



Nina Vail

AUG 12, 1956 - FEB 19, 2026



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Nina Vail

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Nina Vail, age 69, of Dallas, Texas passed from this life into the arms of her Savior on February 19th, 2026. Born August 12, 1956 in Odessa, Texas, Nina was the eldest daughter of Ira Wellington Vail and Melba Joy Vail. Nina graduated from Bryan Adams high school in 1974 and went on to attend Southern Methodist University where she received an academic scholarship. She graduated in 1977 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theater.

Nina met and married Stephen David Hill in Dallas, Texas. They welcomed their firstborn daughter, Rebecca, in 1982. The family later moved to Longview, Texas, where they welcomed a second daughter, Elizabeth, in 1986. They moved back to Dallas in 1990 where Nina worked at a pediatric dental office with her sister, Susan Bryant. Nina thrived in her career as Dr. Holt's office manager and brought both her compassion for patients and pragmatism to his office for over 10 years.

In 2000, Nina began her career at Lakewood Presbyterian School as their kindergarten and theater teacher. Throughout her 24 years in those roles, she impacted countless young lives. She sewed the most beautiful costumes, tailored perfectly to her actors and carefully pulled many a tooth for her kindergarteners. Whether teaching little ones to read and count with her own rich curriculum or encouraging high schoolers to show the confidence and composure required to recite Shakespeare on stage in front of an audience, her many gifts were shared in abundance. Nina served as confidant, advisor, and friend to hundreds of students over her years at Lakewood.

Nina is preceded in death by her brother, Richard. She is survived by her daughters, Rebecca Williamson (Grant) and Elizabeth Olles (Tim), her sisters, Susan Bryant (Paul) and Angela Bellias (George), and 11 dearly loved grandchildren.

A memorial service with a reception to follow will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 14th at Lakewood Presbyterian Church.



Obituary

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In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Nina's beloved Lakewood Presbyterian Church, where she worshipped and served for over 35 years."

<https://lakewoodpres.com>.

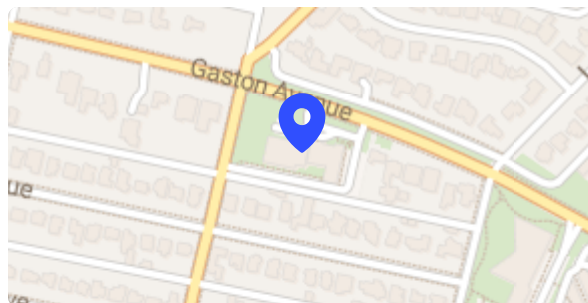


Memorial Service

 **Saturday**, March 14, 2026

 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM CT

 **Lakewood Presbyterian Church.**
7020 Gaston Ave., Dallas TX 75214





Tribute Wall

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Lydia Wells posted:

Nina was the best teacher I've had. She inspired confidence in me I never knew I had, and continued to support me when I left the school. When I was going through health issues, she made me delicious meals and dropped them at my door, no questions asked. Her artistry and costume designing were hugely inspirational to me. Truly one of the most talented people I know. She will be so so missed. All my condolences and love to her family.

March 14 at 12:49 PM



Judy/Brent Klopfenstein And Dbc Faculty sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Vail family.



March 13 at 12:35 PM



Judy/Brent Klopfenstein And Dbc Faculty planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Nina.



March 13 at 12:35 PM



Anonymous sent an Arrive in Style to the Vail family.



March 5 at 4:16 PM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Nina.



March 5 at 4:16 PM



Tribute Wall

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Connor Schmidt lit a candle in honor of Nina.

Aunt Nina! You lived out what it means to be a selfless teacher. I loved sharing instagram videos of Chinese New year celebrations and the lion puppet! Thanks for sharing your love of the arts and inspiring me to pursue art more intentionally. I will remember the costume of Frederic from Pirates of Penzance fondly. The blue vest and outfit made me feel so special and honored.



March 4 at 10:28 PM



Tribute Wall

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Shannon Montgomery shared 15 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.



