



Dr. Rebecca H. Meyer

September 25, 2020

Dr. Rebecca (Beckie) H. Meyer, D.Ed., 79, of Lititz, PA, died on September 25th, 2020 at Lancaster General Hospital. She was the daughter of the late Robert G. and Elsie B. (Hoffer) Hostetter, and the wife and best friend of Franklin (Frank) J. Meyer for 30 years until his death in 1996.

Beckie graduated from Manheim Township High School in 1959. She received her Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education from The Pennsylvania State University in 1963, her Master of Education in School Counseling from Millersville University in 1967, and in 1995, earned her D.Ed. in Counselor Education from The Pennsylvania State University. A lifelong learner, Beckie completed 460 Post-Doctorate credit hours, including the following: Aging and the Aged (IUP, Oxford, England), Creating Cultures of Change: Constructivist Environments (Eastern Mennonite University), Using Data to Help All Children Succeed (UMass, Amherst), 3 Day Racial Justice Institute (YMCA), Skills for Conflict Transformation (Eastern Mennonite University), Cross Cultural Study Navajo Nation (EMU, Arizona, New Mexico), and she completed a Graduate Certificate in Peace and Justice from Eastern Mennonite University.

Beckie began her career as a Health and Physical Education Teacher in the Hempfield School District from 1963 to 1968. Following her decision to remain at home with her children for 12 years, Beckie returned to public education as

a School Counselor, first in the Lebanon School District, and then in the Penn Manor School District from 1980 to 1998, where she co-developed the first Student Assistance Program in Lancaster County. In 1998, Beckie was hired as an Assistant Professor in the Psychology and School Counseling Department at Millersville University. She became a tenured professor there, teaching undergraduate courses in Lifespan Human Development, and graduate courses in Career Development & Guidance Program Development, as well as Group Counseling Procedures and Practicum Supervision. During her tenure at Millersville University, Beckie was awarded the “Pennsylvania Counselor Educator of the Year” award in 2004 by the Pennsylvania School Counselors Association while serving on a diversity committee.

A woman of faith, Beckie was a member of Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster, and in her earlier years, was an active member of Church of the Apostles (Lancaster). She served on Church Council, the Ministry Planning Committee, chaired the Education Commission, coordinated the Rader Park Program, and participated in Drumming For Peace. Most recently, Beckie assisted members of the Landis Homes community in accessing church services in Bethany Chapel.

Beckie was an avid athlete. She played and coached field hockey, served as a lifeguard and loved swimming laps, participated in bowling leagues with both her husband and daughter, and walked at least two miles a day most of her life. Beckie LOVED college football and for years held season tickets to see her beloved Penn State Nittany Lions’ home games. A passionate advocate for the environment, Beckie loved and valued all living creatures, nature, science, and spending as much time outdoors as possible, often camping or traveling to the beach. She was a skilled knitter, and enjoyed creating sweaters, mittens, scarves, hats and stuffed animals for her family, friends and the community.

Beckie enjoyed supporting her community by serving as a past president of the Hempfield Women's Club, leading her son's Cub Scout Pack and her daughter's Girl Scout Troop, and giving generously to many charities and local organizations, such as Hinkletown Mennonite School, where she mentored young students as a member of their "Grandpals" program. Beckie had a passion for restorative justice, equal rights, culturally responsive education, and was looking forward to casting her vote for Joe Biden on November 3rd.

Beckie shared her love of books, art, animals, and music with her children. She enjoyed talking, walking, shopping, dining out, attending concerts, and completing jigsaw puzzles with her close friends. She was funny, smart, direct, driven, adventurous, talented, creative, silly, a great friend and mentor, and loved. She will be missed and remembered by her friends and family with many, many "Beckie stories."

Beckie is survived by her two children, Jennifer L. Meyer (Daniel East), of Lititz, PA, and Jonathan E. Meyer (Stacie Meyer), of Dayton, OH. Also surviving are her beloved grandson, Frank ("Frankie") D. Meyer, of Dayton, OH, her brother, Robert L. Hostetter (Cynthia F. Hostetter), of Lancaster, her niece, Amy L. Hostetter of Philadelphia, PA, her nephew, James R. Hostetter (Dr. Sonya N. Martin), of South Korea, Lin-Lang Su, Becca Olanrewaju, and Hannah Olanrewaju (who knew her as their "American Mom" and "Nana Beckie") of Erie, PA, and her faithful feline companions, Henry and Clarence.

