



## Cynthia M. Gilkey

July 15, 1960 - February 25, 2014

Cynthia M. Gilkey, 53, passed away Tuesday, February 25, 2014 in Houston, from complications of diabetes. She was born July 15, 1960 in Morristown, New Jersey, to Robert Clarence and Reiko Kato Gilkey. Cynthia grew up in El Paso, TX and graduated from Coronado High School. Cynthia was a gifted artist, teacher and mentor at Hot Glass Houston. In addition to glass art, Cynthia was an avid animal lover.

Her survivors include 3 brothers; Jeff Gilkey and wife Amy, Glenn Gilkey and wife Nancy, Karl Gilkey and wife Bethany, 4 neices; Jennifer Smith, Melissa Gilkey, Nyssa Gilkey and Lindsay Gilkey. She was preceded in death by her parents and her life partner David Campbell.

A memorial service will be held Friday, February 28, 2014 at 2:00 P.M. in the Chapel at Davis Greenlawn Funeral Home. Condolences may be left for the Gilkey family at [www.davisgreenlawnfh.com](http://www.davisgreenlawnfh.com). In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Houston's Friends for Life Animal Shelter and Sanctuary or the American Diabetes Association.

# Tribute Wall

TB

“ Glenn, Nancy, and the Gilkey family,  
May you always be blessed by the memories you have of your  
sister and may God comfort you during this difficult time.  
My thoughts and prayers are with you,

Terry Brown

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**Terry Brown** - March 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ My father passed away in January. Cynthia comforted me. Her  
death was a shock, I still can't believe it. Now when I'm working on  
glass, I will always be thinking of Cynthia. I have the card her sister-  
in-law gave us at her funeral sitting on my studio table to remind me  
of all she shared with me. She was and is such a beautiful soul.

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**Debbie Krueger** - March 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ How do we comfort each other when someone we care about  
leaves us too soon? We remember that her spirit lives within us and  
like a little light we carry it and pass it on with our thoughts and the  
things we learned from Cynthia. She shared her talent and  
friendship with us and it's our turn now to share it with others. My  
heart hurts. I will miss her.

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**Christine Ankney** - March 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ *To Cynthia's Family,  
Our sincere condolences for your loss. We enjoyed getting to know Cynthia at Hot Glass Houston. We will miss her sense of humor and the stories and jokes we shared about our common Japanese heritage. It was a beautiful ceremony and her spirit really shined through the warm and comical tributes to her. We will miss her dearly.*

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**Mike & Maki Field** - March 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GT

“ *To Cynthia's family & the Houston Hot Glass community,  
We share in your loss of our dear friend, teacher, mentor Cynthia. She has left a legacy in all the students she taught so well with kindness, respect, and skill. She was an inspiration! We miss her so.*

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**Ginger & Tara-Leigh** - March 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. She will be missed by many.*

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**Beverly Maguire** - March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ *What a shock. This is so sad. Cynthia was much too young. I'm sorry I can't be with you today but my thoughts and prayers are with all of you today and in the days to come.*  
*Aunt Claudia*

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**Claudia Gilkey Wodzinski** - February 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ I took classes from and with Cynthia over the span of two years, and enjoyed good times with her many times when I was at Hot Glass Houston. I tried to help support her after David's death, She was a real friend, and we shared a love for animals. I saw her less over the last year because of my own illness, but I will still miss her humor, her smile, and her skills.

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**David Shell** - February 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PJ

“ Cynthia was such a talented artist with her glass . She was very exacting and perfect in the execution of a project. I admired her ability to relate to people and always find a way to connect to students! She had a multitude of talents plus she was so strong in her ability to achieve what she set out to do. I loved her personality and wit! God has plans for Cynthia and He probably has a glass class set up for her in heaven. She left all of us too early and God bless her family.

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**Patty McGrath Jones** - February 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Dear Glenn and family,  
Please know that you are in our prayers during this difficult time.  
God bless,  
Jim and Deborah Bataillon

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**Jim & Deborah Bataillon** - February 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ To the Gilkey Family,  
My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time.

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**Pauline Campos** - February 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ We are deeply sorry to hear about the passing of Cynthia. We will be keeping the Gilkey family in our hearts and prayers.