We fell in love with Nina from the very beginning when our oldest daughter entered Pre-K at Lakewood Presbyterian School. Years later, our youngest would begin her own journey in that same magical classroom, a place overflowing with learning, laughter, creativity, and what we lovingly came to call Nina glitter. Nina taught our girls from their earliest school days and remained a steady, joyful presence all the way through their graduation from LPS. As they grew, so did the gifts she poured into them. In upper school, Nina helped them discover confidence on stage through her elaborate productions, many of our family's most treasured memories coming from those beautifully executed performances. She had a rare ability to find the gold in every child, especially ours, and bring it shining to the surface. Nina's love showed up in the details. Late nights spent sewing costumes for every season, size, and personality so each child felt comfortable and proud in their role. Handwritten encouragement. Thoughtful little bags of goodies she never forgot to send along. When our daughters became her kindergarten helpers in later years, she continued to shower them with affirmation and belonging, making them feel deeply seen and valued. Daily drop-offs often included a quick stop by Nina's classroom just to say hello. On the best days, that hello turned into a longer visit or a chance to lend a hand. Nina lived her life in service to others, quietly and generously. She was also our school's beloved tooth-puller. Any loose tooth meant an immediate visit to Nina, followed by excited reports the next morning about the Tooth Fairy's arrival. She made even the smallest childhood milestones feel extraordinary. One of Nina's greatest gifts was welcoming our family into hers. Through holidays, showers, birthdays, and countless celebrations filled with incredible food and laughter, she showed us what true family looks like. Halloween traditions at her home, bowls of chili before neighborhood adventures and enthusiastic candy trading afterward, became cherished rituals. Her grandchildren became our girls' lifelong friends, and through Nina, we experienced the joy of belonging to a large, loving, fully lived-in family. Nina had an eye for finding treasures, often appearing with a perfectly chosen outfit she had discovered on sale, insisting I show off my "pretty legs." She had a way of leaving people better than she found them, more confident, more cared for, more seen. Over the years, we walked through life together, funerals and weddings, engagements and new babies, celebrations and sorrows. Our family is forever changed because Nina became part of it. We remain deeply grateful not only for the family she was to us, but for the family she so generously shared. A life well lived. A teacher who became family. A legacy that lives on in every child and every heart she touched. We take comfort knowing that the same faith Nina lived so naturally through her kindness, generosity, and joyful service has now welcomed her home. The seeds she planted in generations of children and families will continue to grow, reminding us that love given freely is never lost. Well done, good and faithful servant.

February 28 at 9:52 AM



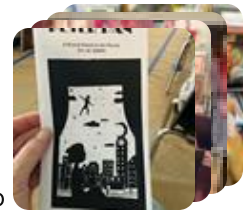
Tribute Wall

Nina Vail

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In Honor of Ms. Nina Vail We fell in love with Nina from the very beginning when our oldest daughter entered Pre-K at Lakewood Presbyterian School. Years later, our youngest would begin her own journey in that same magical classroom, a place overflowing with learning, laughter, creativity, and what we lovingly came to call Nina glitter. Nina taught our girls from their earliest school days and remained a steady, joyful presence all the way through their graduation from LPS. As they grew, so did the gifts she poured into them. In upper school, Nina helped them discover confidence on stage through her elaborate productions, many of our family's most treasured memories coming from those beautifully executed performances. She had a rare ability to find the gold in every child, especially ours, and bring it shining to the surface. Nina's love showed up in the details. Late nights spent sewing costumes for every season, size, and personality so each child felt comfortable and proud in their role. Handwritten encouragement. Thoughtful little bags of goodies she never forgot to send along. When our daughters became her kindergarten helpers in later years, she continued to shower them with affirmation and belonging, making them feel deeply seen and valued. Daily drop-offs often included a quick stop by Nina's classroom just to say hello. On the best days, that hello turned into a longer visit or a chance to lend a hand. Nina lived her life in service to others, quietly and generously. She was also our school's beloved tooth-puller. Any loose tooth meant an immediate visit to Nina, followed by excited reports the next morning about the Tooth Fairy's arrival. She made even the smallest childhood milestones feel extraordinary. One of Nina's greatest gifts was welcoming our family into hers. Through holidays, showers, birthdays, and countless celebrations filled with incredible food and laughter, she showed us what true family looks like. Halloween traditions at her home, bowls of chili before neighborhood adventures and enthusiastic candy trading afterward, became cherished rituals. Her grandchildren became our girls' lifelong friends, and through Nina, we experienced the joy of belonging to a large, loving, fully lived-in family. Nina had an eye for finding treasures, often appearing with a perfectly chosen outfit she had discovered on sale, insisting I show off my "pretty legs." She had a way of leaving people better than she found them, more confident, more cared for, more seen. Over the years, we walked through life together, funerals and weddings, engagements and new babies, celebrations and sorrows. Our family is forever changed because Nina Vail became part of it. We remain deeply grateful not only for the family she was to us, but for the family she so generously shared. A life well lived. A teacher who became family. A legacy that lives on in every child and every heart she touched. We take comfort knowing that the same faith Nina lived so naturally through her kindness, generosity, and joyful service has now welcomed her home. The seeds she planted in generations of children and families will continue to grow, reminding us that love given freely is never lost. Well done, good and faithful servant.

