



Catherine Patricia Riesenman

November 3, 1932 - June 7, 2019

Catherine Patricia Riesenman, 86, of Bloomington, Indiana, died June 7 at Bell Trace Rehabilitation Center. Pat was born in Franklin, PA to Joseph and Catherine (Geary) Riesenman on November 3, 1932.

Pat graduated from Meadville High School, where she was class valedictorian. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Allegheny College and was again Valedictorian. The college president recommended her for year's fellowship at Radcliffe College, where she completed requirements for a Management Training Program. Pat then applied for a Rotary International Scholarship and studied for a year at a German university. She subsequently enrolled in master's and PhD programs at Indiana University in Bloomington and received a PhD degree in German in 1966.

Pat enjoyed living in Bloomington and teaching German at the university until she came up for tenure. Very few women were receiving tenure at that time, when the Women's Movement was in its infancy. When she did not receive tenure, Pat experienced failure for the first time. She decided to pursue a Master of Library Science degree, which she received in 1977. She was given the responsibility at the early start of her career for leading others into the then new world of computer-based scholarly information. Students and faculty came to rely on her at the start of a research project and found a willing and accomplished collaborator. She spent the rest of her career as a reference librarian in the IU main library and retired in 1998. Her family was proud of Pat's ability to overcome what she saw as failure and to embark on a second

career she truly enjoyed.

Pat was a wonderful sister and aunt and a special friend to many. A cancer survivor, she traveled the world, read voraciously – especially mysteries, relished a good joke, gave detailed explanations, and loved attending performances on the IU campus.

She cherished the Bloomington community and especially her Friday evening dinner club, her MARS group, the members of St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church Peace and Justice Committee, her godson, Tillman, her travel friend, Becky, and her caring neighbors on Eastside Drive.

Pat grew up in a wonderful Roman Catholic family with the best parents one could hope to have. Her siblings remember her saying that she was a perfect child and, as the oldest, she could not understand why her parents kept bringing more children home. Each also remembers that when they met a new teacher, the question always was, "Is Pat Riesenman your sister?" Similar brilliance was then expected.

Surviving Pat are siblings Joseph Riesenman, Franklin, New Jersey; Robert Riesenman (Mirella), London, England; Marian O'Leary (Joseph), State College Pennsylvania; Ruth Riesenman (Ronald Anderson), Indiana, Pennsylvania; eight nieces and nephews, and four great nephews and one great niece.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Tuesday, July 30, 2019 at 10:00am at the St Pauls Catholic Center. Burial will follow at Valhalla Memory Gardens. Cremation Rites have been accorded.

You are invited to share a memory or leave an online condolence for Pat's family at allencares.com

Cemetery Details

Valhalla Memory Gardens

310 North Johnson Ave.
Bloomington, IN 47401

Tribute Wall

KS

“ Pat had her 23rd birthday in the International Student House in Goettingen, West Germany, Nov 3, 1955. Her roommate was the sister of my husband, whom I met at that birthday party, 64 years ago yesterday. Pat was my maid of honor at our wedding in Columbus OH 16 months later. We had lost touch and were thinking of her yesterday..and were sad to find the obituary. We're happy to learn that she had a full and rewarding life. Kathryn and Christoph Schmauch.

Kathryn Schmauch - November 04, 2019 at 12:15 PM

AF

“ Anne Graham and David Frasier purchased the Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White for the family of Catherine Patricia Riesenman.



Anne Graham and David Frasier - July 26, 2019 at 11:43 AM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White was purchased for the family of Catherine Patricia Riesenman.



July 22, 2019 at 02:32 PM

MD

“ From 1981 to 1983 I was a Visiting Librarian, from Edinburgh University Library, Scotland, to Indiana University Library. Pat was immediately friendly and we enjoyed a valuable professional and personal friendship during my stay in Bloomington. Although we did not stay in contact, I still remember Pat's kindness and enthusiasm. I send my sincere wishes of sympathy to Pat's family.

