



Dear Waldorf and Glen Brook Community,

It is with profound sadness that we inform you of the passing of Beth Scherer, former WSGC librarian, class teacher, and faculty chair, parent to Ed Scherer '69, Rachel Madsen '71, mother-in-law to James Madsen, former WSGC teacher, and Camp Glen Brook Director. Beth passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 27th at her home in Chestnut Ridge, NY. Beth was 98 years old.



With the enrollment of her children at The Waldorf School of Garden City 60 years ago, Elizabeth Scherer, along with her husband Joe, set off on their own life-changing path. Visiting the school in 1961, it was very clear that this is where the whole family belonged.

As was common in the School's early biography, an involved and interested parent was sometimes identified as a potential class teacher and trained in-house. After eight years as the Librarian and teaching some high school earth science blocks, Beth was asked to become the 5th grade teacher of the large and active class of '77 whom she taught through 8th grade. She next headed down the hallway to 1st grade where the mighty class of 1985 awaited her for their journey together through 6th grade. Nearly 50 years later, members of both classes continued to bond with her and even visit on occasion.

When the need arose for a new Faculty Chair at a time of major school reorganization, the faculty asked Beth to guide the process of rebuilding the faculty, strengthening the parent body, shoring up the finances, and establishing the first Board of Trustees. She even talked her way into Clamdiggers, the then all-male group of Long Island independent school headmasters. During her tenure, she also secured critical funding for the school from the prestigious Ford Foundation, a grant very hard to come by for private schools at the time. Beth chaired our School until 1982 when she and Joe retired to their beloved family cottage on the coast of Maine. Soon after arriving in Maine, Beth was asked to help found the Maine Coast Waldorf School, guiding them as they hired the first teachers, acquired land, and constructed a new building.

Beth is survived by her son, Edward Marcus Scherer, of Chestnut Ridge, N.Y.; her daughter, Rachel Ann Madsen, and her husband, James Madsen, of Indian Point, Georgetown, Maine; her grandsons and their wives: Christopher Madsen and Beth Hadden, of Layton, Utah; Alexander Madsen and Erika Larson, of Lowell, MA; Robin Madsen and Nina Madsen, of

Kenmore, WA; and four great granddaughters, Amelia Rose (Mia), Malathi (Molly), Trinity, and Amalie (Mylie).

The School will be honoring Beth Scherer, as planned, with the Franz E. Winkler Leadership Award at our Spring Benefit on Thursday, May 19th in Roslyn, NY. Visit www.waldorfgarden.org/spring-benefit for more event details. Beth was so grateful to The Waldorf School of Garden City for all it has provided for her and her family and was deeply touched to be receiving this honor named after her family's longtime physician, Dr. Franz Winkler.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made to the [Fellowship Community](#) in Beth's memory.

The family will be organizing a Celebration of Life on Wednesday, May 18th. Details TBA.

We send our sincerest condolences, and we ask that you keep Beth's family in your thoughts and prayers during this time.

Warmly,

Samantha D'Aleo

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