



Constance Louise "Connie" Hollinger

April 17, 2020

It is with great sadness that the family of Constance Louise "Connie" Hollinger announces her passing at the age of 70 after a brief illness with COVID-19 on April 17, 2020. Connie will be lovingly remembered by close family and friends including her cousin Joni "Charlie" Martines, wife of Robert, Lancaster, PA, Aunt Patricia, wife of Herm Yohn, Lenexa, KA, plus her extended family from Ohio; Gabrielle "Gabby", wife of Leighton, and Joyce Kren, who were a big help to our family and Connie during her illness, and her friend, Lee Flemming, Texas, who was Connie's mentor and friend while she worked to receive her doctorate degree.

Connie was preceded in death by her parents, Morgan and Helen Kissinger Hollinger. Connie never liked to be the center of attention and as per her request, there will be no service.

Interment will be at Pleasant View Cemetery, Sinking Spring, PA at a later date.

Memorial contributions for those who desire, can be made to the Ashtabula County Animal Protective League, 5970 Green Road, Ashtabula, OH 44004

Tribute Wall



“ *Conestance Louise "Connie" Hollinger*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM

GS

“ It’s been so hard to write this. I’ve tried several times to try and write this. When now I’m sitting on the floor of my room going through old photos of her life. Connie as many people knew her, I knew her as Aunt Connie, she was the most amazing person in my life. I looked up to her when it came to life. She was there when I was born to the time of my wedding. Always there holding my hand. And now I won’t get that anymore. We’ve spent countless weekends together. Going to Cleveland zoo, on Saturdays walking around seeing the hippos and when we first seen a wolf. It became our favorite. Most beautiful animal. Going to the water park that was only 30 minutes from her house. Countless times we volunteered at the local animal shelter. Where she adopted a dog named Puck, I picked out the name. There was a time when I was younger and she took me to an NSYNC concert and America idol. Dinner would be at Horn-blowers first. Sometimes we’d take a trip to the submarine in Cleveland, or the rock and roll hall of fame. Every birthday we’d go out and have pickled bills, it started off with having seafood Alfredo when I was younger. I would steal a shrimp from her every time! Then, as I got older it turned into all you can eat crab legs. That’s when I stop stealing her food, but would give her one leg to have. We always had a joke of Guess.what! That’s what!!! I love you Aunt Connie. I know one day I’ll see you again. Please hug all the pets. You will always be my guardian angel.



Gabrielle Sherbeyn - May 14, 2020 at 06:14 PM

JM

That’s beautiful Gabby ❤️

Joni Martines - May 14, 2020 at 06:21 PM

CD

Such a wonderful tribute. We often reflected together about an aunt that we both shared and adored. So wonderful that she was that kind of aunt to you!!

Cousin Donna - May 29, 2020 at 07:05 PM

L(

“ *Connie was my swim coach at Elizabethtown College in the early 70's. I have many fond memories of her quick wit and helpful insights about life. So sad to hear of her passing.*

Lorna Klimas (Keown) - May 12, 2020 at 11:21 AM

JE

“ *Cousin Connie was the “big kid” I admired while growing up in Lititz. I'm heartsick.*

Jenny Kissinger Messner

Jenny - May 08, 2020 at 10:11 AM

TL

“ *I knew Dr. Hollingsworth as a colleague of school psychology and through CSU when she met with me several times every year as she would bring practicum students and interns to CMSD. I remember her most for her sense of humor, her simplicity and her wisdom. She talked to me about India and Gandhi's nonviolence. She and Dr. Mcnamara were the first to reach out to me to teach graduate students at CSU for a behavioral interventions and multicultural interventions course. A wonderful human being and she will surely be missed.*

Tasneem lokhandwala

Tasneem Lokhandwala - May 05, 2020 at 09:17 PM

SR

“*Connie and I grew up together on Orchard Road, Lititz. I have fond memories of my siblings and I going trick-or-treating with her. I also remember a rodeo that we had that featured her dad Morg as master-of-ceremonies and Connie's pony Frisky. She and I went through junior high and high school together, but because of her interest in athletics and mine in music, we went separate ways. I have often thought about her over the years and wish that our paths would have crossed somehow. I remember her as being highly intelligent, an excellent athlete, and strongly committed to any task that she undertook. I am not surprised to know how much her family, friends, and students loved her. Nor am I surprised at her love for animals. I am so saddened to know that CoVid-19 took her from us. Her memory will certainly live on in her students and in the rest of us whose lives she touched.*

