

VAIR STREET JOURNAL

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CORVAIR CLUB

NOV/DEC 2009

What a Great Turnout for Blueberries in August



DON BAKER PHOTO

The pickers from L to R: Jack Bachman, Les Walter, Kevin Burk, Steven Puskas, unidentified, Suzanne & Jim Heatherington, Emerick Buccigrossi, Pat Greenwald, Joyce Bachman, Jim Steigerwaldt, Dave Gundlach, Michele & Tim Desmond, Judy & Jennifer Gundlach and John & Gayle Gundlach

Make plans for the Holiday Party SEE PAGE 6



Never Forget 09-11-01

Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 24, 2009

King's Restaurant—Wexford • Route 910 • Off I-79 at Exit 73

Dinner at 6:30 p.m. • Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Donna Mae Mims 1927–2009

By Ray Fittipaldo
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Donna Mae Mims, an eccentric champion race car driver who was portrayed in the Hollywood movie "The Cannonball Run," died Tuesday, October 6, 2009 from complications from a series of strokes. She was 82.

Known as the Pink Lady of sports car racing because most of her cars were painted pink, Ms. Mims, whose maiden name was Warnock, graduated from Dormont High School in 1945. She first became interested in race cars when she and her husband, Mike, came upon an unusual looking two-seater at a car dealership on West Liberty Avenue in the 1950s.

They learned that the car was a Corvette and later bought their first one at Kenny Ross Chevrolet.

"She said the thing she liked best about it was that her in-laws couldn't ride with them," quipped longtime friend Don Baker.

The couple bought their first fuel-injected Corvette at Yenko Chevrolet in Canonsburg, where she was an executive secretary and later the liaison for design and production for Yenko sports cars.

Ms. Mims started racing cars with her friends from Yenko in 1960 and quickly became one of the top amateur race car drivers in the country. Ms. Mims, who had by then divorced her husband, became

the first woman to win a Sports Car Club of America national racing championship in 1963, at the wheel of her pink Austin-Healey 1959 Bug-eye Sprite that once had belonged to Dr. Jonas Salk.

"She was just racing for fun with her friends," said Dan DelBianco,



Donna Mae Mims, champion race car driver, shown here with long-time friend, Don Baker

the executive director of the Vintage Grand Prix and a friend of Ms. Mims. "At the final race she was told if she came in fifth place or better than she would be the champion. That was the only time she got nervous, she told me."

Ms. Mims also raced a pink Corvette, Corvair, Triumph TR3 and MGB.

"On the back of most of my cars I had "THINK PINK." Ms. Mims told the Post-Gazette earlier this

year. "I liked pink ever since I was a little girl."

Ms. Mims liked her pink Corvette so much that it was her dying wish to be laid out in it at the Beinhauer Funeral Home in Peters Township. The car was detailed for the viewing.

"Nobody has ever done anything like this," said Aaron Beinhauer of Beinhauer Family Services. "But it was her wish. I talked to her personally about it three years ago."

Ms. Mims was well known in national and local auto racing circles. She volunteered at the annual Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix and often worked the starting grid so she could be close to the cars. "She was a colorful person," Mr. DelBianco

see **Donna Mae** page 8

September 22, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Officers Present:

- Don Cekus, Vice President
- Pat Greenwald, Secretary

Board Members Present:

- John Gundlach
- Steve Puskas
- Charles Lucas, Journal editor

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Don Cekus.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

The treasurer's report was read by the secretary. The balance is \$2,494.21.

Don Baker reported that Donna Mae Mims is recovering slowly from the stroke that she suffered earlier in the month. A card was passed around for members to sign.

Don also had many nice pictures taken during the blueberry

trip and the visit to the buffalo farm and restaurant.

Don Cekus thanked Steve for hosting the club picnic. His new home is beautiful and the men especially enjoyed the garages (of course!)

Charles Lucas had a CD containing the graphics for business cards that he created. The CD will go to Jim Madden for the printing of 500 cards.

Don reported on the trip to the Corvair Homecoming in Plymouth, Michigan that he, Bob Hieber, and Vince Duva made last month. They thought it was a wonderful event and they'll definitely return.

