



Barbara Ward Holt

MAY 29, 1941 - JAN 18, 2025



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Barbara Holt, age 83, passed away on Saturday, January 18, 2025.

Barbara dedicated many years to nurturing the creative talents of countless young minds by working as an art teacher at Elizabeth Forward. Barbara was not only revered in the classroom but also celebrated for her own artistic prowess. Her paintings and sculptures were a testament to her talent and a source of inspiration to all who knew her. Beyond the canvas, Barbara was a culinary artist, delighting friends and family with her exceptional cooking.

Her love for music was another facet of her artistic expression. Barbara's skillful piano and organ playing brought joy to many gatherings and will be fondly remembered by all who had the pleasure of listening.

Barbara is survived by her brother Donald (Elinor) Beck; sister-in-law Sara (Bill) Daniels; niece Diane (George) Laegeler; nephews Randy (Gretchen) Daniels and Steven (Ellen Jo) Daniels; great nephews Chuck (Erin) Laegeler, Riley (Alexa) Laegeler, Ryan (Veronica) Laegeler, and William Daniels; great nieces Hailey Daniels and Josephine Daniels; great great nephews Bryson Laegeler and Ezekiel Laegeler; step son Donald (Heather) Brundage; and step grandson Jaimie (Paige) Brundage.

Barbara is preceded in death by her first husband Russell Holt, Jr., second husband David DeBar, son Russell Holt III, and her parents Wilber and Mary Jane Beck.

Visitation will be held on Friday, January 31, 2025 from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm at the Jefferson Memorial Funeral Home, 301 Curry Hollow Road, Pittsburgh, 15236. A funeral service will take place on Saturday, February 1 at 2:00 pm in the funeral home's chapel. Burial will be handled by Jefferson Memorial Park.



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Online condolences may be shared at www.jeffersonmemorial.com.



Tribute Wall

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Cheryl Lane posted:

It is just impossible for me to grasp that she is gone. I met Barbara Holt as my high school art teacher fifty-five years ago and had the absolute privilege to learn from her for the next three years. I returned much later to student under her. How can it be that her influence lives so powerfully in me still? Her kind and gentle way of inspiring a belief in myself as a person who could offer something to the universe? She opened up a magical world of creativity and the endless realms of art history that I explore every day. I will never forget her because she has always been with me. The most gifted teacher, the most loving and patient soul, my precious B.

January 31 at 10:37 AM



Anonymous sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Holt family.



January 30 at 9:46 PM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Barbara.



January 30 at 9:46 PM



Anonymous sent a Basket Full of Wishes to the Holt family.



January 30 at 9:41 PM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Barbara.



January 30 at 9:41 PM



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Your Langley Friends sent a Pretty Please to the Holt family.

January 29 at 10:34 AM



Morgan Fite lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

B was my favorite teacher. The last thing she said to me was, "Just remember Morgan, everything is nothing and nothing is everything." I love her so much!!! See you out there in the universe B 🌈

January 28 at 7:27 PM



Amy Thomas lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

Mrs. Holt was my art teacher in high school. She was very kind, caring and talented. We had so much fun in her art class, she put up with our silly behaviors Like taking her hall-pass CoGo's for ice tea. Mrs. Holt will be greatly missed! Amy Thomas Elizabeth Forward graduating class of 1992

January 26 at 10:41 AM



Gretchen Fuller lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

Barbara was a wonderful person. She was helpful to me every election year by allowing me to place an election sign in her yard. It must have worked because I always won. My condolences to her family and friends. I am sure she will be greatly missed.

January 24 at 11:13 AM





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KD

Kimberly Dryburgh lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

I am deeply saddened to hear of Barbara Holts passing. She was truly one of a kind—a teacher whose influence and kindness left an indelible mark on everyone fortunate enough to learn from her. Barbara Holt was more than just a great art teacher. She was a guiding light for so many of us. Her creativity knew no bounds. Her passion for art, as well as nurturing her students was evident in everything she did. She had a special way of making each of us feel heard, valued, and inspired to push our boundaries. She made learning feel like a shared journey, one where she genuinely cared about our growth, both as artists and as people. Her encouragement, patience, and belief in our potential were unmatched. I will forever be grateful for the way she made me feel (important and capable), always reminding me that my voice and my work mattered. She was an incredible influence, and I know I'm not the only one who was shaped by her warmth and generosity. My heart goes out to your family during this time. Please know that Barbara Holt's legacy lives on in the countless lives she touched. She will be missed, but never forgotten. With deepest sympathy, One of your favorite students, Kimberly Pennell



January 23 at 3:52 PM

MK

Mycool Keenist posted:

Mrs. Holt was one of my favorite and most influential teachers I ever had. My senior year she retired. She did say it was not my friends or I that made her want to retire but that may have just been her way of making us not feel guilty about her finally deciding to retire. She was very encouraging and open minded to all of us "creative thinkers" and that was probably the most important job as an art teacher, I was very appreciative of that. Never once did I meet a fellow student that ever had anything negative to say about her. Senior art class was a deciding factor for me to go to college in the arts and B Holt had a lot to do with that. So I know she shaped my life in a positive way and I know of few of my peers that would say the same. Mycool Keenist - "favorite student"

January 23 at 8:08 PM



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RW

Randy William posted:

I still haven't been able to process the fact that my Aunt Barb is gone. She was such a wonderful person who played a big role in shaping who I am today, including solidifying my Steelers Fandom that still exists to this day. Next weekend (Jan 31/Feb 1st) we say goodbye to one of the kindest and most creative souls I have ever met. Seeing posts from her former students and colleagues over the past week has genuinely moved me---its clear she made a lasting impact on so many lives, just as she did on mine. You'll be sorely missed aunt Barbara Holt but I pray you are reunited with Rusty and Uncle Russ. I love you and will forever cherish the memories we shared, the science center, trolleys, inclines, Frank Lloyd Wright (PA and IL), your artwork and even last year when you got to meet my Daughter---and especially the Steelers! Thank you for being such a pivotal force in my childhood. Thank you for taking me to games and being so influential in my education. I'll miss you Deeply!

January 23 at 6:52 PM

DL

Diane Laegeler posted:

When I think of my Aunt Barbara, I'm overwhelmed by so many wonderful memories that it feels impossible to choose just one. She was exceptional in every way—kind, outgoing, and endlessly talented. I loved sleepovers at her house, watching in awe as she played the original Trivial Pursuit with a seemingly endless well of knowledge. I remember her musical talent, her patience while helping me with homework, and how we laughed together at my hopelessness in the kitchen while sharing chipped ham sandwiches in her dining room. She was a constant source of love and joy at my wedding and the births of my children. Every memory I have of her is filled with warmth and happiness. But if I had to choose a favorite, it would be the tradition she unknowingly gifted me. My days with Aunt Barbara were so special, particularly our "girls' days." Those were moments that she made just for me—time spent together that felt like the greatest treasure. It wasn't about what we did, but the love and attention she gave me, making me feel so cherished. Those memories were so meaningful that when my own nieces, nephew, and grandchildren were old enough, I carried on that tradition for them. Aunt Barbara taught me that time together and shared experiences are more valuable than any gift. She gave me that gift, and I will carry it with me forever. Thank you, Aunt Barbara, for the gift of your time, your love, and your endless kindness. There isn't a single memory of you that isn't wonderful.

January 23 at 3:52 PM



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January 23 at 3:52 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Barbara by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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