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Tribute Wall

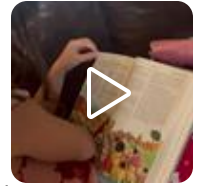
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Jenn Gladney shared a video to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Grace reading her Bible for the very first time and what I didn't capture was Grace's words before she started reading. "Ms Nina taught me how to read and always encouraged me to learn to read so I can read the Bible and hide the word my heart." "What a gift she has given to so many!! Her blessings she poured out to lives and families will never be forgotten! I have so many dear memories of Nina! I'm so grateful to have known her!



February 28 at 9:52 AM



Shannon Montgomery shared 15 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

March 2 at 12:45 PM



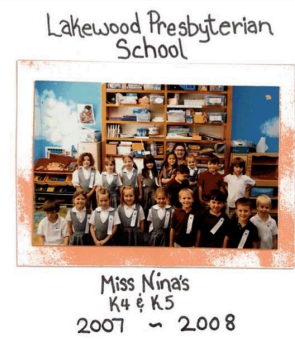
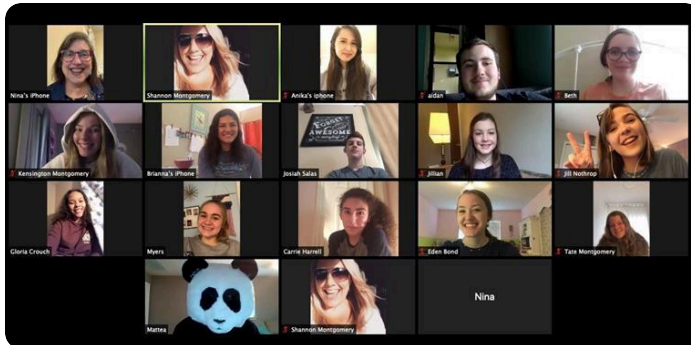




Media

Nina Vail

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Shannon Montgomery shared 9 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

March 2 at 12:14 PM

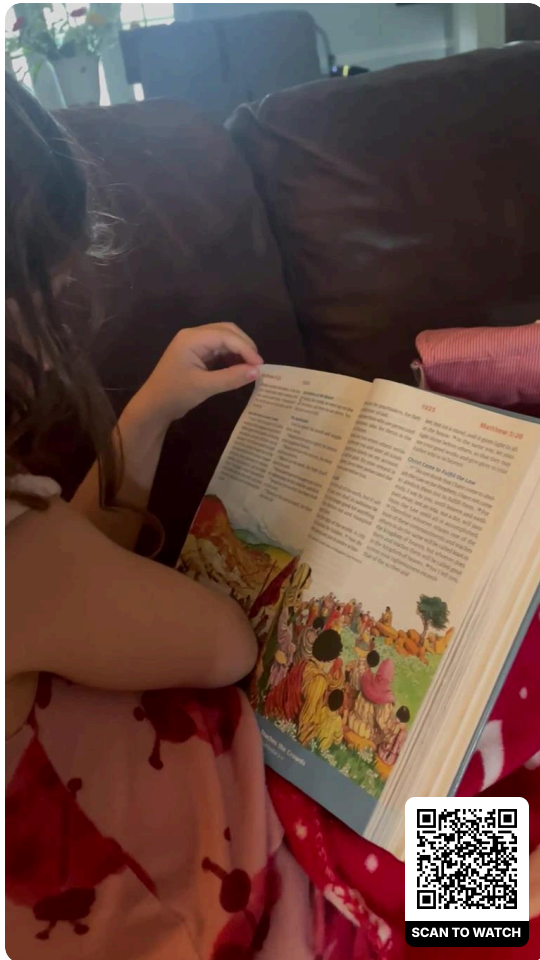






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Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Nina by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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