Don stated that he and MaryEllen, the Duvas, and Pat Greenwald will be traveling to Gettysburg this weekend with the Model A club.

Bob Hieber sent word that, being very busy with family matters, he will not be able to plan a fall tour this year.

John Gundlach was invited to bring his Spider to the Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, KY. The organizers there wanted the twelve best corvairs in the country to be displayed for three months celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Corvair. What an honor! Congratulations, John.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 24th at King's in Wexford.

Pat Greenwald
Respectively submitted,
Pat Greenwald

Judy Jones 1945–2009

Newer members to WPCC probably won't know the name Judy Jones but those of us who have been with the club for many years will remember Judy in her own right and as the wife of the late Wayne Jones. Judy and Wayne were actively involved in club activities and events for many years. For those of us who knew Judy, we will remember her fondly, and to Judy's family we extend our deepest sympathies.

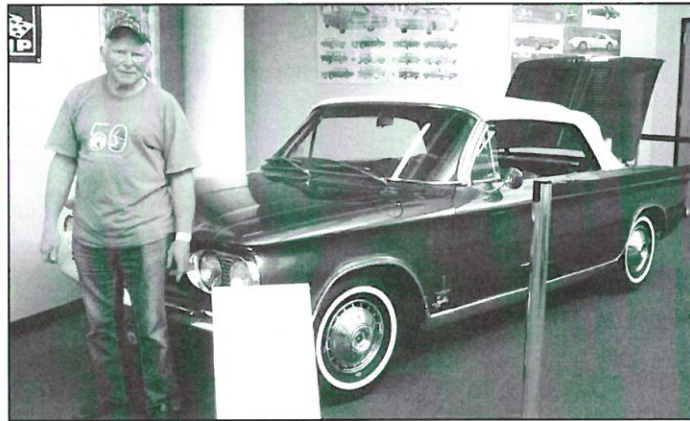


PAT GREENWALD PHOTO

JUDITH "JUDY" (ZIMMERMAN)
Age 64, peacefully on Saturday, October 3, 2009, of Whitehall. Beloved wife of the late Wayne Edward Jones. Loving mother of Wayne Anthony Jones (Brenda), David Wayne Jones (Brenda) and Wendy Lynn Price (Robert). Loving grandmother, aunt and friend. Donations may be made to the Family Hospice and Palliative Care, 50 Moffett St., Pittsburgh, PA 15243

Prestigious Invite to Exhibit takes John and Gayle Gundlach to the Corvette Museum in: **Bowling Green Kentucky**

