



## Alice Ann Robertson Colton

March 3, 2021

Alice Ann Robertson Colton, a faithful Christian and devotee of family and friends, passed away on March 3, 2021, at Hospice & Community Care in Mount Joy, Pennsylvania. She was the oldest daughter of the late Harriett B. and Thurman C. Lindsey of Hagerstown, Maryland and was the loving wife of the late James A. “Jim” Robertson and, more recently, John M. Colton III.

Alice Ann grew up in Hagerstown, Maryland, where she met her first husband, Jim Robertson. The couple had two daughters, Beth and Laura, born in Georgia and Germany, respectively, where Jim was stationed with the US army. Following Jim’s deployment, they settled in Maryland, moving to the Towson area in the 1970s. There, Alice Ann worked as an assistant teacher at St. Paul’s lower school and also began what became her life-long dedication to learning, teaching, and growing in the Christian faith.

In the early 1980s, Alice Ann and Jim moved to Franklin, Tennessee, where they lived for nearly 15 years. They loved the area, and Alice Ann’s spiritual connections continued to flourish as she and Jim helped found the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Franklin. Alice Ann also founded a Christian ministry supporting new mothers in the community and trained as a Spiritual Director.

After Jim retired from banking, the couple moved back to the Baltimore area to

be closer to their daughter Beth and two grandchildren, Lindsey and James Kiefer. Within a year of their relocation, Jim passed away unexpectedly. Alice Ann dedicated her time following his death to supporting her family and friends and was instrumental in founding the Church of the Resurrection, located in Lutherville, MD. She served on the vestry and assembled a prayer team that now has more than 80 members.

In 2010, Alice Ann remarried a Hagerstown childhood acquaintance, John Colton. Alice Ann and John later settled at Willow Valley Communities in the Lancaster area, a fantastic place for them both within which they had an immediate community of friends, culture, and support. Her sister, Barbara Lindsey, also moved to the community a few years later.

Alice Ann was an excellent cook and entertainer. She loved art, gardening, reading, and most of all, she loved her family, friends, and the Lord. She lived a life of selfless service to others and enriched many lives.

Alice Ann is survived by her husband John, her daughters Beth and Laura Robertson, two grandchildren Lindsey Kiefer Koeckert and Dr. James Kiefer, sister Barbara Lindsey, and Barbara's two children Hannah and Sam Borgeson. Also surviving Alice Ann and close to her heart are John's daughters, Joan Colton Fink and Beth Colton, and grandsons, Vernon "Colton" Colton and Dean Colton.

We will all miss our mother, wife, grandmother, stepmother, aunt, sister, and friend. In lieu of flowers, a donation to the hospice that took such sensitive and skilled care of her in her time of need would be much appreciated: <https://www.hospiceconnect.org/memorial>. Memorial services will be held in Lutherville, MD at the Church of the Resurrection on April 23, 2021 at 2 p.m. and also on April 27, 2021 at 2 p.m. at Ascension Lutheran Church in Willow Street, PA.



# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

APR **27**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Ascension Lutheran Church  
600 E. Penn Grant Street  
Willow Street, PA 17584

# Tribute Wall



“ *Alice Ann Robertson Colton*

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October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *Presence, Present, and Presents: My Aunt Alice Ann (part 2)*

*Our relationship took on an added dimension following my mother’s decision to move to Willow Valley nearly five years ago. We became a team and mutual support system as her “smart little sister,” my mother, slid unexpectedly into dementia. Through this I realized, and appreciated, just how stubbornly present she could be -- and that perhaps this stubbornness runs in our family. Alice Ann educated herself about dementia, worked through her emotions, and remained present for mom’s journey whether mom wanted her to or not. Likewise, she and John kept track of my frequent visits and picked me up at the train station whether I wanted them to or not, showering me with love and support at every turn. She became my link to my mother’s past and my family history.*

*When my mom had a nearly fatal embolism a year and a half ago, Alice Ann rode in the ambulance with her, kept vigil in the ER, and guided me and Sam to agreement on some difficult decisions in the coming days. Once mom was released to go live in memory care, Alice Ann showed up at the nursing home as often three times per day making sure her sister was properly looked after and in good spirits. Meanwhile, in sorting through my mom’s apartment after this move, I found even more evidence of how present Alice Ann was throughout my mom’s, and my, life. Only in the last few months before her passing did Alice Ann ease up in order to be present for her own final journey. Fortunately, she was able to do so because she had done such a good job of getting her sister situated and preparing me and Sam for new responsibilities.*

