



## Nancy Hallett

July 20, 1933 - November 5, 2021

NANCY SMITH HALLETT (July 20, 1933-November 5, 2021)  
Nancy Smith Hallett, of Phoenixville, PA, died on November 5, 2021. Born in Summit, New Jersey, she was the daughter of Ralph Smith and Helen Elling. Mrs. Hallett grew up in Short Hills, New Jersey, and summers were spent at her parents' cabin on Tabor Lake, New Jersey, where she would one day teach her own children to swim. Nancy graduated from Penn State University in 1955, with a BA in French and Education. She married Howard Raymond Hallett, Jr. on December 28, 1955, and they spent the early years of their marriage on Navy bases in Florida and Texas, then Binghamton, NY for Ray's first engineering position. They moved to Phoenixville in 1961, the town that would be their home for the next 60 years. For 50 of those years, Nancy and Ray lived at the house they built on Tinker Hill Road, as they raised their family, enjoying children then grandchildren over the years.

Nancy had a robust and full life. Besides raising four children, she played competitive bridge, volunteered for Phoenixville Hospital in many capacities, and belonged to many groups and organizations over the years, including bowling leagues, PTAs, The Questers, and alumni organizations for Penn State.

Nancy was a talented artist, and she created and produced items using her own knitting and quilt patterns. She made pajamas for her seven grandchildren for many years as well as other clothing, heirloom quilts, receiving blankets, and costumes that have become parts of our and many other families' histories. Her patience made her a willing teacher to anyone who wanted to learn from her, and she fostered a love of reading in all of her children. Anyone who visited Nancy on Tinker Hill knew she would put aside whatever she was doing to focus on her guests. She was a patient ear to many friends, and she made you feel like you were the center of her world. She liked to have a good time with friends and family, and perhaps one of her favorite ways to do that was through Penn State football. She was a dedicated season ticket holder for many years and watched every game she could, whether at Beaver Stadium or in front of the TV. She also held down the fort at dozens of large family Thanksgiving dinners on Tinker Hill, and they always went off without a hitch because of her planning and thoughtfulness. Her outstanding skills in the kitchen, especially as a baker, were always appreciated by family and friends. There was also Tinkerthon weekend, the neighborhood block party at her and Ray's house where she allowed the neighbors use of her property and kitchen, all the while supplying everything needed or forgotten.

Nancy was a "mom" to so many more than her own children, and "Nana" to many children besides her own grandchildren. She delighted in bringing a look of wonder to a child, usually through something in nature or the love of an animal. Nancy loved having her children and grandchildren swimming in the pool and running around the field on Tinker Hill. She will forever be known for her kindness, patience, cleverness, and

sense of humor.

Nancy is predeceased by her husband, Howard Raymond Hallett, Jr. She is survived by her sister, Susan Dillon, and her children, David Louis Hallett and his partner Patricia, Elaine Burgess Hallett, Michael Arthur Hallett and his wife Marsha, Amy Hallett Lareau and her husband Brad, as well as her daughter-in-law, Claudia Hallett. She was a caring "Nana" to 7 grandchildren: Shane and Philip Hallett, Emily Stokes and Taylor Hallett, and Dillon, Jack, and Sara Lareau.

Donations in Nancy's memory can be made to the American Cancer Society or the ASPCA. The family hopes to have a memorial for Nancy and her husband Ray, who passed away in January of 2021, at some point in the future.

# Tribute Wall

PB

“ I'd like to extend my regrets to the entire Hallett Family. I was greatly surprised to hear of Nancy's death. Nancy was a wonderful friend to The Brown Family since she arrived in town and needed a pediatrician. Nancy played competitive bridge with my father and shared a love of quilting and sewing with my mother. We enjoyed a lot of time over the years with both Ray and Nancy. They will be well remembered and appreciated by my entire family.



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**Peter Brown** - January 03, 2022 at 02:30 PM

DL

“ I have so many amazing memories of Nancy that will stay with me forever, in no small part because she put her love and kindness into everything she did. I will always remember her making pajamas for us every Christmas, leaving sweets on the freshly made bed for me every time I came to visit, and everything she did to add little bits of joy to our days while we were with her.

When I got into college at CMU she made me a wonderful quilt and set of pillows with the school's mascot, the scotty dog. I use the quilt every winter and remember her and her love every time I bring it out. I also remember her constantly in the various recipes that I've gotten from her, some straight out of her cookbook, and some that she taught to her daughter, my mother, who then pass those recipes onto me.

She was an incredible person and I'm so happy that she was my Nana. I miss her so much, and will continue to cherish all of the wonderful memories and keepsakes she left me with.

-Dillon



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Dillon Lareau - November 22, 2021 at 06:42 PM

SL

“ I will always remember the kind and loving person my grandma was. I can't imagine what my life would have been like without her during my childhood. I always loved the way she would keep my favorite candy stocked and ready for whenever I came over and made sure to make the sugar cookies I always liked. She was an incredible Grandma and I couldn't be more happy to have had her in my life.

