



Meredith Church Rousseau

September 5, 2018

Meredith Church Rousseau peacefully departed this life on September 5, 2018.

Born in Madison, Wisconsin, February 9, 1937, to parents Richard and Agatha Church, Lancaster became her home from 1969 until her death. During that time,

she opened her doors to deserving young students from all over the world, acting

as foster mother. She is fondly remembered as a lifelong mentor and friend to many.

Meredith received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin in

1959. She returned to Wisconsin to earn a Masters of Arts degree in 1969.

Meredith taught at Millersville University and the Pennsylvania State College, York Campus, until her retirement.

One of Meredith's proudest achievements was her time serving as a tour guide

for the United Nations, New York, N.Y. She distinguished herself there through her poise, confident public speaking and perpetually inquisitive nature, as she observed first-hand many of the notable political events of the early 1960s, including witnessing Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev bang his shoe on the table at the U.N General Assembly.

Meredith was a prolific contributor to multiple organizations in furtherance of

learning, education, and appreciation of the Arts. She was proud of her ten years serving as the President of the Women's Club of Chautauqua, NY. In her tenure, she organized and arranged stimulating presentations and programs with world-reknown scholars, musicians, artists and thinkers. One Chautauquan remembered that "Meredith gave to others constantly, without calling attention to herself: one way to be a leader."

Meredith served on the board of Lancaster's Quest for Learning program, as well as a coordinator and Director of Torch International, facilitating events and speeches across the Mid-Atlantic region. She was instrumental in Lancaster's Musical Arts Society, volunteered for years as a docent and tour guide at the North Museum, and taught English as a second language to adults in Lancaster County.

Among other achievements, Meredith Rousseau acted in and directed several Lancaster theatrical productions at the Fulton Opera House and the Theater of the Seventh Sister. In the 1970s, she performed the title role in "I Remember Mama," and in "Under Milkwood," among others.

Meredith is survived by siblings Kathleen Wirth, of Cross Plains, WI, Julie Adams Church, Oakland, CA and Richard Church, Washington, D.C, son Michael Rousseau and daughter-in-law Janice O'Reilly, Lafayette, CO, along with former husband and dear friend Joseph L. Rousseau, of Lancaster.

There will be a public memorial Sunday, October 21, 2018 from 11AM - 1PM at

The Groff Family Funeral and Cremation Services, 528 W Orange St,
(corner of Pine and W. Orange St) Lancaster, PA 17603.
Meredith will be interred at Mellinger Mennonite Cemetery in Lancaster.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **21**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

The Groff's Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc

528 W Orange St.

Lancaster, PA 17603

(717) 394-5300

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Tribute Wall



“ *Meredith Church Rousseau*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *I was not able to greet the family yesterday but I wanted to add some comments to the tribute wall. I was a neighbor of Meredith's for over 30 years. We lived at opposite ends of the street, so we didn't run into each other so much as nearby neighbors as with activities of mutual interest - Block Parties, the Middle East Interest Group, Lancaster Downtowners, and working at the polls. I got to know her best at the polls, near F&M. She was fascinated by all the young students and their diverse names. She was so bright and curious. She appeared to have lived fully. I appreciated her global awareness. An inspiration.*

Carolene Brubaker - October 22, 2018 at 05:29 AM



“ *Meredith- I am honored to have met you. May you attain the supreme bliss of nirvana. Thank you for the memories you have given us.*
-umanga , surani, arnika, and harein.

umanga - October 19, 2018 at 12:59 PM

SH

“ Meredith was one of the first faculty to welcome me to Penn State York. She was student-centered both in her teachings in the classroom and in her involvement with student initiatives outside the classroom. She was always interested in what I was doing professionally and personally; her gentle ways prompted one to share their thoughts and feelings. She was a mentor and a friend and will be missed.

Sharon - October 08, 2018 at 01:20 PM

AW

“ My husband Jonathan and I lived next door to Meredith our first year in Lancaster in 2009-2010 when we rented a townhouse from her friends, Richard and Mei Reitan. I had no idea when I met her what a fast friend she would become. She saw me through some dark times after Jonathan's death and has been there for her own family in so many ways.

