



# Tanya Gonzalez

JUL 23, 1961 - JAN 9, 2026



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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6
<b>Media</b> .....	Page 9



# Tanya Gonzalez

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**T**anya Gonzalez of Spring Lake, Michigan, died peacefully at home after a courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born in July 1961 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. As a young person, Tanya was athletic and competitive, excelling in both tennis and swimming. She later attended Michigan State University, where her adventurous spirit led her to enroll in a study abroad program in London, England. It was there that she met fellow Spartan and the love of her life, Gary Gonzalez.

Tanya and Gary were married for 40 years and raised two children, Kristina and Matthew, in Spring Lake. Tanya built a career in event marketing and communications throughout Michigan, starting at Joe Louis Arena, a senior position at the Muskegon Summer Celebration, and most recently at Muskegon's Aquastar.

She retired early and devoted herself to her passions: traveling to visit family and friends, pottery, and being "the best Nana" to her five grandchildren—Allison, Arie, Nora, Quinn, and Luca. Her love for tennis remained constant throughout her life, leading her to coaching, teaching, and countless lifelong friendships. Tennis was not just a sport to Tanya, but a community and a lifestyle.

Tanya will be remembered for her playful competitive spirit on the tennis court and beyond, living in the moment, being present for family and friends, and offering steadfast love and support to those in her inner circle. She was always quick to laugh, dependable, honest, and authentically herself.

Tanya is survived by her loving husband, Gary, and their very special retired K-9, Shadow; daughter Kristina Wozniak (Mike); son Matthew Gonzalez (Tori); brother Mark Spelman; sisters Sara Wykes (Dan) and Megan Spelman (Vicent Poquet); and her beloved grandchildren Allison, Arie, Nora, Quinn, and Luca.



## Obituary

**Tanya Gonzalez**

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A celebration of life will be held 1-3 PM and 5-7 PM Sunday, January 18, 2026, at The Spring Lake Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 213 E. Savidge Street, Spring Lake, MI 49456. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in memory of Tanya may be given to the [American Cancer Society](#) or the [Harbor Hospice Foundation](#). Please sign the family's online guestbook at [Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services](#).



# Events

**Tanya Gonzalez**  
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## Celebration of Life

**Sunday**, January 18, 2026

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

**Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Spring Lake Chapel**

213 East Savidge, Spring Lake MI 49456



## Celebration of Life

**Sunday**, January 18, 2026

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET

**Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Spring Lake Chapel**

213 East Savidge, Spring Lake MI 49456





## Tribute Wall

**Tanya Gonzalez**

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**Michael R.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Tanya.



January 18 at 5:50 PM



**Mike Fowler** January 18 at 6:17 PM

Time on a tennis court with other people can have a way of revealing who people are. When I first moved to Spring Lake and started playing at Norton Pines 15 years ago I remember thinking what a kind, thoughtful person Tanya Gonzalez is. She always sought to make other's time on the court as nice as it could be. That first impression was right on the mark, that was Tanya on and off the court, she will be greatly missed.



**Sara Wykes** lit a candle in honor of Tanya.

Peace go with you Tanya, we miss you so much!



January 18 at 12:37 PM



**Adam Wykes** posted:

I remember Tanya - and all her family and mine! - piled into the seats, floor, and trunk of one car, on our way to and from a hockey game. It was incredibly loud because we were all joking, laughing, and carrying on both ways. I remember my Aunt Tanya watching over us as we played in the water by the old beach shack on Lake Michigan. In fact, every single memory I have of her is like these two: centered around activity; vitality, and ringed with laughter: both Tanya's and all the other family she always seemed to attract around her.

January 16 at 10:10 PM



**The Flickemas** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Gonzalez family.



January 13 at 2:18 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**The Flickemas** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Tanya.



January 13 at 2:18 PM



**Brian Crowell** lit a candle in honor of Tanya.

Dear Gary and Family. So very sorry to hear about Tanya's passing. Praying for God's peace and comfort to sustain you all. Brian Crowell



January 13 at 12:29 PM



**Alex And Cathy Palladino** posted:

Cathy and I are deeply saddened to receive the news of Tanya's passing. As co-coaches for the SL girls team, I came to know Tanya as a sincere friend who gave of herself without hesitation or limit. She was uplifting, compassionate, and offered a safe space for every player she took under her wing. Her impact on those she touched will be felt for a lifetime, and her presence both on and off the court will be dearly missed. All of our love, condolences, and tears go out to her family and loved ones. Cathy and Alex Palladino

January 13 at 9:41 AM



**Kirk Gossett** posted:

Tonya, EVERY time I've ever been near you on the tennis court, you have always been so friendly and kind! I will always think you smiling and competing on the tennis court!

January 13 at 1:45 AM



**Timothy Monroe** posted:

Being a former groundskeeper of the Muskegon Mall from April 25th, 1995 to June 28th, 2000. Tanya Gonzalez was one of the best bosses that I have had the honor of knowing as the General Manager, along with Sara Sass the Events Coordinator, Julie Steiner secretary, David Hubble Operations Director, Kenneth Cramblitt, and Tom Vos Maintenance. The meetings in the back lunchroom on the second floor Suite #201 were very legendary when we had disagreements, we would throw bricks at each other. [Don't worry the bricks were foam, lol 🙄]

January 12 at 5:34 PM



# Tribute Wall

**Tanya Gonzalez**  
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**Your Kodiak Group Family** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Tanya.



January 12 at 12:03 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Gonzalez family.



January 12 at 12:03 PM



**Sue Abood** shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Tanya and I met in Wilson Hall at MSU many years ago. Our lives took very different paths yet we tried to keep in touch and would cross paths periodically. In September 2024 we took a trip to Boston to watch the Spartans at a very rainy football game. The weekend gave us a chance to catch up on all the happenings of life, and as is common with life long friends we picked up like we had just been together. Rest in peace my friend.  
Sue Abood



January 11 at 10:17 PM



**Timothy Monroe** posted:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/S2oV3xpapEsFC6j1A>

January 11 at 10:16 PM



# Media

**Tanya Gonzalez**  
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**Sue Abood** shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 11 at 10:17 PM





# **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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