Thanks to Gayle and John for the photos and copy below

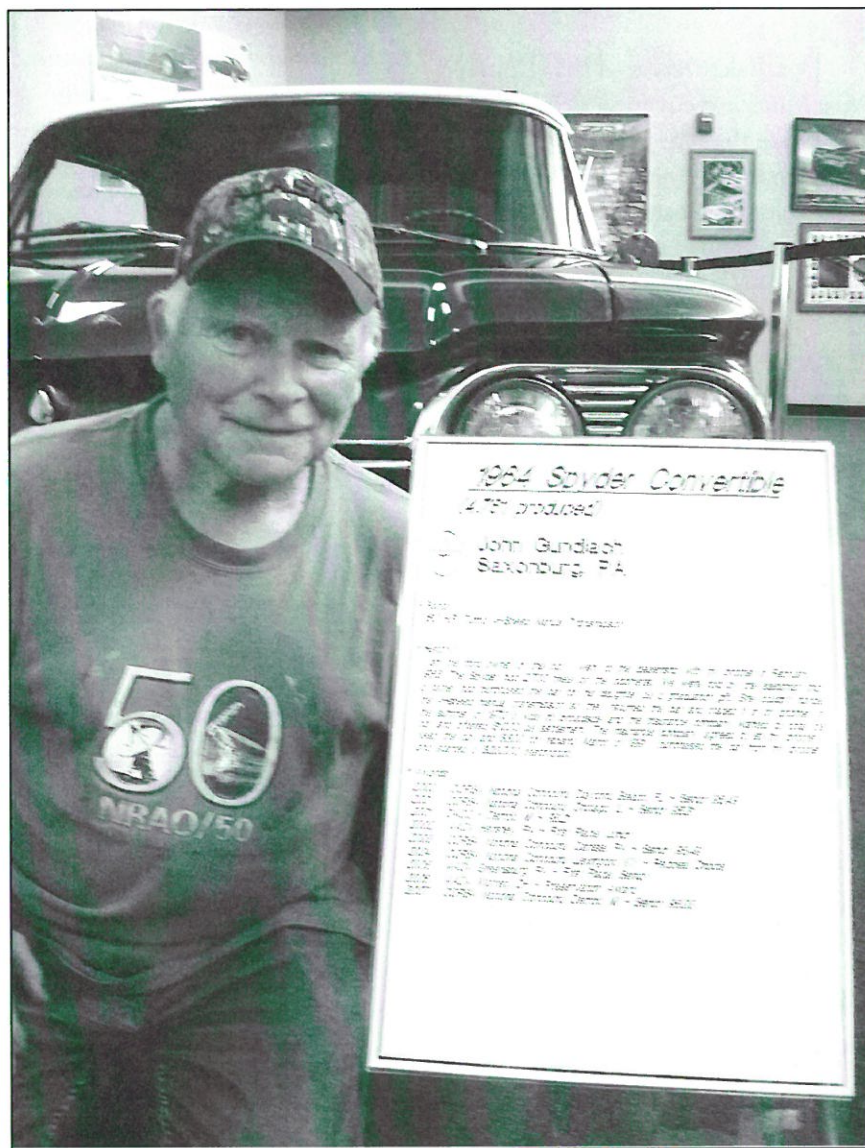


Craig Scarborough of CORA, was looking for owners of the 12 best looking Corvairs in the country for display at the Corvette Museum in Kentucky. One of those chosen was John Gundlach and his '64 Spyder.

On Wednesday September 30th with our 1964 Spyder loaded up, we headed for Bowling Green, KY. After an overnight stay near Columbus, Ohio, we arrived at the National Corvette Museum around noon the next day. Within an hour our Spyder was in an area designated for Corvairs. The display is in the last section of the museum adjacent to the gift shop. This fairly large room is decorated with Corvair posters, display cases with model Corvairs and other memorabilia. The now familiar Corvair cut away engine and drive train are also exhibited.

The Corvair show runs until December 31st, with 12 cars displayed, including a Yenka Stinger, Fitch Sprint, Rampside, Lakewood and Greenbrier.

The Corvair owners received very warm welcomes from the museum staff. John and I were able to tour the place at our leisure. We were quite impressed with the museum but were disappointed to learn that the Corvette plant was closed until October 15.



Stephen's New House Picnic

As I drove north on Rte 8, looking for Rte 228, I came upon a metallic blue/green '64 Corvair convertible that had me scratching my head. Neither the car nor the back of the driver's head looked familiar. When he turned onto 228, I followed him, thinking he must know his way to Stephen's new house.

That old expression, "don't assume anything", applies here.

When the blue/green Corvair stopped about a mile or so from the detour in downtown Saxonburg that I wasn't expecting, I stopped too. That's when I found out he was as lost as me. That's also when I found out that he was Greg Wilson, a relatively new member to WPC.

At the building where we had stopped, we asked and got directions to Saxonburg Road. Only problem was, the directions didn't take us to Saxonburg Road.

Greg needed gasoline so we stopped, he got refueled and I checked with someone else and got another set of directions to Saxonburg Road. Whose idea was it to have a Saxonburg Road and a Saxonburg Boulevard?

By this time we had been on the road over two hours and we had driven many miles out of our way.

Greg had a cell phone and a *Vair Street Journal*, so we found Stephen's number and called him. Unfortunately he wasn't familiar with road names at our location and couldn't help us.

Some how we found our way back to the downtown Saxonburg detour where I asked the policeman who was directing traffic where we could find Saxonburg Road. "Go back to such-and-such Funeral Home and turn right and you'll be on the right road", he said. He was right, we were on Saxonburg Road...at last.

It took another stop and another call to Stephen just to make sure we were on the yellow brick road. Finally after more than two hours from when we each left home, we were at Stephen's new house picnic.

First things first: we said hello to the other picnickers and then had a bite to eat. Then Stephen gave us a tour of the new digs, including his huge garage. Everyone needs a garage like his.