Sandra Reed - May 03, 2020 at 03:36 PM

DO

Thanks for sharing memories. I can imagine that Uncle Morgan was a great emcee and it must have been a hilarious rodeo with Frisky, Connie and Uncle Morgan. You were my flute teacher years later at your home on Orchard Road. I am enjoying learning who Cousin Connie knew when I was but a wee tyke. My relationship with her grew when I was an adult, meeting either at her home in Cleveland area, or at the Wolf Sanctuary (after our parents passed away). Thanks for sharing Sandra. It is how we come together to honor her and remember her during these strange times. I find comfort in these remembrances of Connie. Donna Walton-Gibbs

Donna - June 01, 2020 at 12:38 PM

SB

“*I am so sorry to hear of Connie's passing. I played hockey and basketball with her in high school and will never forget her determination, and her great sense of humor. My deepest sympathy to her friends and family. RIP Connie*

Shelby Pontz Bowman - April 28, 2020 at 03:37 PM

JM

“*Connie will always have a bright spot in my life. As a young teacher and coach I had the privilege of coaching Connie in field hockey (goalkeeper) her senior year at Warwick High School in Lititz, PA. She was the leader of the team and helped me in my initiation to Warwick sports as a coach. Since I too graduated from Warwick and lived in Lititz, I knew her father through the store they had and also had the opportunity on many occasions to visit her mother and father at their home. I was so proud of her academic accomplishments and that she earned her doctorate in Psychology. I can only imagine the tremendous impact she had on her students and coworkers. She will be missed by all. My sympathies to her family, especially Joni, and her friends.*

jane markert - April 28, 2020 at 03:22 PM

VM

“*Dr. Connie Hollinger was a giant in Ohio's school psychology profession. Through her work with graduate students, her leadership at Cleveland State University, her collaboration with the Ohio Department of Education's Office of Exceptional Children, her advocacy for fair treatment of all, and her academic excellence she was a pillar of leadership. I admired her ability to anticipate, plan, and create solutions in an expansive arena including diverse persons and institutions.*

I was fortunate to work with her on several projects. It was my great privilege as I became the student as we worked on forward-thinking topics. Although in awe of her intellectual expertise, I also was so entertained by her stamina and her great wit. Connie made me laugh out loud. She was an Ohio treasure - a good friend of school psychology and humankind. We will miss you, Connie.

Valorie Wolcott Mendelson

Valorie Wolcott Mendelson - April 26, 2020 at 07:27 PM

PP

“*Connie’s passing hurts my heart. We were childhood friends playing together throughout elementary school and playing field hockey together in high school. Our lives took different paths but I will always treasure my memories of her, her Mother and her Dad. May your families be at peace.*

Phyllis Peters - April 26, 2020 at 09:42 AM

“ I was a first year student in the graduate program in clinical psychology when Connie joined the faculty at CSU. I had no intention of being a school psychologist, but Connie saw something in me that I didn't see in myself and she began urging me to join the ranks of the school psychology program. I repeatedly declined, she repeatedly insisted and she eventually wore me down; in my final year of the clinical program I finally said yes. It was the best decision I ever made and so began an extremely rewarding career as school psychologist lasting 34 years, thanks to Connie's insistence that I was cut out to be one.

We were the first class that was "hers" from beginning to end--from the first year as graduate students until the end of our internship year--so we were a special class to Connie and she was every bit as special to us. She was so much more than our program director...she was our professor, our mentor, our colleague, our friend. Joyce Kren was a member of our class, and her enduring friendship with Connie attests to the bonds that were forged in our class. My heartfelt sympathy to Joyce for the loss of such a long time dear friend.

