



Nancy Frey Stacy-Trahan
February 11, 1940 – November 21, 2021

Above all, Nancy was a hopeful romantic. She believed that true love existed and never gave up until she found it.

She led a rich and fascinating life filled with multiple talents. Nancy's diverse skills ran the gamut from bespoke bassinette making for Bergdorf Goodman to being a published author of scholarly papers, an instrument-rated pilot, skilled teacher, and a Master Gemologist Appraiser.

On Sunday November 21, 2021, a very beautiful life came to an end. Nancy Stacy-Trahan had just finished dinner in her Walnut Creek, California home. She was sitting at the table with her husband of 26 years, Randall (Randy) Trahan, her daughter Tracy Koll-West and her son-in-law Ken West. Nancy was chatting with her family members before the dishes were cleared and was enjoying her glass of wine when she suddenly slumped in her chair. Asked if she was okay, she replied "No" and painlessly lost consciousness. EMTs quickly arrived and whisked her to the near-by emergency room, but doctors were unable to save her. She did not suffer.

Nancy will be remembered by her family and friends for her beautiful smile, keen intellect, generosity of spirit, and her loving heart. Her peers will remember her for her professional accomplishments as an internationally renowned gemologist appraiser, her thirst for knowledge and her eagerness to share what she learned with new recruits whom she mentored in the profession.

Nancy was born on February 11th, 1940, in Coalinga, California the daughter of Jack Myron Frey and Martha Tracy Frey. Nancy's maternal grandmother, Fannie Tracy, enticed Nancy's father to come work on the Tracy Ranch (founded 1862) near Buttonwillow, California. Jack was soon heading up what was to become a large family enterprise.

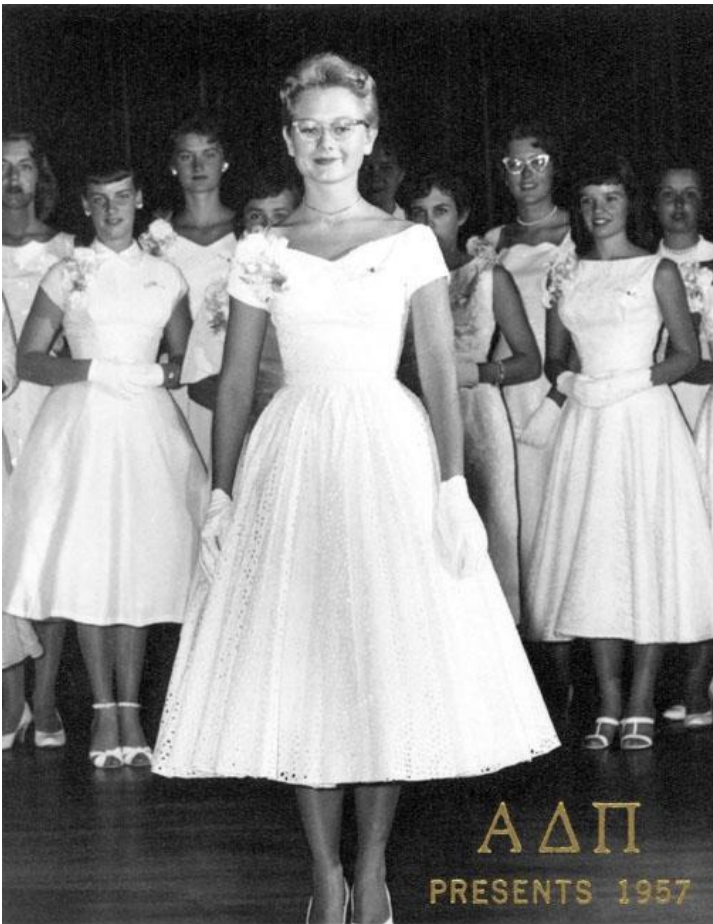
Nancy grew up on the ranch, riding her horse, swimming in the icy cold water of a well-water-fed reservoir, and attending the two-room Wildwood School where both her grandmother and her aunt Francis were teachers.



Tracy Ranch Family Christmas party 1949
Nancy riding Captain in the living room (Yes, a live horse)



Nancy attended Wasco high school and graduated in 1957.