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**Sara Lareau** - November 22, 2021 at 02:43 PM

SL

*Meant to say Nana instead of Grandma*

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**Sara Lareau** - November 22, 2021 at 03:03 PM

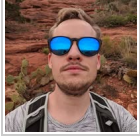
AM

“ 2 files added to the album Nancy Hallett



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**Amy** - November 20, 2021 at 07:31 AM



“ There are so many lessons I have learned from my Nana that I will carry for the rest of my life. Her strength, selflessness, and love for family are all qualities that I admire and emulate.

*She had an unwavering love for her family which she demonstrated constantly in big and small ways. A dedicated juicebox drawer in the fridge and handmade cookies whenever we would visit, a warm hug whenever we would leave, a card in the mail for every holiday. When we were young she would hand make a set of pajamas for every grandkid every year, sometimes with a matching teddy bear using the extra fabric. For my 6th birthday she made me a beautiful quilt which I will always treasure.*

*She had a true gratitude for life and an amazingly positive attitude. 2021 was not an easy year. She lost her husband of 65 years, moved out of the house they built together, and all the while was fighting a downhill battle with cancer. That kind of year would turn many people bitter, or at least discouraged, but she faced every challenge head-on and remained a source of positivity for everyone around her. I admire that strength so much.*

*I feel so lucky that Nancy was my grandmother and that she was such a big part of my life for 27 years. I miss her dearly, but I know that the positive impact she had on so many people will live on.*

*Love you Nana, -Phil*



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**Philip Hallett** - November 16, 2021 at 12:49 PM

TR

“ Hi everyone

*I just wanted to say that I am very saddened by the loss of your mother and she was a beautiful special lady with a spirit in her heart that never stopped. She inspired me.*

*I had the opportunity to get to know your mom very well over the years and we had some very special times together that we shared, talks and holiday dinners and It always felt like home when I was at your parents house. Blessings to everyone.*

*Love always Trish*

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**trish** - November 13, 2021 at 03:21 PM

DH

“ Part of my tribute for my Mother is a song that I wrote for her, called 'Toll House Cookies'. I believe that my lyrics, and the song, tell a good story. Love you Mom always, miss you! - Your Son, David

You can listen to the song on this link:

<https://davehallett1.bandcamp.com/track/toll-house-cookies>

The lyrics are below:

*TOLL HOUSE COOKIES- A Tribute to Nancy Hallett 07/20/1933 – 11/5/2021*

*She was born a jersey girl in nineteen thirty-three*

*Her parents had descendants from Norway and Germany*

*Her mom taught her solitaire, how to bake the perfect cake*

*And the family spent warm summers at their cabin on the lake*

*There are toll house cookies in the oven*

*Made with love and made just right*

*A hand stitched quilt lies on the sofa back*

*It will keep a grandchild warm on a frosty night*

*She went off to college, met the man with which she'd stay*

*A Navy man and an engineer, a good old guy named Ray*

*They raised four kids together, built a house on Tinker hill*

*With dogs out running in the yard, and flowers on the sill*

*There were parties at the family home, that friends and family shared*

*Summer days at the swimming pool, whiled without a care*

*She would help to organize, a two day party once a year*

*Neighbors, friends from all around, games barbecue and beer*

*There are toll house cookies in the oven*

*Made with love and made just right*

*A hand stitched quilt lies on the sofa back*

*It will keep a grandchild warm on a frosty night*

*Her kids grew up got married, grand children came to stay*

*Big Thanksgivings together, and festive holidays*

*Nancy played card tournaments, and she would volunteer*

*Everyone who was with Nancy, always held her dear*

*She had talent as an artist, knitting and quilting works of art*

*Make pajamas for her grandkids, with flowers, cars, and stars*

*And she always had a good time, for a friend to drop on in*

*Conversation and some coffee, with both good friends and kin*

*There are toll house cookies in the oven*

*Made with love and made just right*

*A hand stitched quilt lies on the sofa back*

*It will keep a grandchild warm on a frosty night*

*Ray passed in January, Broken hearts were shared by all*

*Nancy seemed to take it all in stride, but knew well the Lord would call*

*The time had caught up to her, and it was time for her to fly*

*To join with Ray together, and the angels in the sky*

*So many were heartbroken, we all miss her very much*

*But inspiration lives forever, in those that she had touched*

*A lady full of Kindness, and generosity*

*There will never be another Nancy for to be*

*And the tears would flow, when Nancy passed away*

*So much love and grace, that would always stay*

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**David Hallett** - November 13, 2021 at 03:01 PM

AM

“ 1 file added to the album Nancy Hallett



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**Amy** - November 13, 2021 at 09:12 AM

AM

“ 1 file added to the album Nancy Hallett



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**Amy** - November 08, 2021 at 04:04 PM