



## Shirley "Degi" Jennings

July 1, 1921 - February 14, 2007

Shirley C. Jennings, 84, of New Britain, wife of Curtis E. Jennings, died Wednesday February 14, 2007 at Walnut Hill Care Center. Born in Chicago, IL, she was a longtime New Britain resident. Shirley graduated from Hunter College in New York and was a longtime elementary school teacher at Jefferson School until her retirement. She was a member of St. Marks Episcopal Church; the New Britain League of Women Voters; and the Garden Club of New Britain. She volunteered at New Britain General Hospital and was a member of the board at the New Britain Institute and the Advisory Board of Nutmeg Cable Television.

Besides her husband Curtis, a retired Captain in the U.S. Army and retired history teacher at CCSU, she leaves her close friends and caregivers, Ramon and Lisa Reyes and their family of Newington; and Mohammed Hanif and his wife Darlene of Wallingford.

Funeral services are Tuesday 11 AM at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 147 West Main Street, New Britain, CT 06051. There are no calling hours. A reception will follow the funeral at the church hall. Memorial donations may be made to St. Mark's Episcopal Church. The Carlson Funeral Home, New Britain is in charge of arrangements. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at [www.carlsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com)



# Tribute Wall

JB

“*Mrs. Jennings was my 3rd grade teacher at Thomas Jefferson in 1961. She was one of the best teachers I have ever had. She always encouraged me to do my best and for that I will always be grateful. My deepest sympathy to you on the loss of a wonderful, caring woman and a terrific teacher. She was much loved.*

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**Janet Bindas** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BJ

“*I was saddened to hear the news from home of Mrs. Jennings passing. I was one of her students in her first class of teaching at Thomas Jefferson. She was one of my best and favorite teachers who not only taught, but who genuinely cared about the welfare of her students. I remember telling her years later how great a teacher she was. She laughed and said "Oh, you poor kids I was learning myself that first year". My guess is that she left a positive lasting impression on all her students.*  
*My sincere condolences to Mr. Jennings.*

*Robert Bobby A. Ostertag, Jr.*

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**Bob Ostertag, Jr.** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Dear Curtis,

*My mother, Tom, and I were very sorry to hear about Degi's death. You were both wonderful neighbors during our years in New Britain, our family across the yard, and it was a privilege to know you and to watch two people share such a full life of common interests and values. I always envied you your travels. It was a pleasure to hear Degi talk about where you had been and where you would go next. The city was also a better place for the commitments you and she made to its well-being, and I always appreciated your attentions to my mother.*

*Fondly,  
John Loughery  
New York City*

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**John Loughery** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ *Sorry to hear about DEGI's passing. I had a lot of fun with her and her husband when we were into CB radio. My prayers for her and her family.*

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**Peter Baggy Bagdigian** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ *We extend our deepest sympathies to Curtis and her close friends and caregivers.*

*We have known Degi for many years and have always found her to be charming and gracious. We will miss seeing her at the Reperatory plays.*

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**Alfred and Joan Gagliardi** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

EL

“ We hold so many wonderful memories of Degi.

*Many Thanksgiving holidays spent together. We had the privilege of knowing Degi's Mom and aunt.*

*We shared a love of Japan, and on one of Degi and Curtis' return trips to Yokohama, they met with some of my inlaws. My brother in law, Masaya, was the head chef at the New Grand Hotel, along the waterfront on Yamashita-Cho. During the early occupation, Curtis stayed there, so did MacArthur. Later in the occupation, Degi taught at the American schools in Yokohama.*

*It was always a joy to talk with Curtis and Degi about Yokohama, and the memories we both had of that wonderful city. My time there was quite a bit later, 1966-1968, but many of the areas had not changed too much in the 20 years between Curtis and Degi's time there, and mine.*

*Many of her closest friendships began in the Japanese language classes at Central CT State Univ. Degi just sort of "collected" friends there.*

*We shall miss her great meals, her unique voice, and most of all, her "feistiness". We loved her.*

*Ed and Masako Lawson*

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**Edward Lawson** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM