



**Nancy Bare-Knepshield** , died Sunday, July 4, 1999. Beloved wife of Lee M. **Knepshield**; mother of Katheryn and Talle **Knepshield**; daughter of Ralph and Betty Bare; sister of Randy Bare. Memorial Service will be held in Pittsburgh, Pa. on Friday, July 30 at 5 p.m. in the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills, 2359 West Ingomar Rd. Family suggests donations may be made to Family Health Council in memory of **Nancy Bare- Knepshield** , 960 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222. Arrangements by McCABE BROS. INC., Pittsburgh, Pa.

Columbus Dispatch, July 25, 1999

### **NANCY BARE-KNEPSHIELD HONORED EDUCATOR ON TEEN PREGNANCY**

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LAWRENCE WALSH, POST-GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

The baby was crying, its child-mother was distraught and the image was real life. The television commercial was part of "Break the Silence," a campaign to encourage parents to speak to their children about sex. **Nancy Bare- Knepshield**, director of the Family Health Council's Center for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, helped to produce it.

"It's very effective, very thought-provoking," said Frank Bonati, council president. "Nancy was pleased because it strongly conveyed the message we want to send to parents and their children." Ms. Bare- **Knepshield** of McCandless, a nationally recognized community health educator, died on her 51st birthday last Sunday of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma at the Forbes Hospice in East Liberty. She was diagnosed with the disease a week before Thanksgiving after experiencing pain under her left breast. The cause was determined to be an enlarged spleen.

"She fought the disease with chemo-therapy, radiation and her own incredible willpower," said Lee **Knepshield**, her husband of 27 years. "She was able to control her life through this sickness. She had talked about living long enough so she could die on her birthday, and she made it. "She was determined to complete her life in the time she had left," he added. "She spent a lot of time with our children, Katheryn, 19, and Talbert, 14). Even though she was horribly sick, she was able to finish up a number of things at work.

"She was so well-organized. She gave me a manila folder labeled ' **Nancy's** Last Party Request' that lists the songs, music and readings she wanted for her memorial service. She left instructions for everyone."

Lee **Knepshield** of Middletown, Ohio, and **Nancy** Bare of Columbus, Ohio, met in 1968 while working on a homecoming float at Ohio University. They were married on June 24, 1972, after a lengthy courtship, which included him frequently traveling more than 1,200 miles roundtrip on long weekends from Middletown to Boston, Mass., where she had moved after graduating.

Ms. Bare- **Knepshield** graduated from Ohio University with a bachelor's degree in French in 1970. When her husband returned there later to complete his bachelor's degree in communications, she earned a master's degree in education. They received their respective degrees in 1976 and moved to Pittsburgh.

Ms. Bare- **Knepshield** went to work as a counselor at West Penn Hospital, resigned in 1980 to start her family and joined the Family Health Council in 1990. The council, now in its 28th year, is a private, nonprofit public health organization directed toward reproductive health for women and their families.

"We told her we wanted to do something about teen pregnancy," Bonati said. "Our board of directors made it

a top priority. She put together a comprehensive program that involved teen-age girls, their parents and their peers.

"She emphasized that a girl's healthy sexual development is intertwined with her social development and that you have to deal with the totality of adolescence. She also felt strongly that parents are the primary educators of children, whether they like it or not. She also used focus groups of teens who talked about how they felt about getting pregnant.

"And she helped to produce ' Break the Silence' TV spots like the one with the crying baby and the young mother asking her mother to care for the child so she could get out of the house for a while. We've had calls from 10 states who want to do a similar campaign."

Janet Adams, vice president for applied research at Family Health Council, said the Peer Education Programs involve specially trained college-aged groups who go to high schools and junior high schools and speak about pregnancy prevention and sexually transmitted diseases.

"Nancy also created Reaching Communities for a Cause, a program for communities with high rates of teen pregnancy. The model she developed is being used by other Western Pennsylvania counties. She was a wonderful person to work with and extremely committed to her family and work."

Ms. Bare- **Knepshield** believed it was never too early to talk about sexual issues.

In letters-to-the-editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in March and July 1998, she said the health council offers free, age-appropriate "Family Connections" guidebooks to help parents talk to their children from birth to adulthood about issues related to sexuality. "If we are serious about preventing unintended pregnancy among teens, we must ensure that everyone has the right to pursue sexual health information and services without fear, shame or exploitation," she wrote.

Anne Steytler, a retired clinical social worker who conducted sexual enrichment programs for women with Ms. Bare- **Knepshield** at Women's Health Services in the 1980s, said her colleague enriched the programs with her research, organization and dedication. "She did a wonderful job, and the women appreciated her efforts," Steytler said.

Ms. Bare- **Knepshield** last year was named Outstanding Community Health Educator of the Year by the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association based in Washington, D.C.

"She lived long enough to see that she had helped to make a real impact on a problem she had devoted her life to," Bonati said. "There has been a dramatic drop in teen pregnancy and in the rate of sexually transmitted diseases in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County and Southwestern Pennsylvania since 1990."

In addition to her husband and children, she is survived by her parents, Ralph and Betty Bare of Columbus, Ohio; and one brother, Randy Bare of Elyria, Ohio. Mrs. Bare- **Knepshield** was cremated. A memorial service will be held in the Pittsburgh area on July 30. The time and place have yet to be determined. The family suggests memorial contributions to the **Nancy Bare- Knepshield** Award of Excellence for Peer Educators, c/o Family Health Council, 960 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh 15222.