Connie made sure we were well versed in best practices and well prepared to be child advocates as she herself was. She preached and practiced excellence and demanded that we bring our best selves into the field of school psychology. Connie was as sharp witted as she was intelligent. Her keen intelligence imparted a high degree of knowledge, but her wit imbued us with a great deal of fun and laughter. She created an atmosphere of erudition with equal parts of levity making us well equipped to survive not only the stress of graduate school, but the stressors we would encounter in the demanding world of school psychology.

My primary relationship with Connie was in her role of Director of the School Psychology Program, but my most enduring and endearing memory of Connie has nothing to do with her role and everything to do with her humanity. Perhaps what I'm attempting to

convey can best be captured a quote that was posted in the classroom of a most extraordinary first grade teacher who I had the pleasure of knowing and working with for years:

"We may not remember all we learned, but we will remember how we felt."

I learned a great deal from Connie and I remember much of it, but most of all I remember how I felt, and how I still feel toward Connie. Grateful. I am grateful to have known her for a myriad of reasons, both professional and personal. Grateful that she graced CSU and this earth with her presence. Grateful for all we remember because she lived.

Lorene Mihalko - April 24, 2020 at 09:23 PM

CB

This morning I was reading one of Kurt Vonnegut's commencement addresses. He invited the audience to remember a special teacher. I immediately remembered Connie, my very favorite, and was so saddened when I looked her up and found she was gone. As Lorene eloquently stated above, Connie also saw something in me that I didn't see in myself. She encouraged me to think and constantly reach a little higher. She also badgered me into school psychology, which was one of the best turns my life could have taken. We stayed in touch for many years. When I finally became a mother at age 39, she celebrated with me. Now I am long retired and look back fondly at the many parts of my life that Connie enriched. I loved her amazing intelligence, good humor, boundless energy, quick wit and remarkable memory but most of all I remember her compassion and grace and as, Lorene said, how she made me feel. I am glad I took the opportunity to tell her all of this while she was still with us. Her light still shines in us and those we touch. And that will continue forever.

Carla Baldwin - May 19, 2024 at 01:30 PM

LG

“ *Dr. Hollinger was an amazing mentor. She was kind and passionate and had a brilliant mind, always thinking 2 or 3 steps ahead of those around her. To those of us who were her students she WAS school psychology. She gave her all and made you want to do the same. I am honored to have had her shape my thinking and my practice. Her legacy will live on in the many students she trained over her long career. God Bless,*
Laura Gabel

laura gabel - April 24, 2020 at 07:51 PM

JM

“ *I don't have enough room to share all of our wonderful memories we shared. From scaring our Moms with " Thanksgiving " the mouse, roasting marshmallows and hotdogs after a day of sledding, corn roasts, cracker pudding, my sister Vickie watching the Thanksgiving Day Parade. And let's not forgot our times at Bush River on the boat, crabs at Gablers Crab Shack, and the jelly fish !!!!! Last but not least, I remember our times at the Lincoln House eating Ruebens, and and talking about the time mom and you celebrated New Years Eve in that corner table !!! I'm going to miss our chats every Sunday at 11:30. The good advice you gave me, and all the memories we would laugh at. So much fun we had. You were an incredible part of me, and I you. Thank you, thank you for always being there for me. I love you, I will miss you....*

Joni Martines - April 24, 2020 at 07:04 PM

DW

Dear Joni, I am Connie's cousin on the Hollinger side - Grabe's daughter, Donna Walton-Gibbs. We may have met at Morgan's funeral. Connie and I became friends as adults. My heart is breaking at the news of her death. Our last time together was over a year ago at the Wolf Sanctuary. Did you meet there as well when Connie came East? I am imagining how hard this is for you in missing those Sunday calls. She told me about how much she enjoyed those calls. If you ever want to be in touch to share about our one of a kind Cousin Connie, I will share my contact info.

Donna Walton-Gibbs - April 30, 2020 at 03:02 PM

JM

Please share your information with me. It will be truly appreciated. We miss her so much.

Joni Martines - May 07, 2020 at 12:44 PM

CD

Gladly - sorry I have not come back here to this Memorial page since May 7 - donnawalgib@verizon.net may be safest to share. Hoping we can be in touch.

