



Carolyn Young Treneer

May 24, 2020

Carolyn Young Treneer, age 99, a former resident of Yakima and Toppenish, WA passed away on May 24, 2020 in Lake Ridge, VA. Carolyn's maiden name was Laura Carolyn Young. Her parents, pharmacist Harvey L. Young and wife Laura (James) Young, were early Yakima residents and life-long members of the First Congregational Church, where Carolyn's maternal grandfather once served as minister.

Carolyn grew up on S. 20th Ave. (Chase Hill), the youngest of three children; she attended McKinley Grade School, Franklin Jr. High, and Yakima Sr. High School. The Youngs owned a cabin beside Gold Creek, at Kloshe Tillicum just east of Cliffdell on Highway 410, where they spent many happy summers, sharing meals and fellowship at the central lodge with the six other families who had summer homes there. Carolyn enjoyed gathering wildflowers, hiking, playing horseshoes, and swimming in the Naches River. The adults at Kloshe Tillicum also taught Carolyn how to play bridge, which she played often at college and throughout her adult life. At home, she baked pies for the lunch counter at her father's drug store—another skill she refined as an adult.

In August 1939, Carolyn and her mother drove east with a friend for a memorable vacation. Mother and daughter visited family in Michigan and New England, attended a family reunion in Vermont, and enjoyed several days at the 1939 New York World's Fair (where one of the first small TV sets was on

display), before returning to Yakima via passenger train three weeks later.

During the early 1940s, Carolyn attended Whitman College, a school her mother and aunt had attended when it was still a Normal School. She graduated with a BA in English in 1943. Afterwards, she worked for the Marley Fruit Co. Like many other young women, she wrote to servicemen, attended USO dances, and welcomed the men home after the war ended. One of those servicemen was Alvin Treneer, a junior high and high school classmate. She and Alvin married on February 15, 1947 and moved to Terrace Heights, where they built their first house on land given to them as a wedding present by Alvin's older brother Mylor. Over the next 20 years, Carolyn gave birth to five children: Charles, Deborah, Amy, Mary, and William.

In 1967, after Charles graduated from East Valley High School, the family moved to Toppenish, where Alvin had purchased a blacksmithing and welding shop, which he later expanded into a full-scale metal fabrication business. In Toppenish, Carolyn continued her career as a homemaker. She also gave back to the community as a Sunday school teacher and leading member of the local Christian Congregational Church, a Cub Scout leader, and a volunteer at the Central Valley Food Bank, which she headed as Coordinator for six years. In 1981, she was named the Toppenish Chamber of Commerce's Women of the Year for her volunteer efforts.

Special sources of joy throughout Carolyn's adult life were her flower gardens and bridge club. Carolyn was especially fond of irises. She was a member of the Yakima Valley Iris Society and a frequent volunteer at flower shows. Her bridge club, comprised of friends she had known since high school, met monthly for lunch, bridge, and conversation for more than 65 years.

Almost before Carolyn and Alvin knew it, their four younger children had graduated from Toppenish High School; all five children had graduated from

college, married, and started careers; and grandchildren began arriving. Carolyn and Alvin were delighted. They packed up their car and began taking road trips—sightseeing and visiting family. They crisscrossed the U.S. at least two times, with Carolyn keeping notes so they could remember all they had seen and heard.

By 2005, however, Alvin's declining health prompted them to move back to Yakima, where Alvin died in January 2006. Carolyn continued to live independently at Rexford Manor in northwest Yakima for the next 10 years, where she enjoyed the company of friends and relatives who still lived in the area, made new friends, and rejoined the United Christian Church of Yakima, which had moved from the old First Congregational Church building in Yakima to a new location in Terrace Heights, a few blocks from where she and Alvin had built their first home.

By 2016, Carolyn's own declining physical health necessitated a move to Northern Virginia, where her daughter Amy, a retired social worker, could oversee her daily care. There she remained mentally alert and continued to stay in touch with family and friends via phone calls, letters, and email. According to the activities coordinator at the long-term care center where she resided, Carolyn received more mail than any other resident.

