



Adelheide "Heidi" Schutzler

September 18, 2025

Adelheide "Heidi" Schutzler, 87, of Lititz, PA, died peacefully on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at Brethren Village. Born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, she was the daughter of the late Alfred Michler and Sophie Schuchmann. Adelheide was the beloved wife of Herwig Georg Schutzler for 66 years.

A lifelong musician, Heidi was a talented coloratura soprano and treasured member of the Lancaster Opera Company and the Lancaster Symphony Chorus. She also sang for many years in the Highland Presbyterian Church Choir and St. James Episcopal Church Choir. Heidi found great joy in sharing her passion with all those who love music.

Just as music filled her soul, so too did the water. Heidi was drawn to the ocean and found peace in swimming, body surfing, and playing in the open sea with dolphins and whales. She served for many years as the Aquatics Director for the Manheim Township Parks and Recreation Department, the Hempfield Township Recreation Center, and Head Swimming Coach for Overlook and Skyline Pools. She launched her career in and around pools at Golden Meadows Pool and Lancaster Aquatic Club. She was a Lifeguard Instructor Trainer for the American Red Cross. Until cancer eroded her strength at the age of 86, Heidi swam at least a mile three times a week.

Together with her husband, Herwig, Heidi traveled the world, gaining a deep appreciation for many cultures. Her interest in the local Amish community grew into a meaningful relationship—one that inspired her to serve as a fluent, German-speaking tour guide for the Amish Farm and House. She later authored and published a book, with help from her friends in the Amish community, for German tourists to fully appreciate all they experienced as they explored the area.

In addition to her husband, Heidi is survived by her sons, Michael (Cari) Schutzler and Peter (Kate) Schutzler; four grandchildren, Magdalena (Annie) Schutzler and their two daughters, Megan (Cole) Manaster, Erik Schutzler, and Hannah Schutzler; and her niece, Susanne Seifert. She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Anneliese.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Brethren Village, 3001 Lititz Pike, Lititz, PA 17543. A brief reception will be held after the service. Interment is invitation only.

Heidi and Herwig are both keen on helping Native Americans. They ask that no flowers be sent and that any memorial contributions be made to Soaring Eagle, a nonprofit that aligns with Heidi's values and providing elder care for Native American communities: <https://soaringeagle.org/get-involved/donate/>

Cemetery Details

Landis Valley Mennonite Cemetery

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **18**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Brethren Village
3001 Lititz Pike
Lititz, PA 17543

Tribute Wall

MD

“ So very very sorry for your loss Herwig, Mike and Peter. As we all know Heidi was an amazing teacher/ instructor and her love of swimming and anything aquatic related was infectious. She touched the lives of so many children and adults over the years with her love of the water. Even more so she was the kind of person that was willing to help out anyway she could. A woman of multiple talents and gifts for sure. She will be sorely missed! Rest easy old friend. Your legacy will live on!
Mark Daum

Mark Daum - October 17, 2025 at 05:03 PM

LF

“ I met Heidi and Herwig when I was 10 years old and Herwig worked with my Mom at cartographic on Duke Street. They were both my first introduction to a Europeans and I was in awe of them both. I distinctly remember being invited to their home what I think was their first Christmas in Lancaster. It is such a fond memory etched in my mind of Heidi's hospitality, beautiful Christmas tree and smile. I have thought of that day around Christmas, every year since - 56 years later.

Leslie Fiorenza - October 15, 2025 at 08:42 AM

PY

“ Heidi was my swimming instructor when I was younger and lived in my neighborhood growing up. I used to deliver the newspaper and Heidi and Herwig were always so kind, asking how I was doing and chatting for a little on my route. I always looked forward to the Frohe Weihnachten sign during the holidays too. My condolences to the family, Heidi was a wonderful person.

Patrick Yeager - October 13, 2025 at 03:57 PM

JN

“ To Heidi's family, I offer my sympathy. I knew Heidi from Lancaster Opera Workshop. I so admired her beautiful voice. I remember so clearly her performance as "The Queen of the Night" at the Fulton. And what a legacy she leaves behind with all of her other endeavors. A life well lived.
Jean Nikolaus

Jean Nikolaus - October 12, 2025 at 06:49 AM

AF

“ I am so sorry to hear of Heidi's passing. She was a dear friend. I met her in the water as my aquatics coach. When I told her I was the Director of Music at Church of the Apostles, she told me about her singing. The result was that she came to sing with the choir at COA for many years, a fact not mentioned in her obituary. When we moved to Virginia, we spent our last night at their house, after all our furniture had been loaded onto the moving van. After we moved to Virginia, she and Herwig came down several times with Al and Betsy Bischoff to hear concerts by Cantori, the choral ensemble I direct here. The obituary also did not mention Herwig and Heidi's immigration to the US, their sitting in the airport for hours, because they could not read English, before someone came to their assistance, and their work for many years as cartographers. They truly had a life full of experiences that most of us never have. Rest in peace, Heidi. God bless you, and God bless Herwig. My thoughts go out to him.

Agnes French - October 02, 2025 at 10:34 AM

PR

“ I have very fond memories of Heidi through our swimming connection. She was a dedicated, enthusiastic swimming instructor who truly loved the sport. Heidi was an exceptional woman. My condolences to her family.

Pam Sherrard Rosenberger

Pamela Rosenberger - September 28, 2025 at 07:24 AM

KS

“ Oh what sad news. Heidi, you were a beacon of kindness and love always. Sharing thr German language and traditions was a gift to my soul, missing Germany so much. I treasure our time together. Herwig, my heartfelt sympathies to you. I cannot imagine the immense void you must feel and I send my unconditional love to you.

Peace and love, Kristina (and Jim) Schroeder

Kristina Schroeder - September 23, 2025 at 08:14 AM