 2021

Sandra "Sandy" Gamber, age 73, of Reisterstown, Maryland passed away peacefully on May 5th, 2021. Sandy was born in Brooklyn, New York to Mary and Oscar Steinke. During early childhood, her family lived in Hawaii as her father, a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy, was stationed at Pearl Harbor. The family then settled in Annapolis where Sandy graduated from St. Mary's High School and went on to earn a BA and MA in early childhood education from Towson University.

Sandy's mother emigrated from Ireland, arriving at the age of 13 to Ellis Island. Sandy always held a special place in her heart for Ireland and Irish culture, and after graduating from college, she spent a month touring Ireland with college friends and staying with family members. Her love of Ireland continued and during the mid 90's she embarked on a multiyear mission to research and gather all the necessary documentation to enable her and both of her sons to become Irish citizens. Due to her diligent work, all of their names have been entered in the Ireland Register of Foreign Births.

In 1980, after teaching for a few years in Harford County, Sandy established an afternoon program for three-year-olds at what would become the Oldfields Children's Center at Oldfields School in Glencoe, Maryland. In 1982, Sandy introduced and taught the kindergarten program in addition to becoming the Assistant Director. In 1985 the Center opened as a full-time childcare center,

and Sandy became the Administrative Director, which she excelled in until the Center closed its doors in the summer of 2007. Due to the school's desire to keep Sandy as a part of their community, she was asked to stay-on with the Oldfields' family as the school receptionist, welcoming guests and visitors with her signature graciousness and kindness until retirement in 2016. In 2012, Sandy received The McCulloch Family Award, given to the recipients for their long service to Oldfields School. Sandy enjoyed and cherished all of her time at Oldfields School and the many students, parents, colleagues, and friends she made over the years there.

Sandy was a loving and devoted mother to two sons whom she cared for deeply. She was never without a card, gift, or sign of affection for any reason or occasion. She took pride in being a mother and never stopped being a pillar of support, even when she had her own concerns to deal with. One of her dreams was to take her family to Disney World, and after years of planning and saving, Sandy and her sons spent a week there, which turned into a trip of a lifetime for their family. When it came time to become a Grandmother, "Gran" as she was lovingly called, rose to the occasion in archetypal fashion. The grandchildren were never without a play partner or friend to call on, and Gran was there for them in any degree of need until her last moments. Gran's favorite game was Scrabble, and she instilled the love of the game in both her children and grandchildren.

In addition to her passion for mothering and teaching young children, Sandy was a devoted and involved parishioner of Sacred Heart Parish in Glyndon for close to 40 years. Sandy's strong faith was a daily foundation for her altruistic behavior, which was experienced and felt by all who met her. Sandy was always the first to help in any situation, and if she couldn't help directly, she would let you know that she was thinking of you with a note or card in the mail.

Sandra is survived by her two children: Sean and wife Jeana, Russell and wife Kingsley, and five “beautiful” grandchildren: Gwyneth (15), Alexa (13), Charlie (13), Harry (11), Whitman (6). She is also survived by her brother Mark.

The gracious outpouring of affectionate gratitude for those who loved her and felt her love has been overwhelming. Many friends, former students, and parents of the Oldfields Children's Center, and co-workers have shared many wonderful memories of how Sandy touched their lives and helped make the world a better place. Many commented on her strong faith and caring nature, for she was always there to lend support in person, over the phone, or through a thoughtful greeting card. She is and will be missed dearly.

A Memorial mass will be held on August 28, 2021.

Saturday - August 28, 2021

Sacred Hearth Parish

65 Sacred Heart Lane, Reisterstown, MD 21136

9:30-10:30am - Meet and Greet with Family (Foyer - Sacred Heart Church)

10:30am - Memorial Mass

(Internment is private)

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to Gilchrist Hospice Care - <http://ghcinc.convio.net/donate>

Cemetery Details

Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens

200 E. Padonia Rd.
Timonium, MD 21093
<http://www.dulaneyvalley.com>

Events

Details are pending.