

## **Annemarie Ehrlicher Chretien**



(1926-2017)

Co-Founder of the German School  
Washington D.C.

Annemarie Ehrlicher Chretien, 91, passed away at Potomac Manor Care on October 4, 2017. Annemarie was born May 10, 1926 in Schwaebisch Gmuend, Germany, to parents Juliane Katherine and Ludwig Zischer, joining brother, Hans, and sister, Paula. The mother, Juliane, passed away when Annemarie was just a toddler, and Ludwig married Maria Lang. Annemarie was raised by her and her older siblings after Ludwig passed when she was 9 years old.

Annemarie attended a number of teachers' colleges in Germany, from 1943 to 1952 while also working as an elementary and special education teacher in the Stuttgart, Germany, area. In 1952, she came to the United States as a foreign student and attended the George Peabody College and Vanderbilt University, both in Nashville, Tennessee, and later the University of Maryland. It was at an international student gathering where she met Paul Joseph Chretien, a student from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, studying for an MBA at the University of Michigan, who became her husband. They raised two children primarily in Potomac, Maryland, after having first briefly

lived in Port-au-Prince, Mexico City, and New York City. She became a U.S. citizen in 1961. Annemarie's love for teaching never abated and throughout her life she zealously furthered her own education in that field. As a new mother, she continued her teaching career at the German School in Mexico City. Upon finally settling in Maryland, she taught special education at St. Johns Development Services located in a convent in Potomac, Maryland (now the William F. Bolger Center) and the Montrose School in Rockville, Maryland. However, she is best remembered for her lengthy tenure as a primary and secondary school teacher at the German School Washington D.C., initially located in a historical residential home on MacArthur Boulevard in Washington, D.C. She was also a founding member of that school, serving as a core teacher from 1961 until her retirement in the 1980s.

Even as a full-time mother and teacher, her passion for education led her to enroll in evening classes at the American University in Washington D.C. where she earned a Master's degree in Germanic studies, and entered a PhD program at the University of Maryland, College Park in German and language studies.

Annemarie was a faithful member of the German Lutheran Church of Washington where she was well-known and forged many friendships. She had a deep love of classical music and opera and regularly attended musical performances at the Kennedy Center with her partner later in life, Hans Fuerth, who was an accomplished pianist. Above all, Annemarie was intensely interested in anyone who crossed her path, cherishing many strong life-long friendships

and always reaching out to friends and family across the globe. She dedicated her professional life to the development and education of children who later as adults vividly remember her strong independent character and tireless dedication. In the last few years, Annemarie was able to stay in her Potomac home, soaking up the generous sunlight streaming into her beloved spacious kitchen through a floor-to-ceiling window.

Annemarie was preceded in death by her brother, Hans, and sister, Paula. She is

survived by her two children: Paul Henry Chretien, Barbara Chretien-Dar and husband Vinod K. Dar, and granddaughters: Annabelle Melissa Lindholm, Amy Nicole Lindholm, Sarah Marie Dar, and Ashley Elysee Chretien. She is also survived by niece Heike Dawson in Iowa and nephew Karl Heinz Ehrlicher in Germany, as well as grand nephews, Richard Dawson, Daniel Dawson, and Jens Ehrlicher. In loving memory, we deeply mourn her loss.

*Barbara Chretien-Dar*



*Annemarie Chrétien with her second and third graders at the German School at the Chesterbook Methodist Church, McLean, Virginia, in June 1965. Photo Courtesy A. Chrétien.*