



## Colleen Jean Werdien

November 25, 1949 - May 16, 2026

Colleen Jean Werdien the jelly bean, (according to Uncle Dutch) Was born on 11/25/49 and passed away on May 16, 2026. Colleen truly believed in God.

Colleen Worked as a nurse, public health nurse, nurse clinician, and school nurse. She worked on the epilepsy ward where they did brain surgery, where she assisted.

Colleen lived in Mounds View, Fridley, Milaca, Princeton, Columbia Heights, and Anoka.

Colleen went to Sunnyside elementary school in New Brighton where she started her schooling at age 4. She went to the kindergarten roundup for "49ers".

Colleen graduated from high school at Mounds View High School in 67.

Colleen's 1st real hobby was photography, where she bought the equipment to develop and print her own photos.

During summer break after high school she worked at Yellowstone National park and later Isle Royal National park for two years.

After graduating from the U of M with a BA degree she spent the summer touring Europe.

She tried her hand at student teaching then switched to nursing.

Colleen attended Anoka Ramsey and received an AA degree and became an RN.

Colleen continued her education and received a BS degree in nursing and years later received a master degree in the same field. ( she never really quit educating herself).

Colleen became interested in spinning wool and making her own yarn, and knitting. She would buy yarn from Australia and New Zealand, die it, and spin it. She had several types of spinning wheels.

She also knitted, did crocheting and made felt.

Colleen was dedicated to the environment. She became a master gardener. She showed her love for the planet by planting native plants in her yard and the boulevard.

She also loved art. She would paint, and make all kinds of art projects. And then there was her pottery. She make all kinds of things out of clay.

Colleen played the piano for many years, which she loved. She had a variety of musical instruments at her home. When she wasn't playing them the nieces and nephews loved coming over and banging out tunes on them.

She also loved to play 500. It was pretty hard to win a bid over her, but not always that hard to set her. Then we would all laugh. She hated rules and

would never deal according to the rules. We taught her to play pinochle. We made her deal accordingly. "this is a dumb game".

Colleen was involved with her family. If a birthday party came up, or a school event and she had something planned she would tell you and then say, "I'll be there".

Colleen was preceded in death by her parents Edward and Arlene Werdien

Colleen is survived by her brother Richard (Jackie); nephews Richard Werdien II (Julia) and Michael Werdien, and niece Heather Shell (Robert); Great Nephews, Richard Werdien III, and Brennan Shell, Great nieces Alexis and Chelsea Shell and Emma and Eliza Werdien.

She was affectionately known to me as "sis"

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **15**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Zion Lutheran Church (Anoka)  
1601 4th Avenue South  
Anoka, MN 55303

## Memorial Service

JUN **15**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Zion Lutheran Church (Anoka)  
1601 4th Avenue South  
Anoka, MN 55303

# Tribute Wall

KS

“ I will miss Colleen dearly. I was her hairstylist for over 15 years. We shared our love of dogs and had great conversations. She was so talented in many ways. My condolences to her family. Rest in peace, Colleen.

Kari Stenerson - June 23 at 09:24 PM

WJ

“ Colleen was such a creative soul. It is a shock to hear of her passing, as we had just been with her a few weeks prior. She will live forever in my heart and will be greatly missed by our monthly knitting design group, the KWA—Knitters With Attitude—and Colleen had "attitude" in spades! She was an inspiration that way. Such a spirit is never gone, yet we will not be the same. We will try to live up to her spunky ways! She leaves that as a legacy for us. – Sending deep condolences to the family.



Wendy Johnson - June 11 at 09:32 PM

GB

*My sympathies to Colleen's family. She spoke of you often.*

*I met Colleen in a class at the UMN Split Rock Art program. The technique was knitting but it was definitely an art class. With her sponsorship I was invited to join the Knitters With Attitude group. She went with me to St Cloud to buy my first spinning wheel. I treasure one of her very creative bowls and keep it on my coffee table. More recently, I admired her embroidery for its talented execution and wonderfully creative design. I found it refreshing to be with someone who never left me in the dark about her opinions and thoughts. I will miss her.*

Gerri Barosso - June 12 at 05:48 PM

HS

“ *She will be greatly missed at our Anoka Book Club. Such a smart lady! We were retired RNs...felt a special connection to her. Thanks for the wonderful obituary!*

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**Honey Speltz** - June 06 at 09:06 AM