

Marcia J. Demkowicz Gnuse



Marcia was born September 24, 1941, and grew up in the small town of Neffs, Ohio, which is near Wheeling, West Virginia. After graduation from high school, she worked as a secretary for the City of Los Angeles and for the

Nationwide Insurance Company in Columbus, Ohio. She took the entrance test for the Peace Corps only because a friend who was taking it didn't want to go alone. Marcia was selected; the friend wasn't.

Marcia trained with the Volunteer Secretaries Program at George Washington University in March–June 1966, and soon thereafter was sent to Ankara, Turkey, to work in the Peace Corps office until the summer of 1968. As a PCV, she became a member of T-13.

Upon her return, she took a job as secretary in the Latin America region in the Peace Corps office in Washington, DC. She was living in Arlington, Virginia, and joined a little theater group where she met her future husband, Bob Gnuse. They were married in 1971. She left the Peace Corps the next year. Son David arrived in 1974. Daughter Janet was born in Korea in 1980 and adopted in 1982. While a mother, Marcia attended Northern Virginia Community College and George Mason University part time, studying anthropology and archaeology and receiving her Bachelor's degree in 1985. A lot of kid-related volunteer duties ensued, including PTA,

Cub Scouts, Brownies, soccer team mother, classroom volunteer, and a few years as a paid school cafeteria manager. As the children got older, Marcia became involved with other activities, especially the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, where she rose to the position of Virginia State Secretary.

In the summer of 2010, Marcia started showing symptoms of ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), from which she died on February 1, 2012.

—by Bob Gnuse

Editor's note: Marcia was an active volunteer for Arkadaşlar. She was on the board and was the long-time editor of *Buralarda*, Arkadaşlar's newsletter.



With daughter, Janet, in 2010