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Nancy Kandoian (1952-2022)--Nancy Armen, died on May 16, 2022, after a long illness. A lifelong New Jerseyan, she was best known as a Map Librarian at the New York Public Library for over 40 years. Nancy was especially beloved by all who shared her passions, who partook of her baking and cooking, who shared her love of gardening and train travel, who shared her devotion to her Armenian heritage, and who enjoyed Medokawanda Camp reunions and Medomak fiber arts retreats. Nancy lived her 70 years with love, persistence, and grace.

Published by New York Times on May 22, 2022

I, too, am absolutely heartbroken. I am so very sad to hear of this news. Nancy has been a wonderful colleague for so many years. She was one of the most kind and caring people I have ever had the pleasure of working with. She was also extremely knowledgeable and taught me so much about map cataloging.

Carol P. McAuliffe

She is a legend and I feel incredibly lucky to have worked with her. This past year she has been one of the regional coordinators for the Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections and she made a huge impact getting map collections around New York City added into the Online Guide. She was always very humble about her contribution, but she has left an indelible impression on the project. I will miss her very much.

Carol P. McAuliff

So sad to hear of Nancy's passing. It is so difficult to believe that she has passed. She was such a wonderful, kind, thoughtful, considerate person. I enjoyed seeing her at conferences and catching up. More recently we were both on the Map Directory project and would get a chance to catch up during zoom calls. I started my career as a map cataloger and moved on to other responsibilities later, but still thought of Nancy as a true leader in map cataloging. I will deeply miss her. Condolences to her family and friends.

Christine "Chis" Kollen

I will never forget how kind and generous Nancy was and how much we relied on her rare map cataloging expertise.

Jimmie Lundgren



Words can't express how sorry I am to hear the news of Nancy's passing. She was very knowledgeable about cataloging cartographic materials. I admired her so much, and she was a great inspiration. She always greeted you with kindness and a beautiful smile. I will miss her and her dedication to librarianship and the mapping community--sincere condolences to her family and friends.

Iris Taylor

I am somewhat late to the map librarianship game, and even later to the map cataloging game, so I only ever had a small handful of exchanges, both virtual and face-to-face, with Nancy. Based on those few interactions, I'd built a pretty clear impression of her in my own mind: kind, gentle, thoughtful, knowledgeable, well-respected. Based on what I'm reading in this thread, it sounds like I was spot-on. I'm envious of those of you who knew more of her than I.

Michael Fry

NANCY'S SISTER WAS A BELOVED ELEMENTARY TEACHER IN SOUTH PORTLAND HAVING BEEN INTRODUCED TO MAINE BY SUMMER CAMP. NANCY WAS A LOVELY, SINCERE, GENUINE PERSON AND A DEDICATED AND SKILLED LIBRARIAN. READING THIS THREAD FROM CHEBEAGUE. FOGGY, CHILLY AND BEAUTIFUL.

ERNO BONEBAKKER



It was difficult to read this. I am, Nancy was not only the heart of your Map Division but also the heart of the map library community. Her death is a real loss.

My sympathies to her friends and family.

Parick McGlamery

It is a sad news. I worked with Nancy only for a short while years ago. Her depth in map cataloging or just in maps was tremendous. Though only a short time, I learned a lot from her.

Mary Jeanne Yuen



When I presented at 2019 ALA on a map cataloging project, I was so pleased and honored that Nancy (and Paige Andrew) came to my presentation and talked to me afterward. She knew the donor of the maps on the project I talked about, and said he had come to NYPL map library many times.

Even though I didn't know Nancy well, she was always so friendly when I would see her at ALA.

What a loss!

Brian Flato

My heart is broken. Nancy was one of the kindest, most helpful and generous colleagues I have known. When I had a tough map cataloging question, especially about old maps, she was always quick to lend me her advice. Working with her over the years in MAgERT/MAGIRT was such a pleasure; she was so insightful about maps and cataloging, and so delightful in her personality. I already miss her very much. My condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues.

Louise Ratliff

Very sad to hear this news. Nancy was a very kind person and very knowledgeable about map cataloging. I always enjoyed talking to her about maps and map cataloging at ALA conferences. Coming back from one of the ALA conferences, Nancy and I were flying in the same plane and seated next to each other. We had a great conversation about maps, map cataloging, changes happening in map libraries, and about Armenian maps.

