



Hilda Hendler

August 19, 1929 - March 8, 2019

Hilda was born on August 19, 1929 to Ignaz and Maria Doerfler in the beautiful city of Vienna. Hilda grew up during World War II.

As relayed by Hilda, she did not return to school when they reopened after the war but took a job with a dance company, taking classes on the side. Lilly Brauneis, the owner of a small dance company observed Hilda in dance class and offered her a position as member and soloist with her company. Lilly had a reputation for high artistic standards. Hilda performed in many clubs and theaters. As conditions improved in Austria the dance company went on successful tours to Innsbruck and other cities throughout the Country.

Hilda's best friend was Mady and she too evacuated from Vienna. After her return, Hilda, Mady and Mady's brother went to a club to dance. The time may have been early 1947. While there they met a group of Americans and one turned out to be Hilda's future husband. David and Hilda dated and eventually decided to get married. This was no easy fete. They had to fill out a four page request to marry, sit through interviews with the Commanding Officer and the battalion priest, and undergo an investigation of Hilda and her family by the CIC. It was only after four repeated attempts and denials that David and Hilda were married in a civil ceremony on February 6 followed by a religious ceremony at Vienna's famed St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church on February 11, 1948.

On July 23, 1948 David received orders to return to the United States. David and Hilda were excited to begin their life together in America along with their first born Kathleen. In route to Bremerhafen, Germany to pick up the troop transport to America, Kathleen contracted measles and they were placed in quarantine for two weeks before they were allowed to set sail on the Hospital Ship Blanch F. Sigman.

Until David's death on March 8, 1975, together they raised five children, Kathleen, Michael (deceased), Heide, Suzanne and Lisa. And Ilse upon her mother's death in 1956. Hilda went on to have a fulfilling life.

Hilda's passion in life was dance and theater. She studied dance at the Rudi Fraunzl Studio, the Conservatory for Music and Dance, and the State Academy of Performing Arts Vienna, Austria. She also studied dance therapy, therapeutic movement, aerobic dance, modern dance and jazz at SUNY at New Paltz, Skidmore College, Russell Sage, Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Louis Falco Company of NYC, College of St. Rose and Columbia-Greene Community College.

Hilda loved sharing her love for dance with others. She founded and operated the Hudson Dance Studio. Hilda was an instructor in Dance and Movement Exploration for the Developmentally Disabled and Handicapped. Her teaching experience included designing and implementing dance programs for clients of Columbia Greene Community College Community Residence and Mental Health Center; designed and implemented courses in "Creative Expression" in the arts, music, dance and painting. She set up a creative movement program for 100 developmentally handicapped adults. In addition, Hilda taught dance and arts at St. Mary's Elementary School. One of her most enjoyable and proudest accomplishments was choreographing the "Red Lizard, " a play by Ian Douglas Mitchell presented at Columbia Greene Community College.

In 1983 Hilda was awarded a Bachelor Degree in Psychology from SUNY,

New Paltz, and in 1979 an AAS in Social Science from Columbia-Greene Community College. Following 16 years of dedicated service, Hilda retired in 2001 from the Columbia Greene Community College where she served as Assistant Director for Employability Development, Office of Employment and Training.

During her life time, Hilda sat on the Board of Directors of Columbia Council on the Arts, American Cancer Society, Columbia County Chapter of the NYS Association for Retarded Children, Dance Educators of America, Columbia County Historical Society and chaired numerous local charity fundraisers.

Hilda was fluent in German. She helped run her husband's successful political campaigns. Provided translation services to the United Nations and local attorneys.

Hilda was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Hudson, and at the time of her death a member of the Catholic Daughters of America, Council 248.

In addition to her four surviving children and sister Ilse, Hilda leaves to carry on her legacy grandchildren: Rachael and Jennifer Harvender, David Hendler, Stefanie Moore; great-grandchildren Logan Pollard, Jacob Moore, Victoria and Alexander Hendler; niece Jacqueline Lindblad; son-in-laws Ronald Minor (Kathy), Ralph Tiano (Suzanne) and Greg Miller (Heide); granddaughter-in-law Hongchun Hendler.

Wake Friday March 15, 4-7 pm, Bates & Anderson Funeral Home, 110 Green Street, Hudson. Funeral, Saturday March 16, 10 am, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Hudson.

Previous Events

Visiting Hours

MAR 15. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Bates & Anderson - Redmond & Keeler
110 Green Street
Hudson, NY 12534
(518) 828-3371
<http://batesandersonredmondkeeler.com>

Mass

MAR 16. 10:00 AM (ET)

Holy Trinity St. Mary's Parish Hudson

Tribute Wall

KC

“ I remember your Mother very well - I worked for your father in the 70's in his law office, first on Warren Street & then on Union Street- she was a wonderful lady - I'm so sorry for your loss- my prayers are with you & your families- love Kenda Cunningham ❤️

kenda Cunningham - March 14, 2019 at 08:38 PM

KM

Thank you for remembering us Kenda

Kathy Hendler Minor - April 25, 2019 at 05:41 PM

CK

“ Carole Keil lit a candle in memory of Hilda Hendler



Carole Keil - March 13, 2019 at 08:18 PM

KM

Thank you for your remembering Mommy

Kathy Hendler Minor - April 25, 2019 at 05:43 PM

JK

“ Will be keeping your family in my thoughts and prayers
Jenn Kolb

Jenn Kolb - March 13, 2019 at 12:48 PM

EP

“ To Kathy, Heidi, Suzanne Lisa and family;
I extend my deepest condolences for the passing of Hilda, your dear mother. You've lost your loved one here on earth, but take comfort in knowing that you have now gained three angels in Heaven watching over you. (David, Hilda, Michael).
Love, Edie

Edythe (Edie) Poole - March 13, 2019 at 10:50 AM

DD

“ Debbie Disko lit a candle in memory of Hilda Hendler



Debbie Disko - March 12, 2019 at 07:37 PM

CH

“ Caron Hartmann lit a candle in memory of Hilda Hendler



caron hartmann - March 12, 2019 at 05:55 PM

CH

“ Loving thoughts and prayers to you all on the loss of your Mom. Our sincerest, deepest condolences. We have so many fond memories of Tante Hilda on the many visits of the family to Toronto. She will be in our hearts forever. With love,
Tante Mady and the whole family.

caron hartmann - March 12, 2019 at 05:54 PM

NC

“ *Noreen Copeland lit a candle in memory of Hilda Hendler*



Noreen Copeland - March 12, 2019 at 04:48 PM

KS

“ *Kathy Schrader lit a candle in memory of Hilda Hendler*



Kathy Schrader - March 12, 2019 at 03:46 PM

ML

“ *To Lisa & Family,*

Sincere condolences on the passing of your dear Mother.

Maria Lull

Maria C Lull - March 12, 2019 at 11:53 AM

HW

“ *To the Hendler Family,*

So very sorry for the loss of Hilda. I worked with Hilda for many years at Columbia-Greene Community College. She was a true lady. May your wonderful memories comfort you during this difficult time.

Holly Wanek

Holly Wanek - March 11, 2019 at 02:53 PM