After graduation from high school Nancy attended UC Santa Barbara where she was a member of the Alpha Delta Pi sorority. In 1961 Nancy left Santa Barbara to follow her boyfriend, Covell Brown to Boston where he attended Harvard Business School. In 1961 Nancy and Covell were married. While the marriage was short lived, the relationship produced two daughters, Tracy Annette Koll-West and Carla Anne DeFraine.

Nancy returned to California and finished her Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in education at Fresno State University. She taught school in Fresno for two and a half years. Nancy was beloved by her students and would go on to tell stories of her 5th graders for the rest of her life. Later she would go on to teach adults all over the world.



Nancy With George Belluomini



Nancy With Orvis Stacy

In her quest for true love, Nancy had two more marriages over the ensuing years, First to George Belluomini and then to Orvis Stacy. Nancy & George lived in Bakersfield. When Nancy married Orvis Stacy, she moved to Morro Bay.

It was in Morro Bay that Nancy became interested in the jewelry industry. Her interest in gemstones led her to study gemology at the GIA (Gemological Institute of America) where she obtained her Graduate Gemologist Degree (GG) in 1984. Nancy began selling jewelry out of her home and as the business grew, she obtained a brick & mortar shop, which soon became a large and successful jewelry store in Morro Bay. While the GIA had given her basic appraisal skills, she enhanced her understanding of appraisal science by taking classes from the ASA (American Society of Appraisers) and began offering professional quality appraisals at her shop. When her marriage to Orvis Stacy ended, Nancy stepped away from retail and decided to make a career of jewelry appraisal. She moved to Walnut Creek, California in 1990 and opened her appraisal practice.

The next part of the story reads like a quintessential "meet cute" from a Hollywood film. In 1993 a newly divorced Randy Trahan moved into the house across the driveway from Nancy's. When Randy's new landline was installed, the wires were crossed and they could hear each other's conversations as if on a party line. One time they were both trying to talk to other people and, realizing that they could hear each other's conversations, they began talking to each other. Once they established where each other lived, Nancy invited Randy over for a glass of wine. The date was a resounding success and their friendship bloomed slowly and deeply. They were married in September of 1995 and remained married and passionately in love until Nancy's death.



Nancy & Randy Trahan – September 9, 1995

Above all, Nancy was a hopeful romantic, her relentless belief in true love never wavered. With Randy, she finally found her “happily ever after.”

Nancy had a real sense of adventure. She took up skiing in college and for many years was an avid skier. She was also a pilot and for 20 years owned a Cessna 172 which she named “Lady Hawk”.



Nancy’s influence on the Gems and Jewelry discipline of ASA was best expressed by her friend and mentee, Mary Reich, who wrote “For those of you who didn’t know Nancy, she was a mentor to many of us and a force of nature. Her passion was for GJ appraisal theory, education and ASA and she worked tirelessly to improve each of these for decades. In official capacities, she has served as GJ Chair, Education Chair, PoV instructor for both PP and GJ (domestically and internationally), Conference Chair, Governor on the ASA Board of Governors and, fittingly, Life Member. Nancy passionately and doggedly pursued, coerced, thumb-screwed, flattered and dragged a generation of gemologists into appraising as a profession and we are all the better for it. I am honored to be her friend.”

It is impossible to describe how much she loved & was loved by her family. Her greatest joy was time spent with her daughters, her grandchildren, and most recently she was thrilled to meet her great grandson. She couldn’t stop talking about him. Of course, her husband, Randy, was the love of her life as she was his.

A celebration of Nancy’s life will be held on what would have been her 82nd birthday, February 11, 2022, at the Woolgrower’s restaurant in Bakersfield, CA. Her ashes will be laid to rest in the family cemetery on the Tracy Ranch.

Nancy is survived by:

- Her husband Randy Trahan of Walnut Creek, California
- Her Daughter Tracy Koll-West of Atlanta, Georgia
 - Son-in-law Ken West
 - Grandson Ian Koll
- Her Daughter Carla DeFraine of Foothill Ranch, California
 - Son-in-law Ed DeFraine
 - Grandson Evan DeFraine
 - Granddaughter Aislin DeFraine

- Great Grandson Asher Aragon-DeFraine
- Her Brother Larry Frey of Bakersfield, California
 - Sister-in-law Rebecca Frey
- Her Tracy Ranch and Buttonwillow Land & Cattle Company Family
 - Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, and other extended family members too numerous to list here.