

# THE SPLASH

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## Meet Gladys Jenne



Gladys Jenne was born on April 17, 1942 and grew up in the small town of Bartelso, Illinois with a population of 300 at that time. "Everybody knew everybody. My Dad was a carpenter and my Mom was a homemaker. I was the oldest of five, one sister and three brothers. We were a typical storybook family." Gladys says that growing up in a small town was great! "We rode our bikes all over town as well as on the country roads, where many of our school friends lived on farms." She had cousins, aunts and uncles nearby and her grandparents lived across the street. Gladys' grandmother made applesauce cookies

and taught her to make a pie crust with lard.

Gladys attended St. Cecilia Grade school, three blocks from her home and went to Mater Dei Catholic High School. Then, she attended Kaskaskia College. She met the love of her life on her 17th birthday at an American Legion Hall Teen Dance. She was there with her sister and their two best girlfriends. "A young man asked me to dance. I did, and then he asked me if he could come to my house on Sunday afternoon. My parents liked him and we began dating. One day, Jerry came over driving a yellow '57 Chevrolet convertible, just two years old. Was that to impress me or win my heart? In any case, it was a really, fun car!" Gladys married Jerry on December 30, 1961, after dating 2+ years.

Gladys and Jerry lived in Memphis for three years while Jerry was in the Navy, stationed at Millington, Tennessee. Gladys worked at Personal Loan and Finance Company in downtown Memphis. When they returned to Illinois in 1966, they started Jerry's Nursery and Landscaping. At the same time, Gladys worked at the State Bank of Breese, Illinois for 26 years and then worked in the library of a Community College for ten years. After Jerry retired, they enjoyed traveling in their motor coach and spending winters in it at Sanibel Island, Florida. In 2008, Gladys and Jerry sold everything in Illinois and moved to a 55+ gated community in Lake Wales, Florida. "Winters were lovely there after having dealt with the Illinois weather and our greenhouses and plants."

While living in Florida, Jerry died of a brain tumor in 2013 after 52 beautiful years of marriage to Gladys. Trips back and forth to Tennessee to be with family meant so much to Gladys. When Covid19 happened, she was unable to travel and be with her family. This gave Gladys time to ponder her future and she decided to make the move to Tennessee. Jerry and Gladys raised two children. Jason is married to Jeni and they have two daughters. Lexi is 28 and Sage is 24 and both graduated from college. Her daughter, Amy is married to Bobby and they have two sons. Grant is 19 and in his second year at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee. Mason is 17 and is a senior at Page High School.

As Gladys considered various options to live, she says "My daughter, Amy who lives in College Grove, asked friends for recommendations and it seemed that The Fountains of Franklin was a unanimous vote! I was interested in the independent villas. We visited with Laurie, who showed us around and introduced us to Robin. I went on the waiting list and after a year, a villa became available. I had been bouncing between my daughter in College Grove, my son in Collierville and my sister in Illinois. Oh Happy Day!

At this point in her life, Gladys says her goals are simple – "to always remain happy, to live simply, but fully each day, to remove negativity from my life or walk away from it, to see the good in everyone, to continue to enjoy spending time with my children and grandchildren, and to live to see my two grandsons through college and in their chosen fields."

## Fountains of Franklin Team

**Robin Crowell, Executive Director**  
robin@fountainsfranklin.com  
615.567.3717, ext. 501

**Laurie Evans Ross, Marketing & Community Relations Director**  
laurie@fountainsfranklin.com  
615.567.3717, ext. 502

**Nursing Office**  
615.567.3717, ext. 503



**Allison Kelly, Executive Chef**  
allison@fountainsfranklin.com  
615.567.3717, ext. 504

**Jane Bowden, Activity Director**  
jane@fountainsfranklin.com  
615.567.3717, ext. 505

**Will Madrid, Property Manager**  
will@fountainsfranklin.com  
615.567.3717, ext. 506

**Reflections Memory Care**  
615.567.3717, ext. 509



**Shannon Cottrell, Health & Wellness Coach**  
shannon@fountainsfranklin.com  
615.567.3717, ext. 520

**Lola Davis, Lead Receptionist**  
reception@fountainsfranklin.com  
615.567.3717



**FOUNTAINS**  
of FRANKLIN

Phone: 615.567.3717

300 Celebration Circle  
Franklin, TN 37067

# HAPPENINGS & HIGHLIGHTS AT THE FOUNTAINS

Helen celebrated her 100th birthday and received honors from Governor Lee and Mayor Ken Moore. Oktoberfest was enjoyed by everyone with festive decorations, food and colorful costumes. Our Alzheimer's Walk gave us the opportunity to honor our family and friends as we pray for continued research to find a cure. Our Fountains of Franklin pageant spotlighted our beautiful ladies and we loved hearing their life stories! It's easy to see Barbara and Kathe's favorite place to relax...rocking chairs overlooking the fountains and scenic landscape!



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