



Jana Anine Nelson

January 18, 1947 - September 17, 2025

Jana Anine Nelson, age 78, formerly of Cedar Falls, died Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at her home in Ankeny, Iowa.

Jana was born on January 18, 1947, the daughter of Dr. Myron “Buzz” and Margaret (Leeper) Nelson in Iowa City, Iowa. She graduated from Waterloo West High School in the class of 1966. After attending Iowa, she graduated from UNI with a BA in philosophy and religion. She studied for her master’s at UNI as well in TESOL (teaching English to speakers of other languages). Jana taught at UNI, Hawkeye Community College and Wartburg throughout her career. As a second career, she went and got her CDL and began driving semi over the road for CRST in Cedar Rapids. Jana also drove school bus for Cedar Falls Community Schools until her retirement in November 2024. Jana also enjoyed working with farmers, driving harvests to the co-op every fall.

Jana was active with Black Hawk County Democrats, and enjoyed volunteering at the Catholic Worker. She was passionate about her work with La Leche League, often saying that it was the work she was most proud of. Jana was fiercely independent and never shied away from sharing her strong opinions and convictions. Jana loved to learn, teach and share her vast wealth of knowledge with others. Jana was a phenomenal cook, always ensuring anyone who came to her home was well fed! She enjoyed animals and nature, often telling stories of her favorite trees around town.

Jana is survived by: her son, Mike (Amber) Nelson of Ankeny, Iowa; acquired son, Kris (Valerie) Hack of Cedar Falls; grandchildren, Jaylen Barrett of Lincoln, NE, Sam Kievits of Ankeny, Olivia, Nolan and Jager Hack of Cedar Falls.

She was preceded in death by: her parents, and her brother, Gregory Nelson.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11am Saturday, September 20, 2025 at St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center in Cedar Falls. Visitation will be at 10am. Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery in Cedar Falls. Memorials may be directed to the family. Online guestbook at www.richardsonfuneralservice.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **20**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Stephen the Witness Student Center
1019 W 23rd Street
University of Northern Iowa Campus
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-9863
<http://ststephenuni.org>

Funeral Mass

SEP **20**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Stephen the Witness Student Center
1019 W 23rd Street
University of Northern Iowa Campus
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-9863
<http://ststephenuni.org>

Tribute Wall

JV

“ I’m so sorry to hear of Jana’s passing. Shocked, actually. I first met her at school events because our sons were similar ages. Over the years we crossed paths working on campaigns together with the Democrats, including making bracelets together for the Democratic National Convention last year. She really knew her stuff and I looked up to her wisdom about issues and political process. I will truly miss her.

Jean Vaux - September 26, 2025 at 12:31 AM

BH

“ Black H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jana Anine Nelson.

Black H. - September 21, 2025 at 10:45 PM

BD

“ In memory of our dear friend Jana Nelson. Jana was such a solid Democrat and a true cornerstone of our work here in Black Hawk County. She gave so much of herself, making phone calls, writing postcards, setting up for events, and volunteering at every booth we had. No matter what needed to be done, Jana was always there. She was the first to step up and say, “I’ll help,” and she meant it. She never disappointed, never, ever. We were so fortunate to have Jana with us for so many years, and we will all miss her deeply.💔

The Black Hawk County Democrats

Black Hawk County Democrats - September 21, 2025 at 10:34 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jana Anine Nelson.*



September 20, 2025 at 08:06 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jana Anine Nelson.

September 20, 2025 at 08:06 PM



“ *Rose Quirk and Pat Wiss, All your Friends From Catholic Worker Community planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jana Anine Nelson.*

Rose Quirk and Pat Wiss, All your Friends From Catholic Worker Community -
September 18, 2025 at 03:45 PM



“ *I remember all the volunteering Jana did. I worked at St. Patrick church and knew of her there. She had washed and ironed the purificators for a long time and I offered to take over the job. That resulted in many years of volunteering for that job for me. Thanks to Jana for all she did for the Catholic community. Bette Lewis*

Bette Lewis - September 18, 2025 at 10:40 AM