The usual bunch of Corvair folks were in attendance (see photo below). Those in attendance that day may recall that I had a senior moment, forgetting how to use my camera's timer, and I of course, was not in the picture. Thanks to Adobe Photoshop, I was able to take myself out of last years picture at Gundlach's picnic and make myself a part of this years picnic at Stephen's place.

Stephen, thanks for a great picnic!



Row 1: Stephen Puskas, Charles Lucas, Michele Desmond, Pat Greenwald, Mary Ellen Cekus
 Row 2: Gayle Gundlach, Diane Steigerwaldt, Heidi Madden, Tim Desmond, Louise Duva, Don Cekus, Gregory Wilson
 Row 3: John Gundlach, Jim Steigerwaldt, Jack Bachman, Jim Madden, Bob Hieber, Vince Duva, Joseph Puskas

The WPCCC Holiday Party

Sunday, January 10, 2010

Our annual Holiday Party will once again take place at the Grant Bar & Lounge, located at 114 Grant Street, in Millvale, PA 15209. (see map below)

Again, as last year, the per person cost for dinner is only \$20. Please make checks payable to WPCCC and mail by January 1, 2010 to Jim Steigerwaldt at 506 Quail Drive, Cranberry Twp, PA 16066-4074.

You will order your entree at Grant's from a selection of four choices (see menu at far right). There will also be a cash bar, Gift Exchange and Chinese Auction (see Schedule of Events). We look forward to seeing everyone there. This is always such a fun party. We must have 45 people.

Schedule of Events

2:30 - 3:30 Meet and Greet / Cash Bar

3:30 - 5:00 Gift Exchange / Start

Chinese Auction

5:00 - 6:00 Dinner

6:00 - Finish Chinese Auction

Times are subject to change!

Gift Exchange—If you care to be in the gift exchange, bring a \$10 gift, wrapped and marked for a "Man" or a "Woman", or if the gift is appropriate for either sex, please mark it "Either". Everyone receives a number. When your number is drawn, you choose a gift; you may keep the gift or trade for another person's gift, hoping that another person doesn't take it later. This is always lots of fun.

Chinese Auction—Bring along anything you care to donate to the club. Tickets are sold for the items with one ticket down for each item. Proceed go to the WPCCC.

The Menu:

A choice of one of the following:

- Soup
- Onion Rings
- Salad

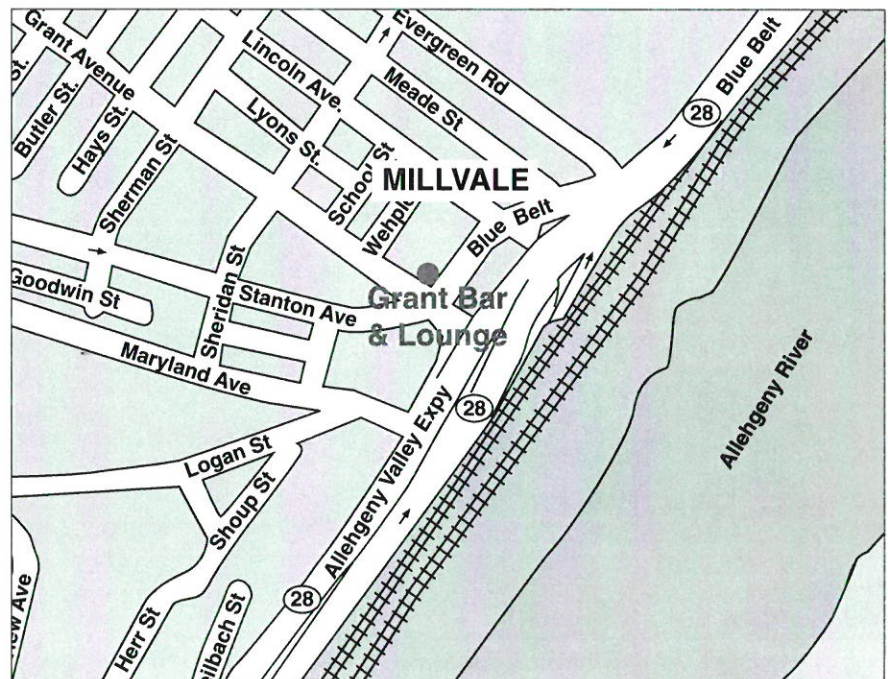
A choice of one of the following Entrees:

