

In Loving Memory of Nirmala Srinivasan (April 7, 1957 – August 28, 2025)

“She who lives in the hearts of others never dies”



To know Nirmala was to be enveloped in affection...in smile, thought, word, and deed. With the serene majesty of Gaia, the Greek Earth Goddess, Nirmala embodied unconditional love and leaves a blueprint for how to live and laugh heartily, no matter what! Nirmala's amicable, cheerful, easy-going personality, storytelling talents, exceptional hospitality and world-class culinary skills made it easy for her to form friendships across ages and walks of life. A compassionate caregiver, she was the glue and kin keeper of the family. Deeply spiritual, Nirmala stayed a pillar of strength and a quiet force of nature until the very end.



Nirmala (**Nimma** to Dad) was born to G.R. Moorti and Kamala Kolathu Iyer on April 7, 1957. She was super protective of her younger siblings, Sridhar and Usha, who in turn continued to adore her over the ensuing decades. To mark their milestone 60th birthdays, Sridhar and Usha were overjoyed to visit Nirmala in 2024-2025.



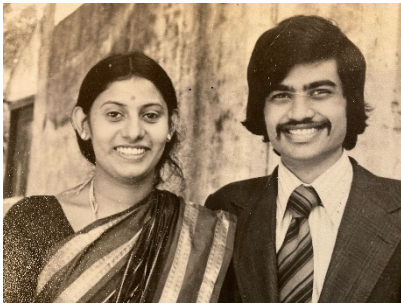
Nirmala's early childhood in a loving and animated household was filled with boisterous laughter, music, humor, and a stream of extended relatives visiting—and staying over—often without notice. Nirmala's grand 16th birthday *went global* since the Moorti household hosted exchange students from Indonesia and Japan in 1973. Growing up in New Delhi and Mumbai, Nirmala attended Lady Shri Ram College and S.I.E.S. College majoring in Political Science and Economics (Honors), after being a Gold Medalist in Commerce at the DTEA (Lodhi Road) school.

Fluent in English, Hindi, and Tamil, Nirmala understood Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada. She could also read Sanskrit and recite selected *Bhagavad Gita* verses from memory. Her fluency in Hindi was a testament to her linguistic grace and cultural adaptability as was her strong connection with sister-in-law Binu, who endearingly called Nirmala her "didi" (*elder sister* in Hindi).





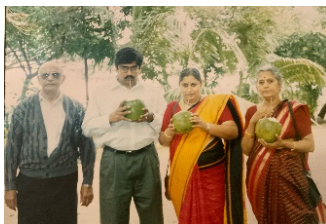
Our Dad listened to Carnatic music all the time with particular fondness for M.S. Subbulakshmi and Radha Viswanathan (Dad's sister-in-law). So did Nirmala. Our mother sang melodiously. So does Usha. Even to this day, niece Uma spontaneously hums the Shree Mata (Compassionate Mother) *bhajan* taught to her by her affectionate Nimma Periamma! Usha often sang on the phone to Nirmala ancient healing verses to offer comfort and solace during family bereavements and illnesses.

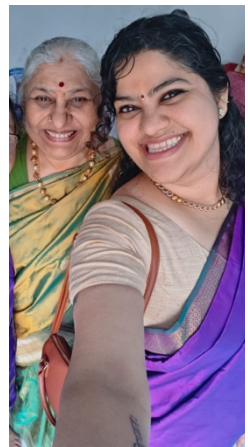


Following her marriage to L. Srinivasan (*Sekar Saheb* to Nirmala) on November 3, 1976, Nirmala lived in United Arab Emirates for twelve years. Giridhar, Shiva, and Kanchana were born in 1977, 1981, and 1984. These infants and toddlers electrified the entire Moorti household! Nirmala thoroughly enjoyed her family vacation to USA, Canada, and Europe in the 1980s. She began residing in Chennai in 1989, single-handedly managing her household in T. Nagar for a decade before Sekar moved back from Abu Dhabi. Her caregiving, in large part, led to her children growing into intelligent and charming adults pursuing: Auditing and Artificial Intelligence; Electronics Engineering and Spirituality; and Corporate Communications and Creative Writing. Legend has it that Nirmala earned her *Diamond Jubilee* in same-movie-binge-watching: seeing *The Sound of Music* 75 times (calculated equitably as 25 times per child!).



