



Brenda P. Nickles

May 7, 2020

Brenda P Nickles

After living with a rare bone marrow cancer for more than 25 years, Brenda Pfeiffer Nickles passed away on Thursday, May 7th 2020. Her disease had transformed to acute leukemia in 2014 and her heart failed rather suddenly this past year. She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Nick, of Lancaster and her loving daughter, Lori, of Ephrata. Brenda's mother, Alice June Pfeiffer, survives her in Lancaster, as well as a brother, Frank Pfeiffer, of Wrightsville and a sister, Sandra Jung. Four nieces and many cousins survive her as well.

Brenda, the daughter of Alice Myers Pfeiffer and the late Frank Pfeiffer, was born in December, 1948. A graduate of both McCaskey High School and Millersville University, Brenda loved speaking French and Spanish and visiting Francophone countries, meeting people and making new friends. She loved the adventure of traveling with her family and friends to new places here and abroad, showing that Americans can be international, concerned citizens of the world. One of Brenda's accomplishments which gave her great pleasure was teaching foreign language to many students at Manheim Township High School. She taught there for 33 years and helped strengthen their Advanced Placement Program. She also helped to organize an exchange program with a French high school in Dijon along with several other trips to France for her students.

Brenda enjoyed spending time with her family and her friends. She loved reading, traveling, taking walks and catching glimpses of wildlife. She was never without a pet or two in her home and she and Nick rescued feral cats whenever they could. She also enjoyed hosting gatherings and celebrating the holidays with her loved ones.

A private family gathering will be held at a later date.

To honor her memory, take a walk at Long's Park and enjoy nature or call a friend just to say "Hi."

In lieu of flowers, research for her primary cancer is ongoing through: MPN Research Foundation, 180 N. Michigan Ave Suite 1870, Chicago, IL 60601, www.mpnresearchfoundation.org

Tribute Wall



“ *Brenda P. Nickles*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *Nick,
So sorry to hear about Brenda. Thinking of you.*

*Beth Field
North Carolina*

Beth Field - May 19, 2020 at 11:33 AM



“ *So sad to hear of Mrs. Nickles health struggles and passing. When I think of her I particularly remember her giggle! Our small French class had several of her Spanish students as well. We would all laugh when one of us used a Spanish word in our French sentence. Funny how that memory sticks out. I could tell she really enjoyed teaching and I enjoyed her. Thanks to those who have posted pictures. It's nice to see that smile in other settings as well. Praying for comfort for her family and friends at this time.*

Sharon McHarg - May 13, 2020 at 11:03 PM



“ *Nick, Lori & Family,
So loved my cousin. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time.*

Lynda and Don Narber

Lynda Narber - May 12, 2020 at 11:19 AM

HA

“ Nick and Lori,

I am very sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Heather Arentz

Heather Arentz - May 12, 2020 at 10:13 AM

JJ

“ *From my early days on I can remember feeling that my aunt was someone who always loved life with her whole heart. My happy memories of spending time with her and Uncle Nick start with our summer picnics in the backyard where we'd be playing fetch with Harvey the pup and Fred the kitty would be spying on all of the activity. Aunt Brenda loved the beach so much so that she and Uncle Nick would pick me up during my summer visits in the early wee hours of the morning to drive down to scour the boardwalk for salt water taffy and just to sit listening to the waves. Drive-In movies and musical events at Longs Park were the best times ever on those summer evenings. From trading boxes of chocolates at Easter to picking my sister and I up at the airport in Baltimore and driving us around for the family visits, she always showed how much she loved my sister and me. I miss her deeply.*

jennifer jung - May 11, 2020 at 06:53 PM

KW

“*Madame Nickles was an outstanding teacher and it was a privilege to learn from her for all four years of high school. I was so thankful for her standards of excellence when I tutored French as my work study job during college and taught "Fun with French" summer enrichment classes to my elementary school students. Our class of '95 has so many fond memories of the time we were blessed to know her! So sorry for your loss.*

Kristin (Hornberger) Wenger

Kristin Wenger - May 11, 2020 at 05:15 PM

LS

“*I think about Madame Nickles every Monday night when I study at the Philadelphia French Alliance. She was a wonderful teacher and I will be reminiscing about her warmth and kindness with my French classmates this evening. My deepest condolences to the Nickles family.*

Laticia Stauffer

Laticia Stauffer - May 11, 2020 at 04:54 PM

CH

“ To the teacher who helped me to see the world and led me to a successful global career, speaking French, but most importantly getting to know others and their cultures. Four years of high school French with Madame Nickles was so rigorous, it’s still getting me by nearly 30 years later. Your ambition that we see and do more allowed me to go to France for the first time when I was 14 and to have an exchange student in Dijon, a friendship I hold to this day. The list of all you did for me is quite long as it turns out, and I am eternally grateful. I will never forget your voice, the patience you had with me, or your laugh when I finally got you to break. ;) You touched many. You will be missed by many. And I’m just so very grateful to have had you in my life. ❤️ Christy Hartman, MTHS Class of 1995

Christina Hartman - May 11, 2020 at 02:49 PM

CO

“ Madame Nickles,

You were an inspiration. You were love. Thank you for your steady warmth, your kindness, your constant nurturing throughout my years in high school and long after. Because of you, I learned French, and I acquired a fondness for literature. Pierre et Jean, Moderato Cantabile, Le Petit Prince, Candide. Language and literature teach us so much about life. To this day it's hard to believe how much I learned from your classes. I will forever sing your praises, near and far. You will always, always be in my heart. My sincerest condolences to your family.