Carolyn is survived by four of her five children, two daughters-in-law and two sons-in-law, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. She leaves behind a legacy of loving kindness, congeniality, faith, stoicism, and perseverance that will echo for years to come. We believe that, when she died, she was surrounded by angels, and the angels were rejoicing.

Her family plans to hold a memorial service for Carolyn in Yakima, after the current COVID-19 public health emergency ends. In the meantime, we

encourage all who knew Carolyn to honor her memory by making a special contribution to one or more of the following organizations she supported:

The Pantry Foodbank (Moxee, WA), <http://www.evrchurch.org/index.html>

The Deborah S. Pitman Memorial Scholarship, WSU Tri-Cities, <https://tricity.wsu.edu/give/>

The United Christian Church of Yakima, <https://www.facebook.com/unitedchristianchurchyakima/>

Heritage University (Toppenish, WA), <https://www.heritage.edu/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Carolyn Young Treneer*

January 12, 2023 at 12:00 PM



“ *Many years our Families have been intertwined, I loved all the visits with your Mom. Growing up I was at your house playing with Deb and the cousins. I feel very Blessed in having your Family in my life. God Bless you all Love Claudia*

Claudia J King - May 31, 2020 at 12:28 PM



“ *Dearest Amy, What a lovely tribute to your Mother. We ran into one another several times while you were visiting her at Westminster, and know she was always happy to see you. My Mother had been a resident of Westminster-Canterbury in Charlottesville, and , like you made many visits , which were always occasions to remember all the wonderful times we had growing up with them. Look forward to seeing you very soon. Carolyn Stringer (loved your Mom's name)*

carolyn smith stringer - May 28, 2020 at 05:13 PM



WHAT a marvelous tribute, to the talented matriarch, Mrs. Treneer! She will be missed by all who knew her. I especially liked to chat with her about baseball! We both loved the sport and followed the Washington Nationals.

Mrs. Treneer recently had a 99th birthday, but she was young at heart. She was interested in lots of different topics and many current events. Her inquisitive nature made Mrs. Treneer a delight to be around. She was always genuinely interested in others and liked to ask her visitors about their lives and activities. Mrs. Treneer deeply loved her family and truly cared about her friends. I'm so grateful to have known such a bright and loving soul.

Kathy McNeely - May 28, 2020 at 05:39 PM

GS

Mrs. Treneer was always bright and cheery when I brought my therapy dogs to visit at Westminster. She loved visitors whether canine or human and this love will live within me as I continue canine therapy visits.

Gretchen Snyder

Gretchen Snyder - May 28, 2020 at 06:17 PM

EG

Fond memories of your Mom, Amy. I especially remember her visit to our home for Dinner with Friends. She was a remarkable woman and when I visited her at Westminster she always enjoyed friendly conversation and was so engaging.

I know she will be dearly missed.

Liz

elizabeth glyer - May 28, 2020 at 07:56 PM

CT

To those who have asked for more information about the Deborah S. Pitman Memorial Scholarship, at <https://tricity.wsu.edu/give/> -- in particular, how to navigate there. Follow the link in the obituary, then click on the radio button for WSU Tri-Cities Other Scholarship Funds and scroll down to WSU Tri-Cities Scholars Excellence Fund where you will find a description for The Deborah S. Pitman Memorial Scholarship. The endowment was created to honor Carolyn's eldest daughter, Deborah, a journalist and author, who lived in Richland, WA and is buried adjacent to where Carolyn's remains will laid to rest.

Charles Treneer - June 02, 2020 at 12:17 AM

JF

What a special tribute to your mother. I really enjoyed getting to meet her. While our contacts were few, she always had such a pleasant disposition and welcomed visitors with a smile. Prayers for peace and comfort for all who love her. - Jeri Fields

Jeri Fields - June 03, 2020 at 09:37 PM