Cousin Donna - May 29, 2020 at 07:14 PM

PT

“ I am so sad to hear this news about Connie. We have lost a hero.

Pete Tolan - April 24, 2020 at 12:21 PM

DG

“ With deepest sympathy to Connie's family. I considered Connie to be a mentor as well as a dear friend. I will always cherish my memories of her.

Debra Grilly - April 24, 2020 at 11:45 AM

CM

“*Connie was a university administrator when I first joined the CSU Psychology Department and the School Psychology program, so I did not have the opportunity to be a recipient of her expert mentorship. When she returned to the department and program, I got to know her and her fierce advocacy for the profession and our graduate students. We shared a passion for animals and animal rescue that culminated in a collaboration for the feral cats in a CSU parking garage! I was quick to notice her wicked wit, high intellect, and caring nature, but slow to recognize the full impact of her work on the program and the profession. Connie made a difference in the lives of students, colleagues, children, and animals in need. I hope her family finds comfort knowing the positive and lasting impact Connie leaves as a legacy.*”

Colleen McMahon - April 23, 2020 at 08:08 PM

WJ

“*I learned much from Connie as my faculty adviser while I was at Cleveland State. I have fond memories of following her from her office to the back parking lot to continue some passionate conversation about research, coursework, our personal lives or the world in general while Connie fed popcorn to the pigeons. Though she could be both fiery and formidable, they recognized her soft heart and kind soul. When some classmates and I wanted to present at a national conference in Anaheim, Connie helped us find grants and arranged to give us her annual travel budget to cover the costs of our research and travel. This was classic Connie: she was invariably generous to others. After graduate school Connie remained in my life as both mentor and friend. She'll be sorely missed.*”

Wendy Jovan - April 23, 2020 at 03:26 PM

“An Emerita Professor of Psychology at Cleveland State University, Connie was a formidable and well-respected presence in the field of School Psychology in Ohio, where her research focus on gifted and talented young women later expanded to include studies of models for providing intervention services to children in Ohio’s schools.

Connie was perhaps best known for her leadership of the School Psychology program at Cleveland State University from the mid-1980s until 1995. As the director of the School Psychology program, Connie earned the respect of students who later became her friends and colleagues. Hers was a voice of reason in often-lively discussions at meetings of the Ohio Inter-University Council for School Psychology (IUC); her perspective of complex situations was both thoughtful and reliably straightforward. She was held in high regard by her colleagues at the University, where she was named Ombudsperson for her ability to offer insights that eluded most others, and, later, Dean of the Division of University Studies, before returning briefly to the Psychology Department faculty before her retirement in 2014.

On a personal note, I am quite certain that I owe my appointment to the CSU faculty to Connie. I’m told that she wrote, signed, and held in her hand a note for the Psychology Department Chairperson stating that she would resign her position in the School Psychology program if the faculty chose at their meeting to hire a preferred candidate who was a child clinical psychologist, rather than a school psychologist. Happily for me, Connie’s colleagues held her in such high esteem that they acquiesced to her wishes, despite the sparse research record that distinguished me from typical university faculty appointees. Beyond her initial gatekeeping, Connie was a generous mentor who kept me abreast of campus politics, ran interference for me on more than one occasion, invited me to join her as a research collaborator, and always had clear-eyed, sensible advice to offer. Many of her CSU colleagues would recognize Connie’s spirit in her success at persuading me that my then-6-year-old daughter needed a kitten adopted from the Lake Humane Society; her refusal even to

kill the occasional insect found lurking in the corners of her office; her joyful participation in events as a Charter Member of the Rock-and-Roll Hall of Fame and Museum; and her informal office bull sessions that would extend well into the late evening hours.

Kathy McNamara - April 23, 2020 at 02:12 PM

CW

“ *I very much appreciated the time I spent in Connie's company. She gave me a very cool shirt, and I always think of her when I wear it. She also gave me excellent advice, and I will always be grateful that I actually listened to her and I continue to use that advice:) I will always remember her with a fond smile.*

Crystal

friend and colleague from CSU

Crystal Weyman - April 23, 2020 at 10:56 AM