



## Nelly Cicilia McLauchlan

August 7, 1952 - May 10, 2026

Nelly Cicilia McLauchlan. (08/07/52-05/10/26) A proud Paraguayan/ American went home to our Lord on Mother's Day after a brief but valiant battle with cancer. By her side was numerous family and friends. She is survived by her husband of 46 years and the love of her life, Jack McLauchlan, her two children Jack (Breana) and Daniel (Chelsea), and three grandchildren, Kylie, Jackson, and Helena. She is also survived by her mother, and several brothers, sisters, Jack's extended family, and many friends.

Nelly was born in Paraguari, Paraguay to Eligio (Neni) Ferreira and Isabel Ibarra. Nelly began her career in education, met, and later married her husband, Jack, a Peace Corps Volunteer. Married in 1979, they welcomed their first son in 1980, then moved to the United States. When she arrived, she was unable to speak English and learned from her sisters-in-law, mother-in-law, and daytime television. Nelly later welcomed a second son in 1982. Nelly would go on to not only become a naturalized US Citizen, she learned English, and soon after received her Associates Degree from Big Bend Community College, Bachelors, and Masters Degrees in Education from Central Washington University, all within 3 years.

Nelly began her education career in the Warden School District and later went on to the Moses Lake School District and Big Bend community College. Nelly spent over 30 years educating the youth and adults in the Columbia Basin,

served as a private tutor, provided translations services for Calbom & Schwab PSC, and worked with the Washington State Migrant Council. Over the years, Nelly received numerous awards and recognition for her work, including being selected to be recognized by the Latino Civic Alliance and presented the Latino Legislative award at the Washington State Capitol for the 2019 Latino Legislative Day. Nelly had a strong passion for education and public service.

Nelly also loved travel, fashion, wine, philanthropy, and friends, in no particular order. Nelly was always the center of attention in any room she graced. She was loved by all who knew her and was generous in every way. Prior to her diagnosis, Nelly was very active with several charities including the Columbia Basin Boys and Girls Club, Big Bend Foundation, Samaritan Hospital Construction, and the Columbia Basin Cancer Foundation. Nelly alongside her husband had donated time, money, and WINE for the causes.

Last year, Nelly and Jack opened their very own boutique winery, las Piedras de Valle, for which she was very proud. She lived a full life and was extremely proud of her family. Nelly was universally loved and will be very missed. She has left an amazing legacy of philanthropy, love, and educational advocacy. Memorial services to be announced on Las Piedras de Valle and family social media.

Arrangements are under the care of Kayser's Chapel of Memories.

# Tribute Wall

DG

“ *DeeAnna Goff lit a candle in memory of Nelly McLauchlan*



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**DeeAnna Goff** - May 28 at 07:22 PM

RG

“ *Rest in peace my beautiful, kind hearted friend. My condolences to all the family*

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**Raquel Gonzalez** - May 28 at 01:06 PM

RG

“ *Raquel Gonzalez lit a candle in memory of Nelly McLauchlan*



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**Raquel Gonzalez** - May 28 at 01:05 PM

DT

“ *i knew her at big bend and her husband*

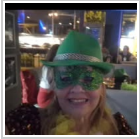
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**Darrell Templeton** - May 26 at 08:47 PM

CS

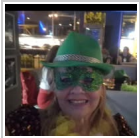
“ How I loved Nelly and teaching with her at MLHS AND BBCC.! She was full of life and zest and she made every day a party for her compadres. She was gifted in her willingness to spread joy and la dulce vida! She was my friend and my confidante. How blessed I am to have known her. Cheryl Sanders

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**cheryl sanders** - May 23 at 11:53 PM



“ My condolencias to all the McLauchlan family for the departure of Nelly...may the Lord welcome her in His Kingdom.

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**Edita Ortiz** - May 23 at 02:44 PM



“ My condolencias to all the McLauchlan family for the departure of Cillia...may the Lord welcome her in His Kingdom.

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**Edita Ortiz** - May 23 at 02:43 PM



“ Oh Nelly, you made me laugh and smile. You were always such a bright light, admired by all. We will miss you. My heart goes out to you, Jack , Jack Jr.and Danny. I so hope that some day after the mourning has lessened, you will find peace and the memories of Nelly will help you with whatever life has in store for you. God bless.

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**Lori Way** - May 22 at 07:10 PM

LL

“ Jack, sorry to read in the CBH of the passing of Nelly. Leo Tolstoy (with tweaking by me) wrote, "When a beloved one dies there's a spiritual wound that always aches. We droop in spirit, closing our eyes before the menacing cloud of death. For a time to admit the possibility of a future seems an insult to the memory of the dear one.... Yet with time, the care of others and the needs of everyday life we heal." By letting you know that I'm thinking of you, I hope, I'm adding to that "care of others" that will help soften this bitter blow to your spirit.  
Louis Logan



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Louis Logan - May 22 at 07:06 PM

LO

“ I am so sorry to hear of Nelly's passing! What a lady she was! I stated teaching with her at Moses Lake High School the same year and then at BBCC! She touched many lives in a positive way with her vibrant personality and loving care! Rest in peace dear Nelly, you will be missed. Condolences to Jack and the family. Heaven gained an angel and I am sure there is a party in heaven welcoming her in!



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Laurie Odegaard - May 21 at 06:10 PM

AN

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Lots of. prayers and hugs.

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Alba Nowlin - May 20 at 10:27 PM

TA

“ *Trina Alfaro lit a candle in memory of Nelly McLauchlan*



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**Trina Alfaro** - May 20 at 03:13 PM

KC

“ *Nelly was a very special friend. She and Jack encouraged me throughout my education and preparation for teaching bilingual students. When I considered quitting due to pressures of being a mother and teaching full-time, she encouraged me to hang in there and follow my dreams. One fun memory of many I have is her teaching us how to make deep fried icecream in one of our spanish night classes at BBCC. I had absolutely no idea you could deep fry icecream and couldn't possibly wrap my head around how it was possible. I remember her sweet laugh and how she walked me through the steps. She was an amazing teacher and friend. Nelly you are loved and greatly missed. Rest in peace mi amiga.*

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**Kathy Chavez** - May 20 at 01:54 PM

KC

“ *She was the best teacher I had when I was high school because of her I graduated back in 2013 que descansa en paz. 🙏🕊️☐*



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**KARLA CAPETILLO** - May 20 at 01:09 AM

MJ

“ *I enjoyed carpooling to Central with Nellie. She was an inspiration to all of moms struggling to get our degrees. She had such a vibrant personality, clothing and jewelry. Rest in peace, Michele Jacobsen*



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**Michele Jacobsen** - May 19 at 09:48 PM