



Barbara W. Barden

April 13, 2015

Barbara W. Barden, 87, of Lancaster passed away on March 25, 2015 at home. Born May 15, 1927 in Newport, RI, she was the daughter of the late Anna Louise (James) and William Fredrick Watson.

Barbara graduated from Mary Washington College with a Psychology degree and president of the student government her senior year. She taught English, Spanish, and dance at Richlands high school in VA for a year. She married Fredrick Jeffrey Blodgett on December 23, 1949 and had a son. Her husband, a Navy pilot, died in a plane crash on February 18, 1952. Barbara started graduate school in Indiana and married Navy pilot Robert Barden on July 29, 1954. They lived in Colorado and Massachusetts before settling in Lancaster, PA in 1968.

Barbara started the Modern Dance program at the Lancaster YWCA and in 1978 became Director of Dance at Franklin and Marshall College where she retired in 1993. She directed and/or choreographed shows for Actor's Company of PA, Lancaster Opera Workshop, F&M, Theater of the Seventh Sister, CreArTivity, Fulton Opera House, area high schools (most notably over 20 musicals at Hempfield High School with Dick Kline). She starred in Co-Motion's "Purple Twilight", Actor's Company of PA's "On Golden Pond", Theater of the Seventh Sister's "Eleemosynary" and Mary Haverstick's film "A Christmas Dinner". Barbara taught numerous movement workshops and held

many dance performances in downtown parks and her own backyard over the years.

She was an avid knitter, loved nature walks, and had a vibrant personality which was contagious. She was an educator first and often used dance as the medium. Her credo was a simple one: "Whatever you love doing – do it".

She is survived by a loving husband, Robert, of 61 years and four children; Jeffrey Blodgett and wife Sally of Hatfield MA, Robert James and wife Louise of Huntington, MA, Stuart McPhail and wife Kim of Lancaster, and Priscilla A. (Barden) and husband Jeffrey Kaufhold of Lancaster, as well as eight grandchildren: Olivia, James, Isabella, Ainslie, A.Claire, Curtis, Calvin, and Tessa. Barbara was preceded in death along with her parents, by first husband Frederick Jeffrey Blodgett and her brother William Frederick Watson, Jr.

Over the past 25 years, Theater of the Seventh Sister gave Barbara the opportunity to act, dance, choreograph, and direct. Her full evening Dance Stories led to TSS's Winter Dance Concert Series. Memorial contributions in Barbara's memory can be made to The Theater of the Seventh Sister, P.O. Box 276, Lancaster PA 17608. www.seventhsister.com

Relatives and friends are invited to attend Barbara's Remembrance Service on Sunday, April 19, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at The Groffs Family Funeral & Cremation Services, 528 W. Orange Street (corner of Orange and Pine Sts.), Lancaster, PA with Reverend Anne Mason officiating. The family will greet friends from 1:30 p.m. until the time of service. Private interment.

Tribute Wall



“ *Barbara W. Barden*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *Dear Priscilla and family,*

I don't know if you remember me, but my friend Julie (Malles) and I took dance from Barbara at the YWCA in the early '70s. We helped introduce her to Richard Kline at Hempfield. Our junior and senior class musicals had Barbara as our choreographer. We went on to dance in some Fulton productions that were choreographed by Barbara.

I have many fond memories of taking dance lessons and dancing in productions where she was at the center. She helped shape my life and gave me a life-long love of dance. It's been many years since I've seen either of you, but that time lives on in my memory as one of the happiest periods of my life.

Barbara was a wonderful, feisty, active, liberated lady. I will always remember her fondly, and she will be sorely missed.

My condolences to you and your family.

Connie (Cory) Shreiner

Connie Shreiner - April 28, 2015 at 09:14 PM

GS

“ To family our deepest sympathy I knew Barbara from being involved in theater and my daughter took dance classes with her at F&M She was a gracious tremendously nice person and was a greT contributor to Lancaster's Arts performances. With caring thoughts.
Gail and Jennifer Smith

Gail Smith - April 19, 2015 at 02:26 AM

SW

“ I was a dancer since the age of three, started lessons at age 4 and continued through high school at Warwick, graduating in 1990. I don't recall how I got the opportunity to go on a field trip to F & M College during high school to attend a dance seminar with Mrs.Barden. I was amazed at her teaching style, her fluidity, how passionate she was about the movement and the craft itself- I was inspired and in awe. I knew I loved to dance and how it made me feel and she encouraged us to be present in the music, using dance to express how it made us feel. It was a magical day for me, one that I will never forget. What amazing contributions this beautiful lady made in our world- her grace, her talent, her passion, her many contributions. My condolences to all- I can only imagine her dancing among the clouds.

Sherry Hutto Williamson - April 16, 2015 at 12:29 AM

MS

“ HI Priscilla,
So sorry to hear about your mom's passing. She was a great lady! I didn't realize she was the same age as my mom who passed last March. Her dance at Hempfield was phenomenal. I know Brian Lehman really enjoyed working with her. My prayer for you is that you are comforted by the Lord through this time of transition as she transitions from this earthly home to her home with her Heavenly Father. May you have peace and receive strength from Him. May you sense His presence through the people around you. May you have memories that are endeared to you and as your family shared those memories, may they be a tribute to your mom. God's blessings on you, your family and the extended family.
Steve/Mary Liz Youtz
Hempfield High 1977 class Schmitt

Mary Liz Schmitt/Youtz - April 14, 2015 at 06:46 AM

AO

“ Dear Barden Family,
Barbara was one of the treasures that I found when we moved to Lancaster in the early 1980's. She was active with dance and did inspirational dance work with young people. She offered classes in movement/dance that encouraged my daughter to feel comfortable in her body and to help her become fearless in expressing herself in movement whether organized through choreography or on the soccer pitch. Barbara also taught 'oldies' and I still use the exercise routine that I learnt in her classes. She was charming, elegant and beautiful to watch as she moved and danced. Her husband Bob is a wonderful man who always supported Barbara's talents, imagination and dance activities.
My condolences to all the family and my assurance that Barbara lives richly in my memory.
With love,
Anne and Sarah Orban

Anne Orban - April 13, 2015 at 03:40 PM