Friends and family are invited to attend an outdoor Celebration of Life Memorial Service to be held on Saturday, October 17, 2020 at 10 a.m. at Church of the Apostles Rader Park, located at 1899 Apostle Way, Lancaster, PA 17603, officiated by Pastor Susan Gascho-Cooke and Chaplain Donna Mack Shenk. Beckie's ashes will be interred in Church of the Apostles' Memorial Garden, and scattered in Landis Homes' Prayer and Memory

Garden.

***** The Celebration of Life Memorial Service will be able to be seen beginning at 2PM on Saturday, October 17 by Tribucast at <https://client.tribucast.com/tcid/43329669> *****

Memorial Contributions may be made in Beckie's name (Rebecca H. Meyer) to Southern Poverty Law Center. The website to donate is www.splcenter.org.

Tribute Wall



“ *The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Rebecca H. Meyer*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - October 14, 2020 at 03:23 PM



“ *Dr. Rebecca H. Meyer*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *I'm thinking of family and my Auntie B today, Thanksgiving 2020. It's meant a lot to me to be able to go to Lancaster for holiday meals gatherings during the past 10 years that I've been near enough to do this. I'll always remember Auntie B as my 'cool Aunt' who took the time to show an interest in what her young niece 'was up to'. She left us too soon.*



Amy - November 26, 2020 at 01:35 PM



Thanks, Cousin. ❤️

Jennifer Meyer - December 02, 2020 at 02:25 PM

BL

“ *Jen and Family,*

You and your family have been in my thoughts and prayers ever since I heard of your mother's passing several weeks ago. I was one of her graduate students who loved her and was able to watch her service online this morning.

I will be writing a letter to you, sharing how much she meant to me. Groff's said I may mail them my letter and they will forward it to you.

*My deepest sympathy,
Beth Flynn Lester*

Beth Lester - October 31, 2020 at 11:44 AM

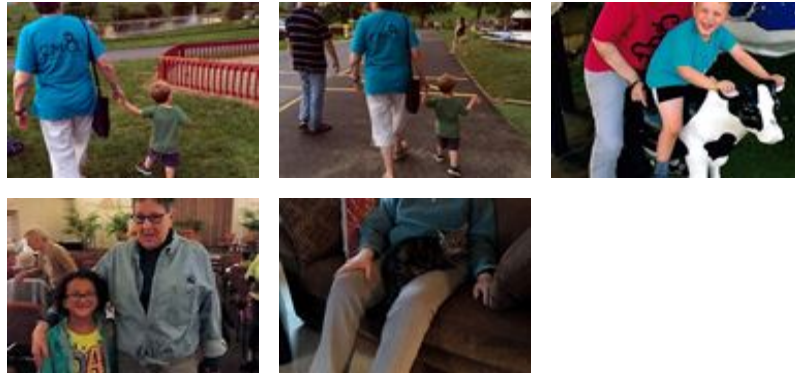
JM

Thank you, Beth, for sharing your connection with my mom. I'm so glad you were able to watch her service, and I look forward to receiving your letter. :) ~Jen Meyer

Jennifer Meyer - November 06, 2020 at 06:38 PM



“ *28 files added to the album Life Tributes*



The Groff's Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - October 16, 2020 at 03:31 PM



“ 25 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - October 16, 2020 at 10:37 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - October 15, 2020 at 03:28 PM



“ 90 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - October 14, 2020 at 03:20 PM

KW

These are wonderful! Jen, I never realized how much you looked like your mother, especially as a child.

Kim Warren - October 15, 2020 at 12:43 PM

SO

“ *Hearing a woman singing opera in a falsetto voice as I entered the locker room of the Hempfield Middle School back in 1963 was the start of my journey with Beckie. And the laughter never stopped. We became not only Health and Physical Education co-teachers but close friends. She was an amazing woman who has accomplished so much during her life and will be missed.*

Sally Oatman

Sally Oatman - October 13, 2020 at 10:59 AM

JM

Thanks for making me laugh, Mrs. Oatman... and for reminding me of how my mom liked to be silly. :) ~Jen

