New Jersey News

Melick's Town Farm New Cold Storage and Production Building Nearing Completion

"The new cold storage should be ready for apple season this fall, construction has been a challenge with supply chain delays this past year, but its close!" said John Melick

Barbara Anne Alstede Passes

The Alstede Family regrets to announce the passing of Barbara Anne (Cirelli) Alstede of Chester, NJ on Thursday February 11, 2021 at the age of 55. She passed peacefully at her farmhouse surrounded by her family and close friends following a very short, but extraordinarily courageous and strong, faith filled fight against pancreatic cancer. Born on January 6, 1966, Barbara was the sixth of seven children born to Anthony and Barbara Cirelli and was raised, and continued to reside, in Chester until the time of her death.

Barbara was a 1984 graduate of West Morris Central High School and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Education from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania in 1988. Barbara had a heart for children and teaching and taught special education in several different schools through 1997.

Barbara met the love of her life, Kurt W. Alstede, a local farmer also of Chester, NJ, while attending a Bible study at the First Congregational Church of Chester in 1996. Barbara and Kurt became engaged to be married later that year on Christmas Eve, 1996 and were married just three weeks later on January 18, 1997 at the Congregational Church where they met. The first night of their marriage was celebrated in the same farmhouse and bedroom where Barbara and Kurt lived their entire married life together and where she passed peacefully away.

Later in 1997 Barbara decided to join her husband in their family farm business, Alstede Farms of Chester. She continued to be employed there in various management roles until her passing. Together they successfully grew the first generation family farm business into a substantial 800 acre fruit and vegetable growing operation that retails all of its production and is nationally recognized for its sustainable stewardship of natural resources. More notable is the fact that together, they successfully permanently preserved over 560 acres of beautiful and productive farmland, forever cementing the rural atmosphere of Chester and western Morris County; while also providing fresh local nourishment to millions of regional residents each year through the produce that they raised. Further, millions of New Jersey school children have learned about agriculture in New Jersey from Barbara as she actively provided educational school tours to children at the farm throughout her lifetime. The positive influence of Barbara and her farm on the quality of life for New Jersey residents cannot be overstated.

In addition to raising crops on their farm, Barbara and her husband Kurt also raised a family. Rebekah was born in 2001, Sarah in 2003, and Karl in 2007. Barbara again exhibited her passion for education by choosing to personally home school all their children at their farmhouse. Barbara maintained that there was no better teacher and no better role model for young aged children than their parents. Barbara

fostered and infused in each of her children a love and passion for God, country, and farming which has led each of them to achieve their dreams utilizing the gifts that God gave each of them.

Barbara's faith and heart for God and her Savior were paramount in her life. She was very active in the church in which she was baptized, where she was married, and where her children were dedicated as Christians, the First Congregational Church of Chester. Her zeal for education led her to serve on the Christian Education Committee through the time of her passing where she oversaw youth Sunday school, activities, clubs, Bible studies, and child care. She also served previously as a church Deacon.

Perhaps most notable of Barbara's many accomplishments was the stability of the home that she created and maintained for her husband and her children in their old farmhouse. Never one to seek the lime-light, her steadfast and fierce dedication to her family behind the scenes allowed Kurt to serve actively in many different community and regional leadership capacities; and for each of her children to actively pursue their dreams; Rebekah as an agricultural leader, Sarah as an equestrian, and Karl as an ice hockey player. Make no mistake, Barbara knew how to make herself be heard at

a hockey game. Barbara's husband and children were the love of her life and they embody her legacy.

Barbara will be missed. But her husband and family take solace in her saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and her residency with her Savior. Barbara is survived by her husband of 25 years Kurt and their children Rebekah, Sarah, and Karl. Barbara is also survived by her father, Kurt's brothers, all her siblings, many in-laws, and a vast number of cousins, nieces, and nephews. A private (due to attendance restrictions) celebration of life and memorial service will be held at the First Congregational Church of Chester on Saturday February 20 followed by a private interment at the Alstede Family plot located at the Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Chester. The memorial service will be live streamed for those that would like to attend virtually. It can be found at: www.facebook.com/FCCofChester. In lieu of flowers, gifts in Barbara's memory can be kindly directed to the First Congregational Church of Chester Youth Ministry Fund; Post Office Box 125; Chester, New Jersey 07930. Arrangements are being prepared by Leber Funeral Home of Chester, New Jersey.

The Alstede Family graciously acknowledges the love, support, and prayers that have been abundantly offered during both Barbara's short time of illness and, most especially, during this time of remembrance.

The Alstede Family.

Robert E. Fralinger, Jr. Passes

Robert E. Fralinger Jr., longtime co-owner of Fralinger Farms in Hopewell Township, died February 16, 2021 at Inspira Medical Center in Vineland following a brief illness. He was 85.

