



# Dorothea Elisabeth Yonker

January 21, 1928 - November 12, 2015

Corvallis resident Thea Yonker, 87, passed away peacefully at the Samaritan Evergreen Hospice House on Nov. 12, 2015.

Thea was born and raised in Wurzberg, Germany, and endured the ravages of World War II with her home being destroyed by aerial bombing near the end of the war.

After the war she worked in England and then eventually moved to the United States in the 1950s. She married Nicholas J. Yonker (deceased since 2013) in 1960 while living in New York City. They moved to Corvallis in 1961 where her husband became a professor of religious studies at Oregon State University.

In Corvallis she stayed at home to raise their three boys, Nick, Rob and Mark.

In 1975, Thea developed a passion for real estate and became a landlord to eventually 25 rental properties throughout the Corvallis and Philomath area. In addition, she also worked as a cook to several fraternities on the Oregon State campus during the 1980s and 1990s. She maintained the rentals all the way up to the time of her death.

She is survived by her children, Nick and wife Lori, Rob and wife Jennifer, and Mark; and five grandchildren.

No services are planned. Thea's ashes will be combined with her late husband Nick's and scattered at one of their favorite places on the Oregon Coast — Seal Rock.

Thea loved education and considered herself a lifelong learner.

Please share your thoughts and memories for the family at [www.demossturdan.com](http://www.demossturdan.com)

# Tribute Wall

JU

“ Dear Nicky John, Robbie and Mark,

*With your mother's passing another chapter has closed on my Corvallis life. Your mother and father were Uncle Bob and my first town friends. When we arrived in Corvallis in 1962, Rob you were a week old and NJ you were already looking out the window watching and talking to the wind. Mark Thomas your arrival several years later interrupted a fancy Thanksgiving dinner. For the 11 years I lived in Corvallis, I don't think a week went by that we didn't visit your family on a Sunday afternoon to talk, or have a family dinner of apple pancakes (which I still make and think about all of you when eating them) or an adult party with pale dry sherry and German treats.*

*Your mother was a unique woman who led an extraordinary life. She was a wonderful friend and even after being gone from Corvallis for many years, we were always able to pick up right where we left off when I visited.*

*Though we were very different personalities, I admired and loved your mother. She had a sense of humor and could laugh at herself. She was a story -teller and conversationalist. She was incredibly resourceful and hard working. When she had a vision, she committed to it. She was bold and confident. Quite a mix, she was!*

*Know that I am thinking with sympathy about you and your families as your lives reshape without her.*

*Much love, Auntie Judy*

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**Judy** - December 09, 2015 at 09:17 PM

KG

“ We are sorry to hear of the passing of Thea. My husband and I were married in '97 and rented our first place from her on Grant Ave for several years, she was the nicest landlady and we have kept in touch all these years. We named our first child, a son, Grant :) We send her yearly holiday cards and she has sent us some of her genealogy information from Germany. We have since moved to Alabama and when visiting Corvallis a couple years ago it was such a treat to run into her at McGrath's! She remembered us and it was a nice to catch up. We send our love to your family at this time and remember what a happy, smiling, generous person was. She made an impression on our lives for sure and she will always be a part of those first four years of our marriage!

*-Kim and Mark Greenfield, Madison, Alabama*

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**kim Greenfield** - November 18, 2015 at 07:24 AM

NY

*Thanks, Kim! We appreciate your kind comments about our mom. Being a landlord was definitely a passion for her. She was in charge of the rentals up to the very end! We'll miss her. All the best to you and your family.*

*Nick Yonker*

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**Nick Yonker** - November 18, 2015 at 10:37 PM

PL

“ *So sorry to hear about the passing of Dorothea. I had the pleasure of getting to know her a few years ago while selling her the home across the street. She shared stories about her youth in Germany and I happened to be visiting her hometown there a short time later.*

*Patty Lorenzen, Corvallis*

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**Patty Lorenzen** - November 15, 2015 at 07:27 AM

NY

*Thanks, Patty! Our mom loved doing the rentals and met a lot of great people along the way. We'll miss her!*

*Nick Yonker*

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**Nick Yonker** - November 18, 2015 at 10:40 PM

SR

*Thea as we called her were i worked was a very kind person, always concerned more about others than herself. rest in peace Thea ,rest in peace, you will be missed . Sandi*

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**sandra rodriguez** - November 20, 2015 at 01:45 AM

JK

*So sorry to read that Thea had died. I am the retired President of Oregon State Credit Union and worked with Thea over the years. She was always a joy. There are some people you never forget and she was that for me. My condolences to the family*  
*Joanne Kersey*

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**Joanne Kersey** - November 26, 2015 at 03:02 PM