*On a lighter note: presents! Another Lindsey family trait Alice Ann got was a love of gift-giving. Beloved practical, aesthetically pleasing, and/or tasty presents from her are constant reminders of her love and generosity: trusty stainless steel colander, cuddly Fake Gustav, scrumptious hot fudge. She loaded me up with treats for every train ride, outfitted me in comfy “soft clothes” like her Aunt Muriel used to give to her, and completely disregarded our family’s*

*attempt to limit Christmas presents through Christmas Wheel assignments. She also strove to pass along assuredness, positivity, and faith, gifts she developed her entire adult life and that leaned on heavily at the end. These many gifts, both tangible and intangible, are wonderful to have and to remember her by.*

*In 2000, at the end of my big bike trip, Alice Ann wrote to me to say that being present during that adventure had helped her face the challenges following Jim's sudden death. "I have been less overwhelmed and more tuned to knowing I can do this," her card said as she thanked God for putting a "strong kind woman" like me in her life. Although I sometimes feel overwhelmed and unsure of how much I can handle, I am strengthened by the example Alice Ann set through her presence, being present, and presents -- for me and my mom too.*

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**Hannah Borgeson** - April 15, 2021 at 06:19 PM



“ Presence, Present, and Presents: My Aunt Alice Ann (part 1)

*When Uncle Jim died in 1998, the eulogy focused on “direction” and how various meanings of that word applied to him. Perhaps because of this, I’ve tried to think of a word that encapsulates Alice Ann since learning of her terminal diagnosis. One word isn’t enough, though. I narrowed it down to three homophones: presence, present, and presents.*

*First is her presence. Alice Ann had an effect on a room. People noticed, and remembered, her beauty and grace; they could tell it came from the inside. “Your aunt is such a beautiful lady,” I’ve heard time and again from friends of all ages. When I was young, she stood out in my mind for never wearing pants, preferring skirts, dresses, and maybe culottes. No one else I knew dressed that way, nor did anyone else in my life have a giant portrait of herself elegantly posed. She made these things seem normal. Even after she started wearing pants, she had a certain propriety to her, always bringing out the best in other people simply through her presence.*

*Next is how present she was in my life and for so many others. She tended to her own mother through her decline -- and I’m so glad that my cousins Beth and Laura were able to do this for her just recently. When Alice Ann and Jim moved back to Maryland to be near their grandchildren, she established a base that would be our family’s gathering spot for nearly two decades. She was no homebody, though, taking many vacations including trips with my mother to see Laura and Rico in Central America, visit Lindsey in New Orleans, cruise the Caribbean on a sail-powered cruise ship, and support me as I biked with a friend across the state of Wyoming, to name just a few adventures. After she undertook another relationship, and as her descendants brought new people into the family, she presided over the whole brood, helping us form bonds and carry on traditions. Meanwhile, she also maintained strong individual connections with many family members and close friends. She knew my swim history*

*inside and out, followed my pool blog with enthusiasm, commented regularly on my Facebook posts, and enjoyed keeping up with my life in New York City.*

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**Hannah Borgeson** - April 15, 2021 at 06:16 PM



“ 10 files added to the album *My Aunt Alice Ann*



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**Hannah Borgeson** - April 15, 2021 at 06:11 PM

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“ Mom loved me and made me feel special. Isn't that what moms do, make you feel special and loved? She read to me at night when I was young, she made us delicious meals, she found the best clothes for us for our 1st day of school, she took care of us when we were sick, she walked the beach with us, she laughed and showed us how to enjoy life, she taught us how to cook, she came to watch me at my high school gymnastics meets. She came to visit where I lived in Belize, she came to visit me in Kansas City and she came to visit at our place in Mexico. I was glad to have the opportunity to show her things in my life like teaching her to snorkeling, my cooking and house I live in, the culture of Mexico and hiking in the mountains there. She always had a cherry demeanor and accepted me for all my quirks and my outside of the box life. I am so thankful that I had such great caring parents, it is evident as I age, this isn't the case very often. I am glad I had the flexibility to take care of her when she was sick, to read to her, to cook for her, to rub her head and have good conversations. We will miss her but I know she was miserable at the end and I am thankful she is not suffering.



Laura Robertson - March 16, 2021 at 08:03 PM

KK

Such a lovely tribute Laura! Thank you for sharing! I can picture all those experiences you had with your mom. You have incorporated her cherry attitude in your own life and I'm sure her sharing that with you has something to do with that! I'm so glad she visited you in Belize. I did not know of that. I feel very grateful to have met your mom at your house in KC. It's special to know the parents whom your dear friends. She's looking down on you know! Shining her pretty smile. I bet you will feel her give you a sweet kiss too! Hugs! ❤️

Karen Kimmel - March 20, 2021 at 03:25 PM