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**Jeff and Christina Renkenberger** - February 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ I'll never forget how sweet Cynthia was to me during my illness. She lifted me up when I most needed a friend. She told me to be strong and everything would turn out for the best. She would always tease me about needing to set up some sleeping quarters at HGH because I took so many classes. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Gilkey family. Rest in peace Cynthia.

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**Mary Snell** - February 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ Cynthia will live on in the hearts of all those she touched and taught. Our prayers are with her family and her friends.

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**Anne and Tim Perez** - February 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KY

“ We are shocked and very saddened by Cynthia's so sudden and unexpected passing. We will never forget her heart-warming kindness and hospitality she extended to us when she came to see and help us at the Houston Airport for our visit to El Paso. Our prayers are with you and all of your family in this time of grief and sorrow.

*Kiyohiko, Michiko, and Tomoko Yagi*

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**Kiyohiko, Michiko, and Tomoko Yagi** - February 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KU

“ We are all deeply shocked to hear of the sudden death of Cynthia Gilk

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Yutaka

Yumiko

Yuka

Yusuke

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**Kuroda** - February 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ I am so fortunate to have been able to learn from Cynthia and count myself so lucky to have her as my friend. As Chris Ankney put it "there is a hole in my heart where Cynthia lived." I will miss her everyday of the rest of my life.

Jane

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**Jane Henderson** - February 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ There are no words but I will try. My heart is broken by the loss of Cynthia. I felt such an immediate connection with her from the very first time I met her at Hot Glass Houston. I considered her a dear friend from the very beginning. We had so much fun comparing Japanese mother witticisms and talking about glass and art shows. She will live forever in my heart.

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**Robin Hawkins** - February 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ Oh Cynthia, may you rest in peace.

Love,  
Uncle Clinton Gilkey

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**Clinton Gilkey** - February 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ I am doing the Gilkey Family Tree on Ancestry.com.

I would like a family member to contact me so that I can make the tree as complete as possible.

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**JD Gilkey** - February 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ Glenn, Nancy and rest of the family. We are very sorry with the loss of your sister. We will keep her and all of you in our prayers. The Mantens

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**Amei Manten** - February 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MY

“ To Cynthia's family - I am so sorry to hear about your loss. I have very fond memories of Cynthia - she was my college room mate first semester of freshman year. While we had lost touch, I will always remember her amazing fun, warm and outgoing personality. I came from out of state and she made me feel so welcome and I really missed her when she did not return to school.

I wish that we had not lost touch but wanted you to know that during the short time that I knew her, she was a special friend - she brought people in our dorm together, always playing jokes on the other kids, she created an atmosphere of camaraderie. Please know that she touched us. I am deeply sorry for your loss.

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**Melanie Yonks** - February 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KV

“ Please accept my deepest sympathy and condolences for your loss of this dear and beloved family member and, I'm sure, friend to many.

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**Karen Vari** - February 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ I offer my deepest condolences to Glenn and the entire Gilkey family.

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**Torrence Robinson** - February 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ Cynthia was my best friend for over 12 years and I loved her so very much. She was smart, beautiful, artistic, strong, and generous. She was a friend who always had my back and could deliver the truth as only a true friend can.

*Cynthia had a wicked and sarcastic sense of humor but she was never unkind. She loved her family, dogs, cats, and most people. We shared great times and sorrow. I enjoyed every moment we had together and I long for more.*

*There is a special place in my heart for my Cynthia and she will forever be my friend.*

*I miss her more than words can express.*

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**Paula Boydston** - February 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ My heart goes out to you and your family during this difficult loss.

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**Lea Muqbel** - February 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Glenn, Nancy & Gilkey family. I am so sorry to hear about your loss. Please know you are in the hearts and prayers of many.

Mike McGuire - February 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ I had the privilege of meeting Cynthia through Hot Glass Houston. She had a way of relating to everyone she taught that was unique and beautiful. I consider myself blessed to have gotten to know her. She will be missed.

Regina Scroggins - February 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ Sending my most sincere condolences to all of the Gilkey family, especially, my brother-in-law and dear friend, Jeff. I am so sorry for the sudden loss of your sister. I know she will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time.

Laura Koster - February 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Cynthia was a fun instructor and loved friend. I have only known her for a couple years but we have spent many hours sharing our love of glass and our love of our dogs. Gilkey you are loved and missed.

Donna Mason - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ Thank you Cynthia for being a wonderful, loving, caring part of this world and mine. I will never forget you.

