



## Cynthia Vail Stevens Strauss

August 19, 1924 - May 19, 2020

Cynthia Vail Stevens Strauss, age 95 of Columbus died Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at Wesley Glen Health Center. She was born August 19, 1924 in Charlotte, NC to the late Benjamin Alonzo Stevens, Sr., and Daisy Gage Stevens. She was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur Eric Strauss, and three siblings, Marguerite Paul, Frank Crawford Stevens, and Benjamin Alonzo Stevens, Jr. Cynthia is survived by children Christopher Eric (Kathleen) Strauss, Marguerite Anna (Paul Harmon) Rice and Kenneth Stevens (Dora) Strauss, 14 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, many nieces, and nephews and beloved students.

Cynthia graduated from North High School in Columbus, earned her B.A. in Music at The Ohio State University (1946), studied Vocal Performance in NYC where she performed professionally for three years before marrying Arthur Strauss to become a Navy wife and mother. Stationed in Pensacola, FL., Norfolk, VA., Warwick, RI., Washington, D.C., and Honolulu, Hawaii, her family benefitted from experiencing a variety of cultures. While in Hawaii, Cynthia sang with the choir at St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral in Honolulu, directed their children's choir, and on occasion sang with the Honolulu Symphony.

Cynthia earned a B.S. in Elementary Education at SMU in Dallas, Texas (1963), while her children enjoyed everything the family dairy farm had to offer in agrarian experiences and the embrace of Stevens family members; the

Navy years kept us far from family. Returning to Columbus in 1963 to begin her teaching career, Cynthia also earned an M.A. in Elementary Education at Ohio State (1968). Cynthia was an Elementary Teacher at Columbus Public Schools Fair Avenue Elementary and Stewart Traditional for 26 years.

Cynthia was a member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church where she blessed choir and congregation with her lyrical soprano voice. For a few years, four members of the Strauss family sang in the choir. For years, Cindy and a dedicated crew operated "The Book Worm" a used- bookstore in a basement classroom, appreciated by OSU students and parishioners. Having caught the love of roses from her parents, mom lovingly tended her rose garden and flower beds. She was a member of Delta Omicron Music Honorary Fraternity; Third Avenue Church Ministries, Sierra Club and Simply Living.

Cynthia and Arthur were active in a Peace and Social Justice group, environmental protection action, Earth Day observances. From their home, they offered a lending library (books, videos, recordings) pertaining to the environment and peacekeeping. Our mother's gentle spirit, wonderful, welcoming smile, and her generosity of heart put all she met at ease to feel welcome whatever the circumstance or place. She passed her deep faith in God on to her children.

A Memorial Service will be held at 10:00 am Friday, July 30, 2021 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 30 West Woodruff Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43210 with Fr. Karl Stevens, officiating. Graveside Service with Interment 1:30 pm Friday, July 30, 2021 at Walnut Grove Cemetery, Worthington, Ohio.

If you cannot be physically present, your prayers for the family will be gratefully appreciated. Father Karl Stevens suggests watching a live stream on St. Stephen's Church & Campus Center FaceBook page; <https://www.facebook.com/St.StephensColumbus>

Memorial gifts may be written to: St. Stephen's Church & Campus Center, 30  
W. Woodruff, Columbus, Ohio 43210 <http://ststephens-columbus.org>

Thank you for the love you showed mom during her lifetime.

# Cemetery Details

## Walnut Grove Cemetery

5561 Milton Ave.  
Worthington, OH 43085  
(614) 885-5033

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUL 30. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
30 West Woodruff Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43210

## Graveside Service

JUL 30. 1:30 PM (ET)

Walnut Grove Cemetery  
5561 Milton Ave.  
Worthington, OH 43085  
(614) 885-5033

# Tribute Wall



“ *Cynthia Vail Stevens Strauss*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Sending prayers to the Strauss family, she was an honor to care for here at Wesley Glen and will be missed by so many!*



**MEGAN HELLER** - June 02, 2020 at 03:45 PM



“ *I knew Cindy through her sister-in-law Marguerite (Strauss) Deckard's eldest daughter, Linda, since 1981. Family meals always had a sung shared blessing with 1 or 2 songs, and Cindy would always elevate by an octave or 2, the final stanza. I was impressed by her doing a morning exercise routine well through her 70's. Condolences to all in the Strauss-Stevens clan.*

**Chet Cortellesi** - May 28, 2020 at 04:20 PM



“ *What a wonderful woman. She and I share so many interests and civic commitments to justice, peace and environmental action. I wish I had had the chance to know her.*  
*Elliott J Bush*

**Elliott J Bush** - May 27, 2020 at 09:16 AM

BM

*Elliot, you two would have been great buddies. I knew her well when she was in her prime. Always a joyful presence. Becky M.*

**Becky Michelfelder** - May 28, 2020 at 02:38 PM

DH

*Cindy was a beautiful and loving person. I am happy that I knew her.*  
*Dale Harris*

**Dale Harris** - May 29, 2020 at 07:56 PM

MW

*To Cindy's family I send loving greetings and condolences. I think of Cindy and Art often, always with much gratitude for having had their heart and spirit in our shared work.*

**Marilyn Welker** - June 01, 2020 at 06:24 AM

LR

*To Cindy's family it was such a pleasure to have Cindy come to our activity room here in the Health Center at Wesley Glen and the days that she didn't come down one of us made sure we stopped to visit her and we always played some of her music for her and we all know how she loved to listen to music and I'm missing her smile which could light up a room .Thinking of you all . Sincerely Linda Raisley*

**Linda Raisley** - June 01, 2020 at 01:51 PM

EB

*Cindy and Art were very dear friends of mine . I met them in Simply Lliving. If I'm remembering correctly they were founding members, as was I. They were very special people who cared so deeply for the environment. I have treasured memories. there was a time before Arthur died, and they were both dealing with some health issues, that I went to their home on Acton to fix dinner for them a couple of times when their energy was low. It was a pleasure to be able to help and I'm grateful they contacted me. Cindy was a very sweet lovely person, whom I had such respect for and cared deeply for. Ellen Baumgartner*

**Ellen Baumgartner** - July 19, 2021 at 03:02 PM