



Nancy Halder
Iowa City, Iowa

Nancy Halder has a BA in Communications from Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana. She is a long-time resident of Iowa and lives in Iowa City with her husband John. They have three adult children.

Nancy worked as an accountant at the University of Iowa Research Foundation (UIRF) for two decades until her retirement in 2018. In this role, Nancy interacted with hundreds of leading researchers, inventors, staff, and students at the University of Iowa; as well as UIRF patent licensees and research sponsors across the US and internationally. Nancy has served as a member of the Iowa County Empowerment Board, and also conducted programs for parents and children in Iowa County through the Young Parents Network and Parents As Teachers.

Nancy has known CARTHA Founder Usha Balakrishnan since her days at the UIRF in the 1990s. In March 2022, they reconnected in a serendipitous way while engaged in post-pandemic shopping in the same store! Nancy was particularly attracted to CARTHA's new Healing through Musicality in Parks initiative. Nancy has now met several Carthans to discuss and share new ideas relating to programming opportunities with the Singing Nook at Willow Creek Park.

Nancy's exposure to music began before birth since her family attended the local Mennonite Church where all singing was in four-parts and a Capella. In the mid-1900s, her father taught shape-note singing at multiple churches in Iowa County. Music was important in her home: all six children took piano lessons and sang together with extended family and in choirs. Nancy has participated in choirs in a variety of educational and community settings, most recently with the Oakdale Community Choir (founded and directed by University of Iowa Music Professor Mary Cohen) and comprised of volunteers and incarcerated men.

Nancy Halder's response to two questions of interest to CARTHA:

What are your aspirations for humanity?

My aspiration for humanity is that we live in ways that develop compassion for all people. A compassionate society will support the vulnerable in ways that will decrease their vulnerability and encourage us to acknowledge all humans as valuable.

What does music mean to you?

Music is companionship, a universal language, a shared activity, a connection to feelings, an entrance into an unknown culture, an educator, an expression of creativity. Music can soothe, celebrate, comfort, energize, and encourages us to move outside of our head and into other worlds.