



## Daniela Diane Popek Jones

August 19, 1926 - October 20, 2020

Daniela Diane Popek Jones, 94, of 104 Vista View Lane, Hurt, died October 20, 2020 at Centra Lynchburg General Hospital. She was the wife of the late Oliver Jones and the late Robert William Popek.

She was born August 19, 1926 in Czechoslovakia, a daughter of the late William Drha and Katherine Frey Dhra. She was a member of Hurt United Methodist Church and a retired employee of Abbott Laboratories.

She developed deep friendships within her church, in her neighborhood, during her working career, and within the community. It is a blessing to be part of her amazing life, as she touched the lives of so many.

Friends knew her as an accomplished writer having published the only written history of Pittsylvania county Virginia 'Tracks along the Staunton', and 6 other books including a trilogy autobiography. She was also an artist and plant lover. For almost 45 years she regularly propagated house plants and donated them to the Altavista Thrift Store.

She is survived by three sons, Robert Popek of Doylestown, PA, Phillip Popek of Hurt, VA and Thomas Popek of Moneta, VA; two daughters, Nancy Cofflin of Garland, TX and Ellen Ashley of Summerfield, NC; five grandchildren, Justin Popek, Emily O'Hare, Morgan Popek, Christy Hernandez, and Sarah Jones, and nine great grandchildren. Her caregiver of the last 3 years, Kristy Harless, was also a special part of the family.

There will be a Memorial service at Hurt United Methodist Church on Saturday, October 31, 2020 at 2:30pm. Masks are required.

Finch and Finch, Inc. Funeral and Cremation Service in Altavista VA is in charge of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, friends can choose to make donations to her favorite charities. She was

a great supporter of The Altavista Area YMCA, and the Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association, CMTA; this is a disease which affects the nerves that control the muscles of the extremities (a branch of the Muscular Dystrophy Association), which had a great effect on her life and mobility. Below are the links to these two charities.

<https://altavistaymca.org/>

<https://www.cmtausa.org/ways-to-give/donate/>

# Events

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**OCT**   **Memorial Service**   02:30PM  
**31**

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Hurt United Methodist Church

196 Ramp Road, Hurt, VA, US, 24563

# Comments

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“ Just learned of Ms. Diane's passing. Remember growing up across the street from the Popek family. Phillip and I were great friends, as well as Ellen, Nancy, Bobby and Tommy. One of my fondest memories is when Phillip spent part of the summer at the beach with me. After he returned home, the entire family showed up in our campground a week later. Great times with a wonderful family. So sorry for your loss!. Prayers for all.



**John M Smith** - November 12, 2020 at 08:06 PM

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“ Thank you for sharing Diane with all of us. She was a real treasure and will always be remembered for how she supported the Jones family when we needed it.



**Mark and Andrea Jones** - November 07, 2020 at 10:27 AM

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“ BILLY J DAVIS SR lit a candle in memory of Daniela Diane Popek Jones



**BILLY J DAVIS SR** - November 03, 2020 at 05:57 PM

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“ Thinking of all of you. Thank you for sharing your mom with us. Such great memories from childhood with your parents' wonderful baking and holidays get together. She was a treasure and we are all grateful for her, and my kids will always have wonderful memories of Diane. Blessings to each of you.

Kelly Jones Fisk (and all the Jones kids)

**Kelly Fisk** - October 29, 2020 at 01:16 PM

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“ So sorry for your loss. I met Diane when I went to work at Abbott. Such a wonderful sweet lady. Always so helpful.

Linda Carter

**Linda Carter** - October 28, 2020 at 01:19 PM

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“ To Diane's Family, My condolences to all. You have lost a wonderful Mother. I have known her from the time she built her home next door to mine on Vista View. Over these many years Diane was a wonderful neighbor and friend. From time to time I learned of her childhood in Europe, growing up in America and raising her children which she dearly loved in Hurt. A talented writer, she shared many of her writings in process with me. We also shared a love for plants. I admired her determination and struggles to keep moving and doing things. Diane was a gracious and delightful person who will be missed.

Lillian Gillespie

**Lillian Gillespie** - October 27, 2020 at 11:33 PM

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“ Dear Ellen and Phillip. So sorry to hear about the passing of your mom. She was such a nice lady. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and all of your family during the loss of your loved one.

Sincerely,  
Dennis DeLappe

**Dennis DeLappe** - October 27, 2020 at 06:54 AM

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“ I went to Elementary & High school with Phillip & I think Ellen. They were always well behaved. I think that is a good reflection on their parents. I probably met their Mom when we had class parties @ Hurt school. I know what it is like to lose a Mother, so I feel your pain. I lost my Mother in 2003 to a sudden heart attack. I'm thankful I can sign the guest book even though I'm 300 miles away. I would Love to read her book on Pittsylvania County. I'm sure it is good. In Christian Love, Bessie (Bradner) Cox Class of Gretna High 1973.

**Bessie (Bradner) Cox** - October 26, 2020 at 10:56 PM

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“ Philip and rest of family, I am so sorry to hear this. I thought so much of your Mother. I can remember your parents running a bakery on Main Street and the cakes and donuts were to die for. My thought and prayers are with each one of you in this time of sorrow.



**Pat Puckette** - October 26, 2020 at 06:45 PM

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“ Tom my deepest condolences to you and your family. I was fortunate to hear wonderful stories of your mom that you shared with me. Holding your family close to my heart. Annette Mcquaid

**annette mcquaid** - October 26, 2020 at 03:55 PM

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“ Family,

So sorry for your loss. Diane was such a sweet, talented and kind lady. Enjoyed our years together at Hurt UMC. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Love & Prayers,  
Edwin & Sue Blackstock



**Sue Blackstock** - October 26, 2020 at 03:12 PM

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“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Daniela Diane Popek Jones.



October 26, 2020 at 01:59 PM

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“ I am so very sorry for your loss. Prayers of comfort and strength for the family.

**Reneé Smith** - October 26, 2020 at 01:34 PM

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“ Geneieve T. Rowland lit a candle in memory of Daniela Diane Popek Jones



**Geneieve T. Rowland** - October 26, 2020 at 01:02 PM

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“ Tommy and siblings, I am so sorry to hear of your Mother’s passing. When I was still in Hurt, she seemed to be everywhere always doing, contributing , involved, and most of all smiling. She will be missed.

**Kyllette Johnson Duncan** - October 26, 2020 at 10:57 AM

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“ We grew up with the Popek children in Hurt. They and their parents were wonderful people. I remember Diane coming to Hurt Elem School and talking about her homeland and how they escaped I believe after the communist takeover after WW2 if my history is correct. She was always so nice to all and I enjoyed her book on our area so much. Sincere condolences to all her children from an old Hurt citizen.  
Shirley Orrell

**Shirley Orrell** - October 26, 2020 at 10:20 AM