



Kathleen J. Moyer Ph.D.

January 3, 1936 - February 28, 2020

Kathleen J. Moyer, Ph.D. (nee Forry), a beloved professor of sociology at Holy Family University for many years, died on February 28, 2020 after a long struggle with Parkinson's Disease and Lewy Body Dementia. She was 84 years old and died in her daughter's arms. Dr. Moyer was pre-deceased by her son Douglas S. Moyer (June 14, 2008) and her former husband Ivan (February 28, 2019). She is survived by three half-sisters (Julie Forry Hyser, Suzanne Forry, Donna Forry (David Peters) and their families), her daughter Judie McCoyd (Jim Baumohl) and foster son Emanuel Njomo (Suzanne), her grandchildren (Toni (Mike), Ryan (Cait), Krista, Ian and Paul, Emmanuel Jr., Cameron, & Stefan (Emmanuel's four sons)), and four great-grandchildren (Mehki, Hannah, Sydney, and Kingston).

Born to Jonathan and Eunice Forry in the small town of Myerstown, PA, Kat (as she was known then) was shaped by her parents' divorce. She described her childhood as a time of showing that she and her parents were good people as illustrated in her good behavior and ability to achieve. Raised by her maternal great-aunt Mimi with her father's financial support, she stayed connected to her mother (who had moved to Philadelphia) through their shared love of playing piano and organ. Each of her parents remarried happily. She excelled academically and was active in choir, drama and other activities at Myerstown High School (class of 1953). She graduated from Albright College Magna cum Laude in 1957 and having met Ivan there, they married in 1957. They moved to State College immediately after their

marriage and she was the organist and he the minister for the newly founded Park Forest Village United Methodist Church. She earned her Masters in Sociology at Penn State during that time while also giving birth to Judie and Doug. The family moved to Columbus, Ohio in 1965, where they resided until 1972. She served as an organist at First Congregational UCC Church for most of those years. Emmanuel joined their family in 1968. With each move, they re-installed the family pipe organ which she practiced on most nights after the children went to sleep. They needed her to play so they could fall asleep. The family moved back to the Philadelphia area in January 1973 (with the organ) and remained in the area from then on. Kathy (as she was known by then) was active as ever. She served as organist for Bethany Church in Northeast Philadelphia. While raising the children, she completed her Ph.D. in Sociology at Bryn Mawr College (1979). She became a professor at Holy Family College, served as Division Head of Liberal Arts, received the Lindback teaching award, and retired as Professor Emerita in 2004. She served in leadership roles with the League of Women Voters, the American Guild of Organists, and the Pennsylvania and Eastern Sociological Associations. She also performed with Singing City, traveling to the Middle East and Russia on their peace-making tours as well as participating in their active concert schedule in the greater Philadelphia area. She moved to Mendelssohn Club for her choral activities in the 1990s and was deeply saddened when she needed to stop due to vocal changes in the early 2000s, a first warning of Parkinson's, recognized only in hindsight. Following her amicable divorce from Ivan in the mid-1990s, she moved to Drexel Hill and served as Christ Lutheran's organist. In 2014, she moved to The Quadrangle (independent living) and to Personal Care in 2017. Everyone who knew her knew her unshakable integrity, her commitment to caring for others, and to attending to every detail. It was important to her to be kind and she became quietly but firmly confrontational only in her advocacy for others' needs. A friend observed: "Kathy was the most caring person I know. She tried to care for everyone- family, students, friends, clients and all

the downtrodden of the world. We have lost a great lady.” Kathy loved her family with every ounce of her strength and delighted in her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She will be sorely missed.

Burial is private. A public memorial service will be held at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on May 1 (Friday) at 1:00, to celebrate her life with the music she loved. A small reception at the church will follow. Donations in her name are welcome to the Upper Darby Community Outreach Corporation (7240 Walnut St. Upper Darby, PA 19082), Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Music Ministry (625 Montgomery Ave Bryn Mawr, PA 19010), or a progressive organization of your choice.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 1. 1:00 PM (ET)

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
625 Montgomery Avenue
Bryn Mawr, PA

Tribute Wall

MC

“ I am so sad to learn of Dr Moyer’s passing. She was a beloved professor of mine during my time at Holy Family. I think of her from time to time, and lost touch with her around 2008. I was looking online for her and stumbled across her obituary. Very sorry to hear of her passing and that she had to go through dealing with Parkinson’s and dementia. The world was a better place thanks to Dr Moyer, and I loved talking with her both professionally and socially. As a sociology major, we spent a great deal of time together. She was so kind, I really wish I stayed in touch. I know she is in Heaven, and thankful for her time and devotion to her students at Holy Family.

Michelle Cerne - December 03, 2024 at 06:25 PM

DR

“ I’m so sorry I just found out this information. Dr. Moyer was my professor at Holy Family College in 1994. She was an excellent, excellent educator, excellent human being, and my inspiration....I know that God received an angel...my condolences for the family....

Dr. Frances V Rosado - September 03, 2021 at 09:51 AM

Toni
landoli

Thank you for this. She loved her students and her work at Holy Family. She struggled with Parkinson’s and Louie body dementia. It had really taken hold about a year before she finally passed away. She passed weeks before the world shut down, she was able to be with loved ones and we are all so grateful for that.

Toni landoli - January 02, 2022 at 08:03 PM

TC

“ So very sorry to hear that our neighbor has gone on to Heaven, she was a Beautiful lady and we missed her so much when she moved away. She will definitely be missed. Sorrowfully, Luther and Tanya Collins

Tanya Collins - December 06, 2020 at 08:54 AM

AA

While preparing for the Class of 1953 70th class reunion of Myerstown High School, I volunteered to find out the whereabouts of Kathy. I had lost contact with her around 2010. She was a very good friend of mine through high school and beyond. I was so sad to find her obituary instead of finding her. She was a very smart lady with an abundance of talent. Her mother before her also had exquisite musical talent and was a lady you could love instantly. I am so sorry to have to share this information with our remaining classmates. Even though it is 3 years later, my deepest sympathies to her family. She loved all of you so dearly, and I know you still miss her.

Alice Albert - March 21, 2023 at 06:48 PM

JM

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Judith L. McCoyd - May 18, 2020 at 01:04 PM