



Myriam Revel Wood

October 28, 1930 - September 1, 2020

Myriam Revel Wood, 89, died Tuesday, September 1, 2020, after a brief, non-COVID related illness. She was a beloved mother, grandmother, and University School teacher, who touched many lives through her church leadership, love of gardening with native plants, and promotion of land conservation.

She was born October 28, 1930 in Colonia Valdense, Uruguay to Lidia Berton de Revel and Augusto Bartolome Revel. The Revel family was a vibrant part of the community, as educators and leaders in the church.

Myriam began her teaching career at Crandon Institute in Montevideo. She received a scholarship to continue her studies in the United States, earning a Masters Degree in Education from Peabody College. While studying in Nashville, Tennessee she met her husband, James Rutland Wood. Myriam and Jim were married in her hometown in Uruguay in 1955.

She returned from Uruguay to teach elementary school in New Haven, Connecticut. In 1958, Myriam and Jim founded the Edgemont United Methodist Church in Florence, Alabama and built the church community together. Myriam and Jim later returned to Nashville, where she taught first grade while Jim earned his Ph.D. in Sociology.

In 1967, Myriam and her family moved to Bloomington, Indiana where she taught third grade at University Elementary School. She was passionate about curriculum development and instrumental in bringing the Accelerated Learning Program to the school in the mid-1970s, when she moved to teaching sixth

grade. Although her small stature meant she was often the shortest in her classroom, Myriam led her students with kindness and believed in nurturing the potential of all children. She was an active participant in the school community and formed a special bond with her fellow teachers. After her retirement in 1997, she remained involved in the UES community as a volunteer Spanish teacher known to her students as Señora Wood.

Myriam was a part of the heart and soul of St. Mark's United Methodist Church for more than 50 years. She was active in the United Methodist Women and served on several church committees. As an avid chef and baker, she led the annual UMW Cookie Shoppe fundraiser and loved feeding and hosting members of the St. Mark's community. Myriam was especially devoted to the children of the church; she served as Nursery Coordinator and was a part of Vacation Bible School. She was dedicated to the St. Mark's Reconciling Team and other efforts to make the church, and the greater community, open and affirming to all of God's children.

Myriam was an early adopter of the Go Green movement; she shared her love of nature with children and adults alike, teaching them how to identify, appreciate, and care for the natural world around them. She developed an expertise in gardening with native plants, sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm with many friends. Myriam and Jim created Fish Creek Preserve, in partnership with Sycamore Land Trust, to protect 125 acres of beautiful hardwood forest into perpetuity.

She was a guiding light in the lives of generations of young people, nurturing them all like the wildflowers in her garden – with the love and support to flourish right where they were meant to be.

Myriam was preceded in death by her parents and her husband of 53 years, James Rutland Wood.

She is survived by her daughter, Lillette Wood and son-in-law, Daniel Pratter, of Bloomington; her son, Paul Wood and daughter-in-law, Angela Kolonay Wood, of McLean, VA; and by her grandchildren, Sarah Pratter, Adam Wood, Rachel Pratter, and Eric Wood. She is also survived by her brother, Daniel

Revel (Martha Astarita), and her sisters, Eliane Mariano (Roberto Mariano) and Ivonne Vanderbilt; by her canine companion, Dobby; and by extended family and many dear friends at home and in Uruguay. Her family's fondest memories include their time together in Uruguay, walking along the beach, visiting with loved ones, and watching sunsets over the Rio de la Plata.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in the future when it is safe to gather together. Memorial gifts may be sent to St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Sycamore Land Trust, Monroe County Habitat for Humanity, or Swing Left.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old State Road 37 is handling the arrangements and online condolences, photos, and memories may be shared with family and friends at www.allencares.com

Tribute Wall

JP

“ *Lillette and Paul:*

I learned of your mother's passing only very recently. Your mother was my next-door neighbor on N. Glenwood West Ave., in Bloomington, IU for almost 30 years. The news about your mother's passing saddened me greatly as I had been hoping to visit her again when I return to Bloomington the next time.

Your mother was a remarkable, wholesome, and spirit-filled woman who taught me SO MUCH about gardening, kindness, compassion, and the importance of family. She was the best neighbor anyone could ever ask for.

I had so many fond memories of your parents gardening outside during the sunset hours. Both of them treated my friends who came over and often played in your parents' backyard so kindly and lovingly.

I was a better person because of your mother and father. Both of them are now relaxing at the feet of Jesus--a much better place than here.

May you be comforted by God's truth and grace!!!

Missing Mrs. Wood forevermore,

Joanne Peng

Joanne Peng - May 15, 2021 at 04:40 AM

JP

“ Prayers for dear Mrs. Wood.

There are some teachers about whom one recalls or thinks of at least once per week for a lifetime and Mrs. Wood was one of those. Staring into the fall colors of the woods outside my home, I think now of her, upon hearing of her passing, how much a love of nature and outdoors she transferred to me which I am attempting to convey to my own children. Always attentive, loving and tactfully admonishing when needed, my 2nd and 3rd grade teacher at University Elementary School seemed to make me a teacher's pet from the get go and undoubtedly warmed to my being of Ecuadorian descent and a fellow Latin American. She brought the energy and excitement of the environmental movement right into the classroom with so many memorable projects, assignments, art, animal collections and storybook field trips to nearby parks, truly making those early years of 1974-75 some of my childhood's happiest times. It was a joy to visit with her in the early 90's and hear of her news of some of my other classmates.