Jennifer Meyer - October 13, 2020 at 09:33 PM

HG

“ I met Dr. Meyer as an undergraduate student at Millersville as she allowed me and a friend to shadow her at Penn Manor. That experience confirmed for me that I wanted to become a school counselor. She then came to Millersville as a professor in the School Counseling Program. I became her graduate student in 1999 and so appreciated working under her as she made me feel comfortable and competent during a time when I was just starting my professional journey. During my time as her graduate student, she would often share about how much she missed her husband, the status of her kids and what was going on with her family that was from South Korea, her involvement with her church, and funny stories about her father's cat and how the cat was in bed with him all of the time sitting right on him! We took two trips together, one to the University of Massachusetts where we took a grad class, and the other to Arizona for a Cross Cultural Studies class where we stayed on a Navajo reservation. We slept in a Hogan and had to endure hearing about the locals making blood pudding. I did not try any and I can't remember if Dr. Meyer had some. The qualities that stand out in my mind all of these years later about her are her passion for learning, her service in helping others, a desire to be involved with causes that were important to her, her many interests, and most of all, her sense of humor. I loved her sense of humor! Even after graduating, we had kept in touch for a number of years and would meet at restaurants with some other graduate students to catch up. I was saddened to hear about the loss as she was such an important part of my journey. I really appreciated her.

Heather Groff - October 12, 2020 at 09:50 AM

JM

Thank you so much for sharing your memories of my mom, Heather. I loved reading them. :)

Jennifer Meyer - October 12, 2020 at 01:44 PM

SW

“ I was deeply saddened to learn of Aunt Becky's passing. So many good memories sprang to mind that reminded me of her generosity, warmth of spirit, and ability to live life to the fullest in a compassionate manner. I hope you find comfort that she and Uncle Frank (who was most definitely her kindred spirit!) are reunited at last. Her legacy will surely keep her alive in the many hearts and souls she touched throughout her life in the days to come and I hope that knowledge helps ease your loss. With deepest sympathy,

Scott Warren 102 Chennault Drive, Syracuse, NY 13224

Scott Warren - October 11, 2020 at 01:24 PM

JM

Thanks so much for your kind words, Scott, and for remembering that my mom and my dad were best friends. :) And thanks for sharing your address. I look forward to reconnecting with you, Kim and my Dad's whole side of the family. :)

Jennifer Meyer - October 12, 2020 at 01:46 PM

SC

“ Becky and I served on the Lancaster Theological Seminary for 6 years. I was always impressed with the knowledge she had in education. Her contributions to the Seminary helped structure the new curriculum which addresses the needs of seminary students in the world today. I was honored to serve on the Board with her.

May the comfort and support of friends provide you, the family, with strength in the days ahead. With love and sympathy,

Sandy Cross

Sandy Cross - October 08, 2020 at 04:36 PM

JM

Thank you so much for your kind words, Sandy. ~Jen Meyer

Jennifer Meyer - October 09, 2020 at 06:40 AM

LS

“ *Lancaster Theological Seminary purchased the Peaceful Wishes for the family of Dr. Rebecca H. Meyer.*



Lancaster Theological Seminary - October 08, 2020 at 01:28 PM

KW

“ Dear Jenny and Jon and families,

We were deeply saddened to learn of the loss of your mother. We have many fond memories of your family's visits years ago, along with Heidi Mae--the best dog EVER. I can still hear your mom's deep laugh, remember riding in your grandfather's orange VW wagon camper, walks with your dad around town, your dad teaching Scott and I to play chess, and even a trip to State College to the old Train Station restaurant. Truly, you guys were my first friends, even before we went to school.

We wish you healing, happiness to come, and light, just like your mother's light shone so brightly for all of the people who remember her here from her counseling and teaching days, and the times before and after those days, too.

As a woman of faith, through the promises of our Savior Jesus Christ, she now enjoys reunion with (Uncle) Frank, her dad, and her own mother (whom she lost far too young.) May you find a measure of solace and peace knowing this.

Please know that you are not alone in your loss. You remain in our thoughts, and we send prayers to all of you.

Love,

Kim and Georgia Warren, plus Scott and his family, too.

*Mom and I remain at the ancestral home at PO Box 373, Millheim,
PA 16854*

Kim Warren - October 08, 2020 at 06:25 AM

JM

Kim! Thanks so much for reaching out. Jon and I both have fond memories of our family's visits to Millheim... playing ping pong and reading comic books in the basement, the swing on your front porch, riding bikes down the hill behind your house, exploring the upper level of that large building that seemed like a barn on the back of the property, making cakes in your Easy Bake Oven, Easter egg hunts, Thanksgiving dinner at the firehall, the back porch where Grandmom would store the pies she baked, Grandpa working in his office off of the dining room, walking into town, and many more. I think it's been about 35 years since anyone but family and my mom's friends has called me "Jenny." :) I'll be in touch. Thanks again for your kind words. ~Jen Meyer

Jennifer Meyer - October 09, 2020 at 06:31 AM

KW

We so look forward to that! Please know that though we can't be with you at the Memorial Service due to the virus and my mom's age, we are with you in spirit. Hugs to you all and prayers for you, too.

