



Gaynor Ruth Dykstra

July 20, 1929 - February 7, 2026

Gaynor Ruth Dykstra of Charlotte, Michigan died on February 2, 2026. Gaynor was born on July 20, 1929, to Drs. Roelof and Helen (Polenious) Lanting. Due to her parents' work in medical social services, Gaynor and her younger brother, Derk, lived in several communities during her childhood, eventually spending the longest period in Owosso, Michigan. She graduated from East Lansing High School and married John O. (Jack) Dykstra shortly after graduating, beginning a lifelong partnership devoted to family.

Gaynor dedicated much of her life to being a loving mother and homemaker, creating a warm and welcoming home for her four children: Candy, John, Jim, and Rick. Her love of learning and literature was ever-present and something she joyfully shared with her children, instilling in them a lifelong appreciation for books and curiosity about the world.

Later in life, Gaynor embraced opportunities to travel, visiting Europe, the Middle East, and China-experiences that reflected her open mind and adventurous spirit. She also gave generously of her time through volunteer work with the Lansing Matinee Musicale and as a

docent at Michigan State University's Wharton Center.

Gaynor was a devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, blessed with sixteen grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren. She will be fondly remembered for her deep love of animals-especially dogs, cats, horses, and nearly anything with four legs and fur-as well as for her cherished family Thanksgiving dinners. Her granddaughters will always treasure the annual tradition of attending The Nutcracker with her at the Wharton Center, a memory that reflects her thoughtfulness and love of the arts.

Gaynor's life was marked by kindness, curiosity, devotion to family, and quiet generosity. She leaves behind a legacy of love that will continue to be felt for generations. A private family memorial service will be announced at a later date.

Tribute Wall

JW

“ I knew Gaynor through Lansing Matinee Musicale, LMM, when I joined. I enjoyed her kindness and thoughtfulness as she helped with refreshments at the PAS or Performing Art Students of LMM. She provided monthly goodies and drinks for the students and families, She was always upbeat and enjoyed helping LMM in other ways. She did a fundraiser with Fabiano's chocolates for LMM. On behalf of LMM I extend our sympathy and prayers to you, the family.
I am glad I got to know her.
Joan Wierzba

Joan Wierzba - February 10 at 10:30 PM

EC

“ Sending our condolences from the staff at ECHRS

ECHRS - February 10 at 08:37 AM

JN

“ John abd I send our Condolences to all of you

John and Laurie Newland - February 07 at 07:57 PM