- Marinated Steak
- Shrimp
- Cod Almondine
- Breaded Pork Chops

Your dinner also includes:

Baked Potato, Vegetable, Strawberry Short Cake

Map for Holiday Party at Grant Bar & Lounge



	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	E-MAIL
1	Adamson, Richard & Doris	251 Lilac Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146	412-372-3452	
2	Artzberger, Bill	305 Golf Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15229	412-364-6842	BILLA305@comcast.net
3	Bachman, Jack & Joyce	402 Elfinwild Lane, Glenshaw, PA 15116	412-486-2478	quebapa@aol.com
4	Baker, Don & Joanne	12461 Larimer Avenue, North Huntingdon, PA 15642	724-863-3770	dcbakerscca@yahoo.com
5	Biddington, William & Carol	1722 Lexington Avenue, Uniontown, PA 15401	724-455-1826	wbiddington@atlanticbb.net
6	Brier, Dick & Carol	493 Sleepy Hollow Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228	412-563-4591	
7	Brill, Jean	4500 Oakhurst Blvd., Harrisburg, PA 17110	717-526-4523	
8	Buccigrossi, Emerick	1502 Fernledge Drive, Allison Park, PA 15101	412-486-7691	ebuccigrossi@comcast.net
9	Bucklew, David & Linda	414 W. Newcastle Street, Zelienople, PA 16063	724-452-5735	dbucklew1@verizon.net
10	Cekus, Don & Mary Ellen	197 Browns Hill Road, Valencia, PA 16059	724-903-0990 C:412-952-3190	corsa1@zoominternet.net
11	Cekus, Dwayne & Joy	108 Prosser Drive, Monongahela, PA 15063	724-258-7778 C:412-296-0294	cekus@verizon.net
12	Cekus, Ken & Toots	28 Center Avenue, Monongahela, PA 15063	724-258-8514	onecorvair@yahoo.com
13	Clapper, Ed & Wendy	315 Western Avenue, Beaver PA 15009-1448	724-375-1461	
14	Costantino, John & Clare	305 3rd Street, Freeport, PA 16229-1141	724-295-2675	
15	Dandois, Dick & Marie	11844 Route 286 Hwy W., Homer City, PA 15748-7803	724-726-5606	dindy6@verizon.net
16	Desmond, Tim & Michelle	107 Hivue Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15237	412-761-3926	TDES123@comcast.net
17	Duva, Vincent & Louise	195 Browns Hill Road, Valencia, PA 16059	724-898-1604	
18	Fabyonic, Dave & Janice	387 Sierra Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15239	724-327-7361	davidfab@usa.net
19	Fabyonic, David, Jr. & Melisa	313 Oak Wood Circle, McDonald, PA 15057	412-2574554	
20	Friend, Al & Carole	6000 Great Oaks Drive, Export, PA 15632	724-325-2588 C:724-433-0839	a.c.friend@comcast.net
21	Goehring, Earl & Diane	140 Whitestown Road, Harmony, PA 16037	724-452-8823	endair6kl@zoominternet.net
22	Greenwald, Pat	415 Crestview Drive, Plum, PA 15239	412-795-5719	pggreen233@netzero.net
23	Gundlach, John, Gayle & Laura	228 McKay Road, Saxonburg, PA 16056	724-352-4205	
24	Hackl, George & Marlene	420 , Hulton Road, New Kensington, PA 15068	724-224-0482	
25	Hamlin, Charlotte	2207 Arbor Glen Court, Sun City Center, FL 33573	813-633-6684	hamlinchar@aol.com
26	Heatherington, Jim & Suzanne	128 Sharp Road, White Oak, PA 15131	412-672-0914	suzanne@heatherington.com
27	Hieber, Bob & Donna	1679 Brodhead Road, RR3, Moon Twp, PA 15108	724-457-9712	bob@thiebers.com
28	Kreisel, Curt & Elana	1141 Sunrise Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15243	412-561-1845	curt.kreisel@wolterskluwer.com
29	Lucas, Charles & Sarah	236 W. Marigold Street, Munhall, PA 15120-2233	412-462-6735	chaslucas@gmail.com
30	Madden, Jim & Heidi	3045 Mt. Troy Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15212	412-321-1654	jrmadden66@aol.com
31	Matenkosky, Walter & Susan	702 Spring Street, Latrobe, PA 15650	724-537-8922	wmatenkosky@hotmail.com
32	McDonald, Paul & Joyce	258 Evans City Road, Butler, PA 16001-2711	724-287-5671	jam40258@zoominternet.net
33	Morgan, Robert & Margaret	344 Ridge Road, New Brighton, PA 15066	724-846-6040	
34	Puskas, Stephen	221 Green Manor Drive, Butler, PA 16002	724-284-3721	spuskas@embarqmail.com
35	Rising, Connie	155 Ben Franklin Road N., Indiana, PA 15701	724-465-4146	
36	Schifano, Charlie & Connie	223 Blackridge Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601	724-832-7498	
37	Shearer, Ralph & Joanne	30 Clover Drive, Latrobe, PA 15650	724-539-8645	
38	Steigerwaldt James & Diane	506 Quail Drive, Cranberry Twp, PA 16066-4074	724-776-0935	Jimstg@zbzoom.net
39	Sweet, John & Charlotte	1264 Walnut Street, Stoneboro, PA 16153	724-376-4335	jasvair@certainty.net
40	Tedesco, Bob & Polly	4741 Curry Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236	412-881-8577 C: 614-496-4000	bptedesco@aol.com
41	Tyger, John, & Barb	8399 Rte 954 Hwy. N., Creekside, PA 15732	724-397-2043	jttyger@directv.net
42	Walter, Lester	100 Thompson Lane South, North Huntingdon, PA 15642	724-863-8437	timerles@aol.com
43	Watkins, Kerry & Linda	209-1/2 S. Third Street, Youngwood, PA 15697	724-925-1962	
44	Wilson, Gregory	508 Bigham Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15211	412-481-6864	
45	Yobst, Robert & Rosalie	518 Brookdale Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15215	412-963-9943	
46	Young, Bill & Dana	126 Pennsylvania Avenue, Bridgeville, PA 15017	412-220-3896 C: 412-260-8359	william.h.young@verizon.net

