



## J. B. Shenk

July 21, 2016

J.B. was born in 1927 in Nampa Idaho to Jacob and Laura Shenk. He spent most of his childhood on a farm in Cheraw Colorado. He had seven sisters.

He met Betty Frey while both were volunteering with MCC in 1947 as a part of post war reconstruction efforts. They married in 1952 and moved to Indiana where they raised three children.

J.B. attended Hesston College, then received a ThB from Goshen College/AMBS. He was the pastor at Prairie Street Mennonite Church for several years. He then worked at Goshen College for more than 30 years. He held a number of positions at the college, including Assistant to the President, Director of Admissions, and Director of Career Services.

He was a man of deep faith who committed his life to working towards peace and justice in the world. In his community he fostered peacemaking by working actively for Seniors for Peace and Victim Offender Reconciliation as a volunteer mediator. He also volunteered with MCC in Akron, PA with the ASSETS program.

He was interested in forging international connections both with Goshen College and after retirement. He and his wife Betty were leaders of SST (Student Service Trimester) units in Haiti, the Dominican Republic and China.

After retirement, they spent extended time in India, China, and Northern Ireland volunteering with educational and peace-making organizations.

J.B. is survived by his wife Betty, his three children; Ann Duval, Jeff Shenk, and Sara Shenk, grandchildren Tara, James and Kelly and great grandchildren Dejuanah and Ahlayna. He is also survived by his sisters Doris Hjelmsted, Laura Ann King and Ruth Amstutz.

There will be a Memorial Service to celebrate his life on Saturday, July 30, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at the Akron Mennonite Church. A light supper will follow the service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to either MCC or ASSETS Lancaster.

# Previous Events

## Service

JUL 30. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Akron Mennonite Church  
Akron, PA

# Tribute Wall



“ *J. B. Shenk*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of J. B. Shenk.*



October 08, 2016 at 11:31 AM



“ *I remember how J.B. and Dorsa enjoyed sharing their latest jokes. One day while they were bragging about their sons J.B. said, "Well, my son is a Rhodes scholar" (Roades meaning traveling the country) Dorsa couldn't top that one.*

*When our 4th son (Dennis) was born in 1957 J.B. was our pastor at Pr. St. Church. It was Sunday morning so J.B. announced, "The Mishlers have their male quartette now."*

*My thjoughts are with your family, especially you Betty, as you adjust to living with your soul mate. J.B. brought a lot of smiles to this troubled world.*

**Mary K. Mishler** - August 12, 2016 at 08:17 AM

LN

“ I always enjoyed visiting with J.B. and Betty in Goshen. He always had some news from Ithaca and we shared that common point of conversation. I am so sorry for your loss, but you will celebrate a life well lived. Lew Naylor

---

**Lew Naylor** - July 30, 2016 at 06:12 PM

KA

“ Thursday after the Mary Magdalene service in Newcomer Center, Phyllis Schrock Hostetler conveyed the news of J.B.'s death. And now I see there will be a gathering here at CMC with family members on Wednesday. I hope to be there and look forward to seeing former kindergarten students!

Tuesday I did what J.B. and Betty would have done if they had been here. Seniors for Peace took turns staffing the Peace Booth at the Elkhart County Fair. It is sponsored by a consortium of peace organizations under the umbrella of the Indiana Peace Education Network.

I think of you (Betty and J.B.) as I turn the corner at 12th and College Ave. There is hope for the future in that grey house. A young family with children live there. There is a fence in the backyard for safe outdoor play!

I have fond memories of J.B.'s subtle humor, of his encouraging words and strong support. I give thanks for having known him.

Peace,  
Kathryn Aschliman

---

**Kathryn Aschliman** - July 29, 2016 at 02:28 PM

BK

“ JB was a caring, wonderful neighbor, he will be missed greatly!  
Prayers & hugs to Betty & family,  
Barbara Knapp

---

**Barbara J Knapp** - July 27, 2016 at 12:18 PM

RF

“ Dear Betty, Ann, Jeff, and Sara:  
I am terribly sorry to learn of J.B's passing, which I know is grievous  
for you all. I simply want to express my condolences and let you  
know that I will always cherish his memory and your warm welcome  
when I arrived in Goshen as a student some forty years ago. Betty,  
you and J.B., were like parents to me, you will never know how  
much I appreciated your kindness and friendship. You eased and  
facilitated my "transition" to American life. I am so grateful to both of  
you, and I grieve J.B.'s departure. Please accept my sympathy in  
this difficult and painful moment. You have my warmest friendship  
and I am planning to be at Saturday's memorial service to express  
my condolences in person.  
Robert Fatton

---

**Robert Fatton** - July 25, 2016 at 08:16 AM