



## Dr. Eugene Paul Nassar

June 20, 1935 - April 6, 2017

Dr. Eugene Paul Nassar, son of the late Michael and Mintaha (Kassouf) Nassar, has died at the age of 81 in his East Utica home. He is survived by his children Anne, Laura, and Paul, his granddaughters, Miriam, and Samantha, and the dear companion of his late life, Bedelia Saba Hobaica. He was predeceased by his devoted wife of 43 years, Karen (Nocian), his parents, and his brothers, Fred, and Michael. Surviving is Fred's son, David, Michael's wife, Angela, and their children, Susan, Michael, Sondra, Elizabeth, and families, many dear cousins, especially Tommy and Rose.

Gene was a graduate of Kenyon College, Oxford and Cornell Universities, was a Rhodes Scholar, and a Woodrow Wilson and National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow, author of books on Wallace Stevens, Ezra Pound, and Dante Illustration, three books of essays in literary criticism, many articles and reviews, and editor of several volumes. He was Professor emeritus of English at Utica College, where he taught for 36 years, and founder of the Ethnic Heritage Studies Center. The Eugene Paul Nassar Poetry Prize was created in his name.

The family would like to acknowledge lifelong friends, Donald and Lucy Nojaim, Bob and Mary Cimbalo, Khalil Moses' family, Fran Pape, Leo and Judy Schwenzfeier, Frank Bergmann, Albert Mazloom, and James Pula. Friends may meet with the family at St. Louis Gonzaga Church at Rutger St. and Conkling Ave., where mass in the Maronite Rite of the Catholic Church will be celebrated on Monday at 1:00 with Chorbishop John D. Faris

officiating, and concelebrated by Rev. Saba Shofany. Burial will be at the family plot at Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

APR **10**. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Louis Gonzaga Church with a receiving line to follow  
520 Rutger Street  
Utica, NY

# Tribute Wall

JB

“ Gene was a unique human being; one with intellectual gifts he loved to share. A teacher/professor leaves many legacies with thousands of students. May God send the Holy Spirit to comfort his family and many friends.

*Joe P. Bottini*

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**Joseph P. Bottini** - April 24, 2017 at 07:57 PM



“ Cheryl's Classic Treats Box was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene Paul Nassar.



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April 14, 2017 at 09:32 PM

CS

“ I am sad to see my favorite Professor has gone on to that higher place. I never forgot him and therefore, I never will forget him. I always had the feeling that Dr. Nassar could have been anything he wanted to become, and he literally chose to teach.

He recited a passage from Lucretius in class on day that has stayed with me for life. It seems appropriate at this time.

No single thing abides,  
But all things flow;  
Fragment to fragment clings,  
and the things thus grow -  
Until we know and name them  
and by degrees they melt and are no more the things we know.

Rest well, kind and brilliant Dr. Nassar. Your mind touched the minds of many students.

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Cynthia S'Doia - April 11, 2017 at 04:49 PM

LD

“ Professor Nassar blessed me this year by sending me his two books, and sharing an email correspondence with me. We were planning on meeting for coffee this spring. I am deeply deeply saddened to learn of his passing. I cannot make his service this morning, but I would like his family to know how much this late friendship meant to me, and his encouragement to me to write my story. He was a humble East Utican, with a big heart and beautiful memories that he shared with all of us.

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Lauren Darman - April 10, 2017 at 09:12 AM

WP

“ Gene was one of the outstanding (if not the most outstanding) scholars at Utica College during my 38 years on the faculty. He was a kind and encouraging colleague, always asking about your own work and encouraging at every moment. His writing and sharing of his knowledge about the Utica community is to be treasured and was a wonderful example of the insights of a kind, gentle, scholarly, and giving man. Eternal thanks to you, Gene...

*Bill Pfeiffer*

*former colleague (chemistry)*

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**William F. Pfeiffer** - April 10, 2017 at 05:04 AM



“ Lavender & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene Paul Nassar.



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April 09, 2017 at 01:59 PM