Rest in Peace

- Juan Polit, WDC

Juan Polit - November 12, 2020 at 11:51 AM

GP

“ Almost no teacher had more of an impact on me than Mrs. Wood. She was my G/T teacher for 5th and 6th grades at UES, and I can't stop reflecting on how much she meant to me and all of her students. She opened my eyes to the world outside of Bloomington, Indiana, as a native of Uruguay. She taught me to brainstorm graphically, write creatively, how to cite sources for papers, to play Feudal, and she had the first computer in a classroom that I recall. It was an honor to have been educated by her, and she will be dearly missed. Seeing several of my former classmates post similar things tonight makes me realize how much we collectively loved her. NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE IMPACT OF A GREAT TEACHER. Rest well, Mrs. Wood. We love you.



Guye Pennington - September 13, 2020 at 09:49 PM

LL

“ It is hard to know where to begin to express my appreciation for and admiration of Myriam. She was a mentor, friend, and fellow teacher. When Jim officiated our wedding, Myriam and Jim held an engagement party for Benji and me. It was a lovely gift we will never forget.

From the first day I met Myriam at University School in 1987, she guided me. She was a generous educator and taught all of us her Art of teaching. She was mentoring me in my fifth grade classroom 19 years ago on 9/11 when we got the news about the attacks in New York. It was such a comfort to have her there.

Myriam has had an impact on my life and the lives of everyone who had the privilege of knowing her. Her kindness, intelligence, and joy live on in her children and grandchildren.

Wishing you all peace and love during this time of grief. Looking forward to the day when we can all be together and celebrate the life of this amazing woman!

*Holding you in my thoughts and in my heart,
Liesl Loudermilk and family*

Liesl Loudermilk - September 12, 2020 at 12:43 AM

RS

“ I would like to offer my deepest condolences to Myriam's family and friends.

Even tho I have only known her for a few years, she treated me like a member of her family, and was always so full of passion and knowledge about what they had created at FCP.

I can't believe I will never see that smiling face, or hear her distinctive voice again.

Myriam was a human dynamo and will leave a huge void in the hearts of everyone who knew her.

Rest in Peace Dear Lady!

Your friend, Randy Scott

Randy Scott - September 08, 2020 at 08:22 PM

AV

“ I have lost one of my dearest friends with Myriam's death. We shared an affinity for Waldensian settlements. Her family settled in Uruguay while mine went to North Carolina. We shared a love of travel which included a tour of Hudson Bay and a water tour of the Amazon. She introduced us to her South American family in Fomento, Uruguay. She broadened my knowledge of the world with her instructions.

Ann Vaughan - September 08, 2020 at 01:46 PM

EJ

“ *Myriam was such a delightful person, and I'm so glad she was a friend of mine. I met her through our mutual love of the outdoors and native plants. She was so generous with her knowledge, and such a natural teacher. One of my most vivid memories is in June of 2016, when I asked her to give a talk on her gardening and how she plans out and documents her planting for a local educational event. I'd kept in touch with her by email on the details, so hadn't seen her in quite some time. Imagine my shock when she showed up to speak in a brace/splint over much of her upper body because of surgery she had had that week. And yet she still showed, and gave a fantastic talk. She was so strong and and so selfless. I will miss her greatly. I find myself thinking of her as I wander my garden. May your joy-filled memories of her bring you peace.*

Ellen Jacquart

Ellen Jacquart - September 08, 2020 at 12:07 PM

CJ

“ *Mrs. Wood was my 6th grade teacher at University ES. It was a new program for MCCSC, and she was a superb teacher for the group of 6th graders gathered from various schools throughout the district. She was kind, compassionate, and I loved that she encouraged our love of nature in science. She let us form clubs (I was in the 'bird club') which made science even more fun for the entire class. I fondly recall those days and the wonderful things she taught us about nature that year. Fly high, Mrs. Wood. Your contributions here will never be forgotten.*

Cymme (Hardy) Jent

Cymme Jent - September 07, 2020 at 10:24 PM

NM

“ *Mrs. Wood was a wonderful teacher to both of our children, Caitlin and Patrick. She shared her strength, her commitment to education, her challenge to grow and learn and her faith in countless ways. Peace be with you, Nancy Macklin*

Nancy Macklin - September 07, 2020 at 11:51 AM

NS

“ *Ms. Wood was my third grade teacher. I have never forgotten her. Her compassion and kindness made the difference to me. I came from a home of brokenness and I came to her third grade class lost and sad. Ms. Wood saw my value and worth and as a child of color she embraced me. My condolences to her family and friends. Rest In Peace beautiful one. Nissy Stetson-Grace*

Nissy Stetson-Grace - September 06, 2020 at 01:33 PM