If you would like to correct or update your listing, please forward the correct information to:

Charles J. Lucas • 236 W. Marigold Street • Munhall, PA 15120-2233 • or phone: 412-462-6735 • or e-mail: chaslucas@gmail.com

Donna Mae *continued from page 2*

said. "She was just a joy to know, a real character."

Ms. Mims raced for 14 years and in 1972 took part in Brock Yates' original Cannonball Run Race, the cross-country outlaw road race that was made famous by the 1981 movie "The Cannon-ball Run," starring Burt Reynolds and Farrah Fawcett.

Ms. Mims, along with teammates Judy Stropus and Peggy Niemcek, borrowed a limousine from a friend, got some racing tires put on and used it on their trek.

"Most memorable is the ticketing event in the wee dark hours as we were pulled over by a Barney

Fife look-a-like who claimed he'd been chasing us for 15 minutes at 115 miles per hour," Ms. Mims said in Mr. Yates' book "Cannonball: The World's Greatest Outlaw Road Race." "No bribe could corrupt this pure-hearted Don Knotts, and we were doomed to follow him to the magistrate."

Ms. Mims was taking a nap when the limo wrecked in Texas. The vehicle was totaled and the women were stuck, so they sold it and bought plane tickets home. Mr. Baker said Ms. Mims often told the Cannonball Run stories when local organizations hired her as a guest speaker. One of the stories was about their sponsor for the race,

the Right Bra Co. An official from Right Bra attended the pre-race festivities, and the women asked for bras to wear during the race.

When the official told them he didn't have any, they decided to do the race braless and wore tight-fitting shirts and pants. In the movie, actress Adrienne Barbeau portrayed Ms. Mims.

Ms. Mims was a member of the Sports Car Club of America and taught Sunday school as an active member in Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church.

Memorial contributions may be made to the National Corvette Museum, Bowling Green, KY.