With parents living next door, Nirmala enjoyed daily walks, yoga-in-the-park, meditation, and *bhajan* classes. She was always up for jokes told (and retold) by Sridhar and leisurely conversations with her brother-in-law Ramji! Everyone loved Nirmala's idea to wake up early for a drive to see the sunrise at Marina beach, sip fresh coconut water, and have hot breakfast at Geetham restaurant!





By far, her youngest child Kanchana turning 40 was Nirmala’s most glorious moment of pride and joy in 2024 with much laughter and memory-sharing.

As per nephew Vasu (with *Aviyal* being his favorite), his Nimma Periamma was the *World’s Greatest Cook* par excellence! During each annual visit by Usha to Chennai, Nirmala (like Mom did too) would fondly prepare and neatly pack up all sorts of homemade spice powders—often, a year’s worth!—for Usha to use in Iowa. Usha learnt so many “cooking tricks” from Nirmala who (insistently) offered them during their daily WhatsApp video calls...except on Mondays. Everyone knew not to call Nirmala on Mondays when she maintained total silence (*Mouna Vratham*) from 6 am - 6 pm for nearly 30 years straight—demonstrating sheer will power.

Nirmala loved all the visits with her granddaughters. Her jaunts to Dubai (2016) and Pondicherry (2020) were particularly memorable. She enjoyed watching thrillers and comedy movies with Sekar and Kanchana, playing board games (Bananagrams; Magic Carpet) and *Antaakshri* singing with her siblings and children. Aptly suiting her personality, Nirmala favored this Bollywood film song from 1972:

Ik Pyaar Ka Nagma Hai...Teri Meri Kahaani Hai (Life is nothing but a story of our love for each other).



For three decades, Nirmala provided in-home care for aging in-laws and parents. Her role as a caregiver—who needed to deliver timely and daily assistance for her entire family as well as numerous friends and neighbors from time to time—provides important lessons, especially for Kanchana and Usha. Stressed for time as the primary caregiver, Nirmala ended up de-prioritizing self-care. Luckily, with critical assistance from Kanchana, Nirmala began to learn to live well by managing her diabetes and Chronic Kidney Disease. For making enormous lifestyle and dietary changes, her dietitian showcased Nirmala in a FaceBook Live interview as an exceptional case study in 2020, inspiring hundreds of dietitians and kidney patients across India. As a staunch foodie with a new mission to translate dietary constraints into delicious recipes, simple cooking methods, and renal-friendly meal routines, Nirmala reminded people to be positive, persistent, and seek emotional support.



For providing kind care for our sister, we express our gratitude to all the formal caregivers, physicians, nurses, hospital staff and household help. We are deeply thankful to Kanchana (who lives next door in Chennai) for serving as the primary caregiver for both her ailing parents. We are also thankful to Giridhar who has been making multiple visits to Chennai, including with his wife and daughters.

Surrounded by her loving family, Nirmala Srinivasan (née Moorti), passed away at 6:20 am on Thursday, August 28, 2025, in Chennai, India. She had been admitted to the hospital on August 22 due to chest pain and was being treated for acute kidney failure. All funeral rites are being done at the T. Nagar home for 13 days.

In addition to her family members, Nirmala leaves behind a large extended family as well as friends, neighbors, and all their families residing across four continents.

मैत्रीं च सर्व भूतेषु दानं च मधुरां च वाक्

Friendship with all beings, generosity, and pleasant speech



In lieu of flowers and cards, please email/text/call Usha and Sridhar with your memories and photos with Nirmala. Reminiscing this way will help us all cherish the lovely bonds that Nirmala built through her life.

To honor Nirmala's memory, please consider contributing to the ***Nimma Resilience Fellows*** program at [CARTHA](#), a US 501c3 tax-exempt charity (founded by Usha). Since CARTHA's inception nearly 20 years ago, Nirmala has—as have Sridhar and Kanchana too—been informal advisors to Usha and have met numerous CARTHA collaborators. The *Nimma Resilience Fellows* program—designed with a grief counselor as a series of community dialogues and partnerships—will promote intergenerational resilience with a renewed focus on self-care, coping skillsets, and collaborative caregiving approaches. Please mail your donation check (noting *Nimma Resilience Fellows* on the memo line) to:

CARTHA, 85 Leamer Court, Iowa City, IA 52246.

Celebrating, honoring, and cherishing the memory of our beloved sister Nirmala,

Sridhar Ramamoorti, Dayton, Ohio (937-510-2151; sri.ramamoorti@gmail.com)

Usha Ramamurthy Balakrishnan, Iowa City, Iowa (319-331-8103; usha.balakrishnan@gmail.com)

