



BARBARA J. HEYMAN

Barbara J. Heyman was born in Norristown, PA, in 1939 and was the second of eight children. Her father moved the family to Monaca to become the owner/operator of Barnett's Bootery in Rochester. Heyman graduated in 1957 from Monaca Senior High School and moved to Conway after she married. Her two children, David and Lisa, attended Freedom Area Schools. She retired in 1998 after working 30 years for MetLife Insurance Company and passed away on November 26, 2015.

Heyman's passion was always musical theater, and she wrote and directed musical fundraisers for the Monaca Junior Woman's Club and served as the organization's President. She also appeared on stage at the Chippewa Play House, the Red Barn Theater, and at Freedom Area High School. She was particularly proud of the Freedom Drama Club.

Heyman served on the Freedom Area School Board for 36 years and was President of that organization for 15 years. She also served on the Beaver County Career Technology Center Board, with two years as President and 32 years as Secretary. Heyman was one of the few that continued to commit herself to the Freedom Area School District long after her children graduated. The district and all those involved became her second family, and her legacy lives on with reminders of her presence throughout the school hallways, particularly in the new elementary school where her name is visible.

When discussing Heyman's far-reaching impact, current Freedom Area School District Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Fuller said:

Barbara was a stalwart champion for the students, staff, and communities of the Freedom Area School District. The decisions that she influenced truly set the course for generations of children. Throughout the 36 years of Mrs. Heyman's tenure on the Board of School Directors, almost 7,000 students have passed through the hallways of our district. That number of students she impacted expands significantly if you add the number of students from across the county that attended the Beaver County Career and Technical Center during her 34 years serving on the Joint Operating Committee. And, if you include the students impacted by legislation that she helped to pass through her advocacy work on behalf of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, the number grows exponentially to include every student who attended a public school in Pennsylvania after 1979 – including me and including many of you in this room.

Heyman was a member, former board member, Sunday School teacher, and past President of the Women's Group at the Beth Samuel Jewish Center in Ambridge. She was also a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Conway VFW; a life member of Hadassah, serving as president of the local group for 28 years; and in 2000, she was named Outstanding Leader of the Pittsburgh Chapter of Hadassah from a field of 4,000 members. Heyman wrote a story titled *Thin Threads* that was published in Hadassah's 100-year anniversary book. She also received a citation of honor from the Pittsburgh Zionist Organization of America (ZOA).