You are greatly missed, Meredith.
Ann

Ann Wheaton - October 07, 2018 at 04:35 PM

LB

“ My Condolences to Meredith's family and close friends. It was a pleasure to meet Meredith at several Torch Club Conventions. I shall miss her keen intellect and forward thinking leadership.

Sincerely,
Lynn Bernard
Region 3 Director
International Association of Torch Clubs

Lynn Bernard - September 27, 2018 at 05:32 PM



“ I was one of Mrs. Rousseau's students in the early 1980s, and was happy to become one of her colleagues at Penn State York in the mid-1990s. She was such a generous person. May the thought of all the lives Mrs. Rousseau touched through her wonderful teaching bring you comfort at this time.

Joan Smeltzer

Joan Smeltzer - September 26, 2018 at 08:31 AM

EW

“ I was a colleague of Meredith's at Penn State York. Her obituary does a wonderful job of capturing her spirit. Seeing her picture brings a smile to my face. I remember her fondly.

To her family and friends, please accept my condolences. May we all strive to keep Meredith's spirit alive. Peace.

Emily Wenk - September 25, 2018 at 04:15 PM

CR

“ Good memories of Meredith as a co-worker, at the North Museum of Science. R.I.P. Meredith. Condolences to her family.

Carol Ann Rowley

Carol Ann Rowley - September 25, 2018 at 12:30 PM

AP

“ Meredith was a wonderful neighbor and a light on our block. We will miss her lively conversation and warm spirit. —Anabel and Chuck

Anabel Proffitt - September 25, 2018 at 11:40 AM

DO

“ *What a dear friend and colleague Meredith was to so many of us. It was a privilege to have known her.*

Duncan Osborn

D. Osborn - September 23, 2018 at 03:34 PM

SZ

Meredith was a warm, kind, and giving person. She had a lasting impact on so many lives. My thoughts and prayers are with the family of this highly evolved human being.

Sandra Zerby

Sandra Zerby - September 24, 2018 at 03:15 AM

MJ

I appreciated Meredith's inquiring mind. She attended the Middle East Interest Group where we got acquainted. I will miss her presence in my life, and condolences to all family.

Mary Ann Johnson - September 24, 2018 at 07:49 AM

DF

Meredith was a wonderful role model and mentor to me at the Chautauqua Women's Club. I was always appreciative of her smile, energy, perspective, and ability to grab both a learning and teaching moment. Dianne Foglesong

Dianne Foglesong - October 01, 2018 at 07:19 PM

EG

Meredith was a gentle, warm, positive person. She elevated the programs and meetings at Chautauqua Women's Club to a new level of engagement. I was always delighted to talk with her and learn from her. Meredith was a role model for many of us at Chautauqua.

Elisabeth Groninger - October 02, 2018 at 10:24 AM

CK

“ I am very sorry for your loss. I will miss Meredith & her smile. You are all in my prayers.

Carole Kirchner

Carole Kirchner - September 23, 2018 at 11:11 AM

IS

Ken joins me in sending our deepest condolences to Meredith's beloved son Michael & daughter-in-law Janice, to her siblings, and to her dear friend Joe. She was a caring, steadfast friend since the early 1970s, when I first encountered her as my professor in English Composition. We had many special times together and she never missed the most significant occasions of my adult life. Irene & Ken Steckler, with son David & family.

Irene & Kenneth Steckler - October 02, 2018 at 10:28 AM

RN

I returned to Franklin and Marshall college today invited as a commencement speaker having graduated in 97. It has been a while since I have spoken to Meredith and I went looking for her to invite her as my guest of honor before I found out that she is no longer with us. My heart aches that I wasn't here to see her off. I was one of her foster students, having come a long way from home (Ethiopia). She opened her home for me and my friends. I house sat for her in the summers when she left for NY and she literally adapted me for six months after graduation when I was struggling to find a job. She was my family away from home and I will miss her dearly. I know this is so late coming but I give my sincere condolence to her family. Meredith is and always will be a symbol of generosity and love and she will live on in all of us.

Rahel Nardos - May 10, 2019 at 11:33 AM