Margaret Dowling

Margaret Dowling - July 21, 2019 at 01:51 PM

LS

Hello Margaret

I hope you won't mind me using this link to get in touch It's many years since we last met up and as I'm planning on visiting Edinburgh shortly, I'd been looking for a way of making contact... and in the same spirit of friendship that you've expressed in your remembrance message for Pat, I hope you won't mind me using this as a vehicle for reaching out ... I feel sure that Pat wouldn't mind ...

If this does ping into your inbox you can contact me using linda.seru@live.co.uk. Or 07913725906...

It'd be lovely to catch up ...

Linda xx

Linda Seru - February 24, 2024 at 12:22 PM

DS

“ For many years Pat was the go-to expert guest speaker for the online searching class in the School of Library and Information Science. Her real-life examples and down-to-earth practical advice enlightened and encouraged a generation of online searchers. I remember when computer terminals arrived with the blinding speed of 1200 bits per second. Professor Clay Shepherd explained how fast that was - “even Pat Riesenman can't type that fast.”

Debora Shaw - July 08, 2019 at 01:58 PM

LG

“ I was a colleague of Pat at IUB and we continued to remain in contact after I left and transferred to IPFW in Fort Wayne. I learned a great deal from her and always enjoyed her company. She set a good example for those of us just a few years behind her as to how to adjust to the infirmities and illness of aging. Her intelligence, common sense, sense of humor and kindness will not be forgotten and was passed on to many.

Larry Griffin, retired IU associate librarian

Larry Griffin - July 05, 2019 at 05:27 PM

RD

“ I met Pat at the Democrats' Club--where we both became board members for several years. We realized that we both were members at St. Paul's and went on to serve together on the Peace and Justice committee. Although those "structured" experiences were how we met, our friendship became much more fun! We frequently went out for brunch after Mass and we couldn't have a party without inviting Pat. At one of those parties, Pat accidentally punched a hole in an old chair's caning and when we teased her about getting liquored up and destroying our furniture, she was the one who laughed the loudest. One of my favorite memories of Pat was our outing to hear David Sedaris at the Auditorium, arriving there in her Prius--which she described as "lipstick red." . Pat was so funny herself, and despite the fact that she was deeply religious, she was never, ever stuffy. She was a serious person, who took little very seriously. When she had cancer, she regaled us with hilarious stories about how she got those Mardi Gras beads (hint: she had to show something!) We will miss her so much.

Rita Drescher - June 18, 2019 at 10:34 AM

YR

“ Pat was a kind, upbeat neighbor. We shared a love of music; it was a joy to talk with her about many things. We also were associates at the library for many years. I miss her smiling face.

Yvonne Reinier

Yvonne Reinier - June 17, 2019 at 12:42 PM

 Judy Schroeder

“ I first met Pat living in the Graduate Residence Center at IU in 1962. She was always cheerful and friendly. I learned from others what an outstanding student she was, in what high regard she was held. I admired her moxie when, denied tenure (she was the first but certainly not the last outstanding woman in the German department to earn that dubious distinction), she persevered in her second career.

In later years Pat was a faithful member of the Faculty Drama Club, and once again our paths passed often. Although she eschewed performing herself, she was an enthusiastic member of the audience.

Pat enjoyed life. I admired her openness, acceptance, and independence. She embodied the prayer of St. Francis, giving, pardoning, and sowing love. I trust that in dying, she has been born to eternal life.

My sympathy to her family, whom she adored.

Judy Schroeder

Judy Schroeder - June 16, 2019 at 12:06 AM



“ I came to know Pat when I lived across the street on Eastside Drive from 1995 through 1998 and then from just a block away on Rose Ave. for another 18 years. We enjoyed socializing during ladies' teas hosted in the neighborhood, as well as comparing notes with each other on the annual garden walks in town. She seemed to do a lot of traveling, as evidenced by frequent limo pick ups at her front door, witnessed from my front window. I always enjoyed her upbeat attitude. But I did not know about her career prior to being a librarian, so that was nice to read about in her extended obituary on this site. I believe she was retired fairly early and seemed to enjoy her retirement immensely. May she rest in peace. Becky Gavin

Becky Gavin - June 14, 2019 at 01:02 PM