Kim Warren - October 15, 2020 at 06:15 AM

LS

“Lancaster Theological Seminary celebrates the life and service of the extraordinarily talented Dr. Beckie Meyer who faithfully served our graduate school as a trustee for many years. Our prayers are with her family and many friends. It was a natural fit for Beckie to serve on the Seminary’s Education and Student Life Committee, where she brought both professional insights and an unwavering commitment to high standards. We could always rely on Beckie to focus on the effect of decisions on the lives of our students. Forthright and articulate, she always got right to the heart of what is important to a student.

A lifetime member of the NAACP, member of a state task force on diversity, and anti-racism facilitator and trainer, Beckie also was a committed voice to equity and justice in our programs and relationships. Beckie had a great passion for social justice and she worked tirelessly in helping to make the Seminary and the community a more diverse place.

Outgoing, energetic, and enthusiastic even when facing some serious health issues, she never wavered in her support of Lancaster Seminary and she continued to actively fulfill her duties undaunted by those challenges.

Beckie also brought insights from her own spiritual journey that led to an urban Mennonite congregation with strong interests in social justice. She earned a graduate certificate in Peace and Justice from Eastern Mennonite University and completed a Navajo nation cross-cultural study in Arizona and New Mexico.

Lancaster Theological Seminary is deeply grateful to have been blessed with the keen mind and generous spirit of this faithful educator whose leadership has helped us continue to educate and nurture seminarians “so that all creation may flourish.”

Lancaster Theological Seminary - October 07, 2020 at 06:02 PM

JM

*Thank you so much for sharing this information about my mom. I am so sorry that I neglected to include LTS in her obituary. I know she enjoyed and valued her time spent as a trustee with your institution, and was indeed a passionate advocate for social justice. One of the items I located in her home was her lifetime NAACP membership card. :) I am grateful that she made an impact in our world during her life.
~Jen Meyer*

Jennifer Meyer - October 09, 2020 at 05:41 AM

MH

“ *As I write this, I can hear her deep guttural laughter . . . evidence of a lust for life and all that is good.*

I learned to know Beckie better later in her life when she joined Community Mennonite Church and became a member of our lively book group. This was during the period when she still hosted us in her large home filled with great artwork and pieces created by her father. We witnessed her decision to downsize and create another beautiful home in the community at Landis Homes. Her resiliency and humor carried her through multiple experiences, and she continued contributing in our church Peace School as well as in activities on campus in the retirement community.

I confess: "to know her is to love her." Beckie, you are forever in my heart.

Mary Lou Weaver Houser

Mary Lou Weaver Houser - October 06, 2020 at 09:39 PM

JM

Mary Lou, Thank you so much for your kind words, and for remembering my mom's love of art and pride in her father's creations. Your name is familiar to me because my mom mentioned you frequently during that period of her life. :) ~Jen Meyer

Jennifer Meyer - October 09, 2020 at 06:43 AM

JF

“ There are very few people who I can say have shaped the person that I have become throughout my whole life but Dr. Meyer was one of those people. As a small child struggling with my parents divorce and the demands of my classroom Mrs. Meyer took care of me. I always knew her office was a safe place that I could go at Hambright Elementary. As a high school student taking a psychology class I was able to observe one of Dr. Meyer's classes at MU. This experience made me start to think that psychology and maybe school counseling could be a career path for me. When I returned to Millersville to complete my masters degree in school counseling Dr Meyer was there teaching me how to do what she had always done, care for every student where they are and in the way that best fits their individual needs. As a new school counselor Dr. Meyer came to our district to help us build the best school counseling program possible to support our students. After 15 years as a school counselor I use the lessons she taught me everyday to help my own students. Thank you Dr. Meyer for all that you have given to your students, big and small. Thank you Meyer family for sharing her with us. Our lives are truly better because she was a part of them.

Jill A Flemming - October 06, 2020 at 12:21 PM

JM

Thank you so much, Jill, for sharing your memories of my mom. She would often talk about her groups for children experiencing divorce (“Banana Splits”), and I am so glad you felt cared for by her. And how cool that you're now caring for your own students... my mom would have loved that (or maybe she knew). :) ~Jen Meyer

Jennifer Meyer - October 09, 2020 at 06:46 AM



“ At the end of my last graduate class with Dr. Meyer, she asked me if she was correct that I collected toy trains. I said I did, and she told me she was cleaning house and was sure she was getting close to a spot in the attic where some old trains were stored. Sure enough, she gave me a call after about two weeks. The trains had been found again. She asked if I would be interested in seeing them and I spent a nice evening, along with my wife and father-in-law looking over the boxes of old trains. She gave them to me stating she couldn't think of a better person to enjoy them. She was a giver!