Tish Reed - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ Cynthia was a bright shining star at Hot Glass Houston. She never failed to be friendly, courteous, energetic and fun every time our paths met. She was loved and she will be missed.

Cynthia Johnston - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Cynthia was a skilled instructor who made her students feel special and her classes fun. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Christa Freeman - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Cynthia is a blessing to those of us who share the love of hot glass. Her joy and humor made it easy to become friends. I am very sadden by the news of her passing, but happy she was part of my life. My life memories will have our times together laughing.

Charlie Holden - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ I truly enjoyed taking classes led by Cynthia. She was a great listener, very helpful, knowledgeable, and always encouraged her students to go with their design vision. Cynthia she will be greatly missed.

Bobbie Dettmann - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ Cynthia, was a real “glassaholic” and fabulous resource at Hot Glass Houston. I was very privileged to have her as an instructor and will greatly miss her creativity, humor and detailed instructions. She was always patient and a true treasure.

Marilyn Dishman - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ I met Cynthia through our mutual friend, Paula Boydston. I always loved visiting with Cynthia sometimes accompanied by Bob, as she was fun, smart, and generous. She was a gift to this world and will be sorely missed by many. I am so very sorry for your loss. We lost her way too early.

*I will always remember how kind and supportive she was of Paula's father, Walter, when he resided in Houston with Paula. She would visit him and bring Armenian food - she was a good friend!*

*Cathy McCracken*

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**Cathy McCracken** - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ Cynthia will truly be missed. She was a great instructor and an avid animal lover. I know Kevin misses her terribly.

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**Donna Rich** - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DE

“ Cynthia was a kind, funny, generous woman. I am grateful for the many memories of our times together at Hot Glass ... making art, pulling cane, laughing, harassing Bob ...

*For me, it is a comfort to know that she has been reunited with David, her parents and Bob the dog. I hope that can give you some comfort as well.*

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**Deborah Enderle** - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ I am so sorry for your loss. The news of her passing was a shock to us all. She was such a good glass teacher. She was giving and thoughtful and kind. She will sorely be missed by many. I will especially miss her teaching and Kevin, greeting you at the door of HGH.

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**Cindy Cherrington** - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ Cynthia's gentle humor and generous spirit will be missed in this world. She was an amazing artist and teacher. We are all so surprised to lose her so suddenly. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and all her friends at this time.

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**Colleen Gilbert** - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ Cynthia was a very private person, and could relate in so many ways with so many different people. If you touched on certain topics she would open up and share some incredibly funny stories. Patient, caring, giving and always willing to take the time to help. I'll especially miss how she always greeted me - with a great big hug, eyes lit up and a great big smile on her face. She was an inspiration to us all and always will be. She had a huge heart with many facets that will always shine upon all of us whose hearts she touched. We miss you Cynthia!

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**Lehnda Buisson** - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ I would like to extend my condolences to all Cynthia's family and friends. Cynthia was welcoming and friendly to all, and such an amazing teacher. I was able to know Cynthia for a short time whilst I lived in Houston but my memories will last forever.

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**Karen Carrington** - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ I met Cynthia on a website about glass. I would like to send my condolence to the family. I know she will be truly missed and the world has lost a true Artist.

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**Becky Steg** - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ Cynthia was always fun to be around and I really enjoyed taking her glass classes. I will miss her friendly presence at Hot Glass Houston. My sincerest sympathy to her family and friends.

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**Tracey Wilson** - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ I was intrigued the first time I saw Cynthia's pattern bars. So different than any I had ever seen. I regret that I never took a class from her. Her smile was so genuine, and she had a great sense of humor. HGH will not be the same without her. Prayers of thanks for her life, and comfort for those who are grieving this tragic loss. We will miss you, "Gilkey!"

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**Sarah Jimenez** - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Cynthia was creative, loving, funny, intelligent, a delight to be with and while she left this earth a better place she was just too young to leave; she had more to give, love and do. She will be missed by many. She was always so kind and encouraging to my grandson Thomas when he attended her classes. He was so worried about her Kevin and is so happy Kevin has a new home. May God wrap His loving arms around her family during these difficult days.

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**Mabeth Coleman** - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

HY

“ *My sincere condolences go out to the family, friends, and colleagues of Cynthia Gilkey. She was an amazing person with a heart of gold. Her loss will be felt deeply by all of my family.*

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**Haruhiko Yagi** - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM