



## Nora M. Darc

June 19, 1937 - October 7, 2025

Nora M. Darc, 88, of Bowie Maryland, passed away on October 7, 2025 at the Autumn Lake Healthcare at Patuxent River in Laurel, Maryland.

Nora Miriam Darc was born Gertrud Ilse Heller in Vienna, Austria on June 19, 1937. She was the only daughter of the late Isidor Heller and Caroline Freudmann Heller. In the first two years of her life, Nora lived in Vienna, but in August 1939 her parents fled with her to Paris to escape the Nazi takeover of Austria. When the Germans invaded France in 1940, Caroline and Nora left Paris for southern France, while Isidore was interned by the French as an “enemy alien”. The family was reunited in Albi, France and lived there as refugees for two years. In August 1942 they fled over the Alps into Switzerland to escape the Nazi takeover of Vichy France. They remained in Switzerland for the next eight years until emigrating to the United States in 1950.

Nora studied mathematics at Johns Hopkins University. She was a mathematical prodigy who began taking graduate-level math at the age of fourteen. She received a Ph.D. degree in 1960 and became a math teacher in California. Nora married her cousin Peter Kastan. The couple had two children, but the marriage ended in divorce. Nora moved to New York City, where she worked mainly as a computer programmer/analyst. In 1993 she moved to Bowie, Maryland, where she spent her retirement years enjoying

reading, writing, poetry, art, and most especially movies.

Nora is survived by her daughter Lara Bove, son Xander Kasten, and grandchildren Emily Bove and Samuel Bove.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to JSSA (Jewish Social Service Agency), P. O. Box 392492, Pittsburgh PA 15251, or online at <https://www.jssa.org>.

# Tribute Wall

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“ *Nora M. Darc was my cousin; her mother, Caroline Heller, was my father's eldest sister.*

*Nora was a brilliant woman, and her sense of humor, of which she had a great deal, resonated well with mine. For almost 30 years, we had what would have been called a pen pal relationship back then. Our correspondence was sometimes very intense over the years, and at other times it would cease completely for a year or two—as these things go.*

*Our topics, besides our childhood and our family, covered pretty much everything two people whose lives had taken very different paths might discuss: politics, books, music, films, religion, philosophy, history, and goodness knows what else. I found almost 1,000 emails from the period between 1999 and 2024...*

*Nora wrote in English, I wrote in German, so we both had something to learn when we read each other. When we later switched to talking on the phone, we sometimes reversed the language selection, and that was quite a challenge, too.*

*In 2011/2012, we collaborated on the German version of "Our Share of Morning," written by her father, Isidor Heller, which was first published in 1961 under the pseudonym Paul Burmetz. It was a wonderful collaboration, and we were both very pleased with the result.*

*Nora didn't have an easy life; everyone who knew her was aware of that, but I never heard even the slightest complaint from her. She took life as it came, and as I experienced it, she focused on what could be made of life rather than dwelling on what life withheld from us.*

*Nora was fascinated by film and for many years wrote about films she found noteworthy. Only in recent years have I come to understand her approach to the subject matter, as I previously*

*always saw films as an amorphous mixture of various elements (story, visuals, actors, direction), rather than simply as a specific way of telling specific stories—in a specific way.*

*I don't know where all those manuscripts are now. There must be hundreds of them. It was very important to Nora that her work be preserved. I want to share, what she once (2007) wrote to me:*

*"I am sending you an attachment. I know you aren't going to read my writings on movies, because it would be too hard for you in English. But I am sending them to you just so that somebody in the family will have them, in case somebody else in the family should want to read them. Also, just in case I lose all my files, I want as many people as possible to have copies, so I have sent copies to several other people as well. So please just download the file and put it on a floppy disk or a CD and keep it in a safe place somewhere."*

*I want to honor this legacy, and if there are others who have Nora's manuscripts, I'm happy to set to work compiling and organizing everything so that, in the end, there's a book for everyone who wants it, in which, if we only look, we'll find exactly what Nora—I know for certain—intended us to remember her for.*

*I won't write here about what her loss means to me. Everyone who writes or reads here has own feelings—and I'll leave it at that.*

*Gustav Freudmann  
Kaumberg  
Austria*

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**Gustav Freudmann** - January 09 at 02:41 PM