She was a wonderful person and very down to earth.
Tsering "Wangyal" Shawa

**I AM ALSO SADDENED
TO HEAR OF NANCY'S
PASSING. SHE WAS ONE
OF THE ORIGINAL
MAGERT MEMBERS AND
FULLTIME MAP
CATALOGERS. I
ALWAYS LOOKED
FORWARD TO SEEING
HER AT ALA
CONFERENCES.
JIM COOMBS**

I am saddened to hear of Nancy's passing. She was a wonderful person and I always enjoyed seeing her at ALA conferences. She will be missed.

Susan Moore

I am deeply saddened and surprised to learn of Nancy's passing. She was a lively and warm-hearted colleague that I enjoyed talking to at MAgERT/MAGIRT conferences. More than once she provided good advice on solving a cataloging question. She also said I reminded her of her grandfather -- I took it as a compliment.
Phil Hoehn

It is hard for me to wrap my head around the news about Nancy. Even though maps were part of my responsibilities I did not concentrate in map librarianship but Nancy was always there to assist and I remember her so fondly from my active days in MAGERT/MAGIRT. I looked forward to seeing her at conferences and visited her at NYPL many times. She was so professional in dissecting problems and understanding issues and an inspiration to be around. My condolences to her family, friends and colleagues.

Julia Gelfand

This is very sad news. I always enjoyed conversations with Nancy when we would see each other at ALA conferences, and she always put me in a good mood. I'm not a cataloger, and although we certainly talked about maps, I also remember other aspects of her life and our common interests – like how she would take the train to ALAs, even when they were held across the country from NYC (I think she didn't care for air travel, if I remember). Just an all-around nice person.

Mark Thomas

I was very sad when I heard this news. Nancy was one of the first persons I met when I joined NEMO (North East Map Organization) and we became good friends.

Not only because we were both map catalogers; we shared many interests and I always enjoyed seeing and talking with her. The last time was in the past year and unfortunately was remote.

She always was kind, thoughtful, and very knowledgeable. This is a loss to our special community of mappers.

I will be thinking of Nancy and her family.

David J. Bertuca



My heart sank when reading this very, very sad news of Nancy's passing. She is one kindest people I have ever known. Always welcoming and always a generous person to those who ever asked her for map related advice/information. I enjoyed what time I had getting to know her a little better and about her family over the past couple of years. I personally will miss her very much. The world of map librarians has lost an asset.

Please keep me posted if there are memorial services planned, etc.

Thank you.

Maggie Long

Incredibly sad news. While I didn't know Nancy nearly as well as many of you, like many have said she was always warm and welcoming -- a truly wonderful human being and will miss seeing her at the various map gatherings.
Craig Haggit

THIS NEWS BREAKS MY HEART, THANK YOU FOR SHARING IAN. NANCY WAS INDISPENSABLE WHEN IT CAME TO HER KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HISTORIC MAPS AND ATLASES AND HOW TO DESCRIBE THEM. AS OTHERS HAVE SAID, MOST OF ALL SHE WAS A JOY TO BE WITH WHENEVER WE GOT TOGETHER AT CONFERENCES, A TRULY HUMBLE AND SUPER WONDERFUL PERSON AND HUMAN BEING! I AM SOOOO SADDENED BY THIS, AND I KNOW THIS MUST REALLY HURT ALL THOSE SHE HAS WORKED WITH FOR MANY, MANY YEARS, YOU ALL ARE IN MY THOUGHTS. (I HOPE YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REACH ALICE HUDSON WITH THIS NEWS?) PLEASE DO SHARE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT A MEMORIAL SERVICE, ETC. WHEN YOU KNOW.

PAIGE ANDREW

This is very sad news. Nancy was a respected professional and wonderful person.

David Cobb

I am deeply saddened to hear of Nancy's passing. She was a great inspiration and a great source of knowledge.

George S. Carhart

It's heartbreaking to learn of Nancy's passing. She was a great colleague and a wonderful friend. Nancy was one of the first people I met and connected with at my first ALA conference in Chicago attending MAGERT meetings way back in the summer of 1989. We stayed in touch many times on all things concerning maps over the intervening years. She was kind, gracious and always greeted you with a warm wonderful smile. I will dearly miss her.

John A. Olsen

I am shocked and saddened to hear of Nancy's passing. I always enjoyed seeing her at ALA conferences. She was always kind and generous with her cataloging knowledge of cartographic and rare materials. She was an active participant for cataloging interest group discussions.

She will be greatly missed.

Min Zhang

I am very saddened to hear this.
I never met Nancy but I did speak with her on several occasions when I was learning map cataloguing and she was always incredibly helpful.
She will be missed.

Allison Rich

I am deeply saddened and surprised to learn of Nancy's passing. She was a lively and warm-hearted colleague that I enjoyed talking to at MAGERT/MAGIRT conferences. More than once she provided good advice on solving a cataloging question. She also said I reminded her of her grandfather -- I took it as a compliment.

Phil Hoehn

I am so very sorry to hear about Nancy's death. She was a remarkable and very special person. She will be greatly missed.

Dorothy McGarry



How lucky we've been to have Nancy as our dear colleague and friend. Her spirit will live on in all us map librarians and everyone she touched.

Jim Gillispie

Dear Nancy, thank you for being a wonderful, inspiring colleague. Your intelligence, warmth, and humanity will be missed very much by us all. Your legacy lives on in the collections you made so accessible, and the service we librarians who met you provide. My love and best wishes to all who knew you.

Philip Sutton

***I will remember you forever
with fondness,
Kathleen Weessies***

Patrick McGlamery

I was so lucky to know Nancy. Her kindness and generosity were far reaching, when I entered the librarianship profession she was one of the first to welcome me. I will deeply miss her presence.

Sierra Laddusaw

I never met Nancy but I asked her a fair amount of questions when I was learning map cataloguing and she was so helpful and generous with her time. She was one of a kind. My deepest sympathies.

Allison Rich

A quick note of appreciation for everything Nancy has done for map librarianship and geographic / cartographic researchers. Future generations will benefit from Nancy's work!

Aaron W Dobbs

*Like many, I did not
know Nancy well. But I
have many good
memories of attending
NEMO meetings
together. With deepest
sympathy,
Thelma Thompson*

Generations of researchers will benefit from
Nancy's careful descriptions of maps in
catalog records; and generations of
catalogers will benefit from her work to
establish and communicate cataloging
practices for maps. Nancy was delightful, and
I will miss working with her in MAGIRT.

Tim Kiser

*Sending along my
sincere
condolences,
Heather Sostrom*

I was deeply saddened to learn of Nancy's passing.
She was a kind and gentle person who was a pillar
in the map librarianship community. I felt very
lucky to have known her.
She's at peace now.

Susan Peschel (fellow Jersey girl)

I was very sorry to hear Nancy had passed away. She
knew so much about map cataloging, and she was
always willing to answer my cataloging questions.
Nancy did a lot of work on committees setting
cataloging policies and guidelines. I enjoyed going to
lunch with her when we were at the same
conferences. In October 2018 my husband, my
husband's brother and his girlfriend, and I visited
Nancy at her library. She made us feel very welcome
by pulling maps for us to look at, giving us a tour of
the m\rare map library and the building, and going to
lunch with us. Nancy was a very kind and sweet
perso, and I will miss her.

Katherine Rankin

Sending my condolences to the Kandoian family. I worked with Nancy briefly at NYPL, and she was always so kind and generous.

Ray Pun

I had the pleasure of working with Nancy at NYPL. She was such a kind and wonderful colleague, and we will miss her warmth and wisdom immensely.

Rhonda Evans

Learning of Nancy's passing brought sadness to me. It also brought fond memories of working with Nancy on the ALA MAGERT Cataloging and Classification Committee. The terms professional and positive are what I will always think of when remembering Nancy.

Barbara Story

I met Nancy through a mutual friend and we regularly roomed together at ALA and Midwinter. As a fellow member of MAGIRT, she was a kind and generous mentor and

I am so sorry to hear of Nancy's passing. She was a fixture at MAGERT/MAGIRT meetings and I always looked forward to seeing her. Sweet, kind, and unassuming, she was passionate about her profession and highly respected by her colleagues. She will be missed and remembered fondly.

Hallie Pritchett

I was so sorry to hear about Nancy. I met her many years ago when I participated in MAGERT/MAGIRT. When I left Columbus for a job in Texas we lost touch, but reconnected in 2019 after I retired and moved to Ann Arbor. She kindly sent me Ellen's beautiful 2020 calendar prints "Can you find it in Columbus? – A year in paintings" since I lived there for so many years. She also sent me a book on the history of Ann Arbor saying "... it might be appreciated by a new resident ..." I love the paintings, and will keep them and the book as remembrances of Nancy.

My sincere condolences to the Kandoian Family,
Ellen Kaplan