*With so much love,
Chinelo*

Chinelo Okparanta - May 11, 2020 at 01:52 PM

KH

“ Please accept my heartfelt condolences on Brenda's passing. We were colleagues at MTHS and I have many fond memories of her always-smiling face and a warm and sincere greeting as we passed in the hallways. And maybe more importantly, I remember how fondly and respectfully the students I had in music classes spoke of Brenda; with genuine high regard for her as both a teacher and person. Brenda will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her! Sincerely, Ken Husler

Ken Husler - May 11, 2020 at 01:25 PM

BS

“ Nick, please accept our sincere condolences during this most difficult time. We will Brenda's smile and her wave when we walked in the neighborhood. So very sorry for your loss.
Sincerely,
Bonnie and Ron Schmitt

Bonnie Schmitt - May 11, 2020 at 12:58 PM

BS

“ Madame Nickles was the reason I became a French teacher and I have been teaching for 17 years now. I will never forget the trip to Dijon that she and Madame Bard took us on and then I decided to go back and spend a semester studying in Dijon in college. So sorry for your loss. She was an amazing woman.
Betsy Hoover Schwade

Betsy Hoover Schwade - May 10, 2020 at 06:38 PM

LJ

“ When I think of Aunt Brenda, I think of....
Chocolate, especially Easter eggs
Ice cream, especially Mt Gretna giant sundaes
Music, especially Peter Noone
Cats, especially playing coupie and tales of trapping ferals
Laughter, especially at family stories and South Park
Kindness, especially for everybody she touched
Music, especially her lifetime crush, Peter Noone
Travel, especially hanging out on the sandbar in Maine
Integrity, especially boldly standing up for her beliefs, even at parades
Grace, especially enduring untold physical challenges
Love, especially for her beloved Nick and cherished Lori
I will miss you terribly

Lisa Jung - May 10, 2020 at 05:45 PM

LJ

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Lisa Jung - May 10, 2020 at 05:16 PM

BD

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Madame was the best teacher I ever had and was a wonderful lady.

Brandon Dammerman - May 10, 2020 at 04:24 PM

MC

“ I knew Brenda Nickles also as "Madame" and had her as my French teacher all through high school in the early 2000's at Manheim Township. Please accept my deepest condolences. She was a wonderful teacher who cared deeply for her students and was passionate about French culture and language. One of my biggest accomplishments in my life so far is learning to speak French fluently. In between high school and college I spent a "gap year" abroad as an exchange student in Belgium. It was a challenging thing to do as an 18-year-old, and I was so deeply grateful for all I'd learned from her in high school. I did not know she had cancer for so long. I am even more impressed at how kind and devoted she was to her students despite the health challenges she faced. -Marie Cusick

Marie Cusick - May 10, 2020 at 02:46 PM

EH

“ To the family of Brenda Nickles -

I am so sorry for your loss. I'm sure you already know...but she meant a great deal to so many.

“Madame” was my French teacher for four years in high school. She was also the leader of a bit of a Francophile cult at MT - I count many of my closest friends to this day among that group.

Madame graciously tolerated all of our adolescent shenanigans - usually with a mixture of exasperation and amusement (both deserved!) She had a particular face she would make when she wanted to laugh at us but knew she needed to keep a straight face to maintain order. She was skilled at keeping us on task - but every now and then we'd manage to get her to laugh out loud. That was the best. Some of my favorite memories from high school centered around Madame's “French parties” featuring French music, baguettes, bouches de Noels, and copious amounts of French cheese.

To this day, I can still recite lines from Sartre, name most major monuments in Paris, and sing 3 verses of the Marseillaise (which she required us to memorize in its entirety!) My 3-year-old recently built a miniature Notre Dame out of magnatiles...I like to think Madame would have been proud.

I am so grateful to have had Madame Nickles in my life, and for the love of language and culture she cultivated in me and so many others.

Emma “Colette” Hamme

Emma Hamme - May 10, 2020 at 01:46 PM

CP

“ I am deeply saddened to read of the loss of your wife Nick. I know she was a very special woman who will be greatly missed. May all your loving memories and the love of your family and friends help you at this time. God Bless. Carol Paulsen

Carol Paulsen - May 10, 2020 at 12:57 PM

DB

“ What a lovely tribute. You really captured Brenda's dedication as a teacher, expecting a great deal from her students, but giving so much of herself in return. She inspired in so many a lifelong appreciation for the French language and Francophone cultures! She was my mentor, (though I never did manage to fill her shoes), and a role model in how she handled her challenging health issues. Thinking of you, Nick and Lori, and wishing you comfort and healing.
Del Bard

Del Bard - May 10, 2020 at 11:40 AM

DN

So sad to read of Brenda passing. I know you are hurting nick. My thoughts & prayers with you. David Nicklaus

david nicklaus - May 10, 2020 at 12:28 PM

BS

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Barb Sandhaus - May 10, 2020 at 10:25 AM

BS

Happier Times

Barb Sandhaus - May 10, 2020 at 10:26 AM

BD

Brenda was a wonderful colleague, friend and former neighbor. We shared similar values, political positions and outlooks. She loved to travel, was a dedicated and talented teacher, and was a devoted mother, wife and daughter. Thinking of you Nick and Lori during this very sad time.

Barbara (Snavely) Dando

Barbara Dando - May 11, 2020 at 10:06 AM

RH

“ *So sorry for your loss Nick
Rick and Barb Herr*

Rick herr - May 10, 2020 at 09:30 AM

MJ

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Marian K Jones - May 10, 2020 at 08:16 AM