Earlier, she had encouraged all of my cohort to attend a Sunday morning service at Brightside Church to learn more about diverse ways of worshipping and seeing others. It was a wonderful morning of worship and celebration and she was singing and dancing along with is the whole time!

I enjoyed my time getting to know Beckie as a young professional school teacher and aspiring counselor, and I will always remember the things she taught me.

Ben Stiles, Ed.D.

Benlynn Stiles - October 05, 2020 at 01:14 PM

JM

Thanks for reminding me that my dad's trains found a great home, and for sharing that story. :) I really appreciate your kind words. ~Jen Meyer

Jennifer Meyer - October 09, 2020 at 06:39 AM

CD

“ When we met Beckie the weekend of the wedding of her son and our daughter we could tell she and her husband Frank instilled many quality traits in Jon. We are grateful to have such a patient, kind, loving son-in-law who, in turn, is raising his son, Frankie, as he was raised. They left quite a legacy!
We extend our deepest sympathy to Jon, Stacie, and Frankie; to Jennifer and David; and to all who loved Beckie. Rest in Peace with Frank, Beckie. Love, Char and Dave Distel

Char and Dave Distel - October 04, 2020 at 11:47 PM

JM

Thank you for your kind words, Mr. and Mrs. Distel. My mom loved Stacie, and was so glad that Jon found the perfect partner for him. And she was thrilled to become “Grammy” when Frank was born. :) ~Jen Meyer

Jennifer Meyer - October 09, 2020 at 06:50 AM

BM

“ Beckie is fondly remembered as the most influential professor in my school counseling preparation. My sincere condolences to her family and friends.
Bonnie Mentzer

Bonnie Mentzer - October 04, 2020 at 11:06 AM

JB

Beckie was a fantastic lady. She was very influential in my counseling career. She has made profound contributions. My sincere condolences to her family and friends.
Joyce Baker

Joyce Baker - October 05, 2020 at 07:40 PM

GM

Jenny & Jon & family. Mike & I & Michael & Chris have fond memories of our fun time during their growing up!! We had many good times even though we lived out of state most of the time! Your mother was a funny lady who cared for many of us who have aged. In body but not mind 😞 We will be sending 100 \$ to food bank to help feed the hungry people in our country! Please send an address Jen so We can keep in touch & a picture of Frankie !! Blessings & condolences 🙏 Glenna & Mike Meyer. 3982 W. Langerwood Ln , Syracuse, N. Y. 13215

Glenna Meyer - October 07, 2020 at 11:59 AM

SZ

Beckie was a wonderful person, and I am very saddened to learn of her passing. My father, Dr. J. Richard Zerby, bought me my first guitar from Beckie while I was a high school sophomore. Beckie gave me my very first guitar lessons and she took me to my first live concert— Peter, Paul and Mary in Harrisburg. It was an amazing experience for me And one I will never forget! My thoughts and prayers are with Beckie's family. We were all very blessed to know Beckie.

Sandra L. Zerby - October 07, 2020 at 10:11 PM

JM

Aunt Glenna! Thanks so much for reaching out. I know that my mom would have appreciated your generous donation~thank you. Jon and I both have lots of great memories of our vacations to the Jersey shore with the cousins and of visits to New York (I think you had an Irish Setter named Tara...?) and Charleston. I will be in touch. And you won't believe how much Jon and Stacie's son, Frank, looks like his namesake. :) Thanks again for your kind words. ~Jen Meyer

Jennifer Meyer - October 09, 2020 at 06:36 AM

JM

Thank you for your kind words, Joyce. Am I correct in remembering that you reconnected with my mom at Apostles? :) ~Jen Meyer

Jennifer Meyer - October 09, 2020 at 06:52 AM

JM

Sandra, Your name is familiar to me... so you have sisters, and might my mom have referred to your clan as the "Zerby girls?" And might I have taught your niece, Abby Reed? :) I hope I'm remembering you correctly. Thank you for sharing your memories of my mom. ~Jen Meyer

Jennifer Meyer - October 09, 2020 at 06:54 AM

JM

Thank you for your kind words, Bonnie. I'm so glad my mom was an influential person on your own journey to becoming a school counselor. ~Jen Meyer

Jennifer Meyer - October 09, 2020 at 06:56 AM