

MOLLY HAGEBOECK OBITUARY



Molly Hageboeck (born Mary Katherine Hageboeck) of Washington, DC and Princeton, New Jersey, passed away peacefully and in her sleep on the morning of May 18, 2023. Molly was born to Roger J. Hageboeck, the president of Frank Foundries, and his wife Elinor, in Waukesha, Wisconsin on June 4, 1944. She was raised in Moline, Illinois, in great part by her elegant and doting grandmother, Eleanor Hageboeck, who Molly called "Nana."

Molly was always curious, resourceful, and creative; from a very young age she was writing and editing for her school papers and working to research and test recipes to recreate food her father described to her upon his return from business travels. After graduating from Connecticut College, Molly worked as an East Asia and Pacific Region program analyst for the Peace Corps. She subsequently served two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines - getting her first taste of the international travel and sense of purpose that carried forward throughout her life.

Molly returned to the U.S. in 1969 to find her own country in the middle of a cultural revolution. She earned her Masters in Public Administration from the erstwhile Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University and began her career in international development in Washington, DC at a management consulting firm called Practical Concepts Incorporated. It was there that she met and married Leon J. Rosenberg in 1971. Molly had long sought her spiritual connection and she found it in Judaism. She converted in 1972 and would go on to be Bat Mitzvah'd two decades later. The two went on to have one daughter, Shoshana Eleanor Rosenberg, who Molly raised by herself and surrounded with unconditional love, energized magic, and a family made up of wonderful and dear friends from all over the world. She also loved and helped to raise Leon's daughter, Daphna, and would many years later love and cherish time with his youngest daughter, Raizel. When Molly divorced Leon in 1976, she kept both her chosen faith and the name Rosenberg, which she used exclusively in her personal life, reserving Hageboeck for her work.

In her prolific and influential professional life, Molly served as the Acting Director of the USAID Office of Evaluation and Development Information, worked as the Senior Trade Data Specialist for the Sears World Trade International Planning and Analysis Center, and later became Chief of Staff for the USAID Administrator in the late 1980s. She is the author of several USAID publications and played a key role in the creation of USAID's Center for Evaluation and Development Information (CDIE). While at USAID Molly was recognized as an expert in performance monitoring, evaluation and learning systems design and improvement through several recognized awards. In her subsequent consulting work, her clients included USAID, the U.S. Department of Labor, multilateral donors (UNDP, UNCDF, UNECA), the governments of developing countries, and innumerable international non-governmental

organizations.

For over 30 storied years, Molly served as Technical Director for Evaluation for Management Systems International, a Washington DC-based consulting firm, where she nurtured and mentored a generation of world-class evaluators. In more recent years, she continued her passion for measurement and learning as the MERL Director at the Institute for Development Impact and became Director Emerita. She also taught courses at Georgetown University and released several studies on impact evaluation.

Molly was elegant and down to earth; a brilliant, and endlessly generous woman who touched many lives. She was equally at home in a White House ballroom, a third world country, a horse stable, or a Cordon Bleu kitchen. A whirlwind of energy, a genius at friendship, international (and personal) relations, and cookery, Molly was an absolute force of nature who invested her life in making change in the world and supporting and encouraging those around her.

Molly was an incurable adventurer, a Francophile, and an avid reader with a great love of horses, the arts and the opera. Molly was known to work all night to write trade speeches for sitting Presidents or to turn in a proposal, only to turn around a day later and prepare a feast for friends and neighbors. Molly doted on her daughter and her granddaughters, and she engaged everyone she met with keen interest in understanding their passions and helping them plan a course to further their goals. She gave more of herself than could be imagined possible and did everything with incredible zest and a true joy in being alive.

Molly was predeceased by her younger sister, Ann Denvir, who she missed deeply and spoke of often. She will always be remembered with love, gratitude, and no shortage of awe by her daughter Shoshana (who called her "Ema") and her two young granddaughters Ayelet Orea and Arcadia Odette (who she simply adored and who called her "Nana"), as well as her niece, Lizzie Denvir, and by her nephews, Bob and Michael Denvir, Daphna and Raizel Rosenberg, and the family of friends she made all over the world. She also leaves behind her cherished cat, Marley.

Molly is interred at Princeton Cemetery in New Jersey, under a beautiful tree. Memorial contributions may be made to the Ivy Hill Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Pennsylvania or to any charity that you believe is making a difference in the world.

A Celebration of the Life and Work of Molly Hageboeck will be held at 1834 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington DC, 2009 on Thursday, July 13, 2023.

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