



## Lorinda Ann Gerber

February 9, 1949 - January 26, 2023

Annie passed away on January 26, 2023 at her home. She battled colon, breast, skin, and stomach cancers for over 34 years. During those years, she endured multiple surgeries, chemo and radiation, infusions, and numerous, extended hospital stays. Her resilience and resolve to live alongside cancer were remarkable. She approached cancer and all that came with it, with grace, humor, spunk, stamina, and a nurse's advocacy, skill, and curiosity. Cancer didn't stop her, but rather motivated her to live every day to its fullest—always realistic and determined to take advantage of all that life has to offer. She succeeded and then some.

Annie was proud of her Pacific Northwest roots. Her father owned and operated a farm in Kent, WA, and her mother descended from Hunts Point pioneers. Annie lived her entire life in Washington, with stops on Mercer Island, Lake Morton, Lake Meridian, and Lake Chelan before her final home in Entiat; a log home her husband, Jack, built by hand. That log home was a dream come true for Annie and a source of pride, comfort, and joy for her. Beautifully landscaped and designed, she appointed it with hand-picked, vintage cabin décor. Every day, she could be found soaking in the hot tub, enjoying a view of the river and mountains with her favorite drink, a vanilla latte. After her retirement from nursing in 2014 and during COVID, her home became a refuge for her.

That love of the Pacific Northwest informed Annie's enthusiastic embrace of nature, adventure, and recreation: skiing at Mission Ridge, swimming in Lake Chelan, yoga, hiking in the Entiat Valley, whitewater rafting the Wenatchee and Salmon Rivers, cycling, kayaking in the San Juans, skydiving, parasailing, and paddleboarding lakes and rivers. She summited Mt Rainier. She completed the Danskin Triathlon just three weeks after her bi-lateral mastectomy—and was awarded a diamond necklace recognizing her as “Most Inspirational Triathlete.” Annie was always in motion.

She and Jack and their three sons, Justin, Joshua and Jared, spent many, glorious vacations camping and exploring every inch of Washington State. Later, Jack and Annie discovered cruising, riding Harleys, and visiting the National Parks in the teardrop trailer that Jack built custom for her.

Her persistence and focus appeared before her cancer diagnoses. As a young, single mother of a toddler and an infant, she returned to college to earn a registered nursing degree and create a secure life for them. She worked as a cardiac critical care and pediatric bone marrow transplant nurse at Swedish Hospital. She cared for many children and adults, including the opera singer Jose Carreras, when he underwent a bone marrow transplant. She went on to earn graduate degrees in counseling and nursing. Those degrees led to her work as director of Home Health and Hospice for Lake Chelan Community Hospital, school nurse in Auburn and Eastmont school districts, and leadership roles in professional associations. Annie made lifelong friends and her experiences with cancer made her a compassionate caregiver and advocate for those she served. She loved being a nurse.

Her husband, Jack, never left her side, supported her emotionally and physically, and loved her completely and unconditionally for over 44 years. He absolutely adored her, and she absolutely adored him. Jack ensured that her every wish came true while never hesitating to say, “enough Annie.”

As a mother of three boys, she knew when to step back and when to make her opinions known. She loved her boys and was committed to making a loving home for them. She respected their life decisions and welcomed their respective partners into the Gerber family. As a grandmother of five, she had the chance to enjoy, love, and support another generation.

There was no resisting Annie; her energy, vitality, and spirit were infectious. “What’s next” and “let’s go” were part of her vocabulary and friends had better be ready. Friends emerged and flourished from all walks of life and interests: book group, rafting pals, teardrop trailer community, running partners, nurse colleagues, knitting circle, ski companions and more. Friends could always count on Annie to tell the truth and make you feel valued, understood, and not judged. Her natural empathy combined with her therapeutic training made her a valuable sounding board for family and friends. Her many, longtime friends will remember and cherish her incisive observations about life and relationships.

She was and will continue to be an inspiration to her many friends and family and those with whom she shared her life and journey. As she faced her last days, she completed a 469-page memoir, beautifully bound and with photographs that reflected her favorite people and places. The last chapter was devoted to lessons learned that she hoped would provide a reminder of how to live fully—and without her. She loved Jack, her three boys, her grandchildren, and her brothers: Tommy and Pat. Her mother and father were always in her heart and guiding her.

There will be a Celebration of her Life on Saturday, June 10, 2023. It will be held at the Entiat City Park, South Picnic Shelter, at 1:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you.

In addition, please post on her [Prechtrose.com](https://www.prechtrose.com) Tribute Wall where we will be excited to hear from everyone.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUN 10. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (PT)

Entiat City Park, South Picnic Shelter  
Entiat, WA 98822

# Tribute Wall

PS

“ Jack - I'm so sorry we can't attend on Saturday. Know that you and Annie are in our hearts! Priscilla and Larry

Priscilla Selden - June 07, 2023 at 03:49 PM

SF

“ Jack, I have such fond memories of Annie and count myself blessed by being a part of Annie's and your life. Scott Fischer

Scott Fischer - February 06, 2023 at 04:34 PM

CI

“ The last time I encountered Annie - of course, outside in nature! - she gifted me a fleece hat and skirt set she made that I will treasure always. Typical of Annie: generous, talented, light of heart and bold of spirit. I'm so grateful to have known her. She will be missed.  
Priscilla Selden

Cilla - February 04, 2023 at 12:22 PM

JS

“ Jack, Justin, Joshua, and Jared-my heart is full for so many reasons as i think of Annie. What a true honor it has been for me to have known Annie over the years. As an endeared patient, as a respected colleague, as an engaged community member, as an advocate for healthcare, as a survivor, as somebody always willing to help others, as an advocate for resilience, and a true example living life fully and with meaning. She has such made an impact on me as a physician that will impact countless others. Her spirit and presence is palpable....Julie Smith

Julie Smith - February 03, 2023 at 01:15 PM

KM

*When Annie first appeared in my life, I took it as a sign that God loved me. I was reeling from my experience with cancer and struggling with how to live life fully again with my new set of fears. She showed me how. Despite being almost twenty years younger than her, I couldn't keep up with her on skis or while walking. Oh, how I loved her mischievous giggle and smile when she proposed a fabulous plan. There truly was no choice but to hop on the Annie Train and prepare for fun. I'll be forever grateful that our lives intersected that day. I truly do carry her in my heart with immense love, gratitude, and appreciation.*

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**kaya McLaren** - February 03, 2023 at 02:34 PM

MM

*Margaret Matthew  
I will never forget the day I met Annie, I was new to breast cancer, just had surgery, Anne was speaking here in Wenatchee  
She truly changed me in just a short while. She unveiled her beautiful tattoo on stage, I was blessed to have a bit of Annie in my life, to know her was to know how to really live. My sincere condolences to her family and friends.  
Fly high Annie*

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**margaret Matthew** - February 05, 2023 at 08:37 PM

CB

*Jack and family all family members. My memories of Annie are many, all of them with her continuous upbeat attitude. In 2000 she "walked with me" through the diagnosis of my cancer with the utmost care and concern. Her constant involvement about my care was unwavering, although she was herself going through her own cancer struggles. Biking, skiing, snowshoeing, you think of it, she kept encouraging me with, "come on, we can do this!" Thank you for such a wonderful woman who helped so many with her kindness, care, and deep concern for each life she connected to. She will forever remain in my heart.*

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**Casey Bockoven** - June 11, 2023 at 08:33 AM



“ Lorinda Ann Gerber

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January 29, 2023 at 08:49 AM

KF

“ Dear Annie. You put up a good fight. You were loved my many and will be missed but never forgotten. Karen Feek

karen feek - January 28, 2023 at 03:32 PM

JG

Thank you for the kind words Karen, she will be remembered as the bright star she was!

Justin Gerber - February 02, 2023 at 11:55 PM

 Chris Rayner

Oh my... was so shocked when I read in the paper today about Annie. It's been so long since I've thought about her. I'm so sorry for your loss, Jack. I'm thinking that I must have met her when I used to do the Chelan Chase. Take care and please know that I wish for your well being.

Chris Rayner - February 04, 2023 at 08:55 PM