The husband of Maryanne Ettore Fralinger, Bob was a lifelong Hopewell Township resident. He was born in Bridgeton and was the son of the late Robert E. Sr. and Louise E. Graves Fralinger. He graduated from Bridgeton High School and after spending a semester at Drexel University in Philadelphia, returned home to help his parents in the operation of the family farm. During this time, Bob pursued his passion for flying, becoming a private co-pilot for Wheaton Glass in Millville and a flight instructor for the Salem Flying Club. For a few years, he flew consistently to places like Florida, Alaska, Texas, and the Bahamas.

When he and Maryanne began having a family, Bob decided to focus solely on co-running the farm with his parents. Over the next 50 years, he and Maryanne expanded a 65-acre vegetable and poultry operation to a successful 400-acre peach, nectarine, and egg business. Together they had six children, all of whom developed a strong work ethic from their parents' example. Bob served on the Cumberland County Board of Agriculture and was a member of the Bridgeton Lions Club and The Parish of the Holy Cross/St. Teresa of Avila RC Church.

In addition to his wife of 58 years, he is survived by his six children, Robert Edward Fralinger III (Patricia) of Bridgeton, Patricia Anne Powell (John) of Hopewell Twp., Thomas Patrick Fralinger (Mechelle) of Gallatin, TN, Michael Paul Fralinger of Vineland, Barbara Kay Fralinger of Coconut Grove, FL, and Maryanne Elizabeth Fralinger of Florham Park, NJ; and six grandchildren, Andrew Robert Fralinger, Ty Aaron Powell, Devin Shay Powell, Nicholas Patrick Fralinger, Tessa D. Fralinger, and Stephen Mathias Fralinger.

The Funeral Liturgy for Bob was held for members of the immediate family and was followed by entombment in the mausoleum at Overlook Cemetery in Bridgeton.

In Mr. Fralinger's memory, the family would be grateful for contributions to either The Parish of the Holy Cross, 46 Central Avenue, Bridgeton, NJ 08302 or The Good Shepherd Dining Hall of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, c/o 46 Central Avenue, Bridgeton, NJ.

Ray Samulis Passes

Raymond J. "Ray" Samulis, age 69 of Roebling, New Jersey passed away Wednesday, February 24, 2021 in the company of his loving family following complications from heart surgery.

Professor Samulis was born in Philadelphia and was the son of the late Anthony J. and Margaret Samulis. Ray resided in Burlington County most of his life. He was a retired Burlington County Agricultural Agent and earned the rank and title of Professor at Rutgers University in New Brunswick with 41 years of dedicated service. He worked with tree fruit and small fruit crops as well as vegetables. Ray was well-regarded, admired and respected by his colleagues. He was a wine connoisseur honored with the distinction of "Award Winning Home Wine Maker". In addition to his wine making, Ray had many accomplishments which included his pilgrimage to the tomb of the Apostle James. However, his greatest accomplishment and his pride and joy were his family. Ray was a devoted and loving husband, father and "Pop" to his cherished grandchildren.

Beside his parents, he was predeceased by his brother, Anthony J. Samulis and is survived by his wife of 43 years, Karin E. Zerbock Samulis, his children and their spouses, Peter and Jennifer Samulis, Thomas Samulis and Christine Benner and Patrick Samulis and Adrianne Wells, his grandchildren, Anna, Claire, Emma, Thomas, Benjamin and Jonathan, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Martin Zerbock, Andrew and Laura Zerbock, and Patricia Samulis, nephews, TJ, Danny and Scott and nieces, Shoshana and Marlyn and his many other brothers.

The family requests memorial contributions be made to the Food Bank of South Jersey, 1501 John Tipton Blvd., Pennsauken, NJ 08110 https://foodbanksj.org/ Condolences may be sent to www.koschekandporterfuneralhome.com.

Carroll Barclay, Jr. Passes

Carroll (Skip) W. Barclay, Jr., 94, of Colts Neck passed away on March 1, 2021. He was born on May 3, 1926 to Ruth Hutchinson Applegate and Carroll Wilson Barclay, Sr. at the family farm in Colts Neck, New Jersey. He lived on the family farm called Delicious Orchards and in the same house his whole life. He graduated from Red Bank High School in 1944. He attended one semester in pre-med at Syracuse University but decided to return home to help his mother manage the farm in 1945. Skip married Janet McDonald on July 10, 1948.

Skip rolled up his sleeves and succeeded to add 70 more acres of orchard in 1948. With the advice from four uncles on both sides of the family he quickly learned the science and the business of fruit growing. There were hard times in farming in the late 1950's. In 1959 he and his wife Janet took the risk and opened a small retail farm market to sell apples, peaches, cider, and donuts. It was called Delicious Orchards after the trade name of the farm. One year later Janet started baking pies. He had the help of Janet doing the baking, his sister Carolyn Smith at the store, and brother-in-law William Smith overseeing the farm operation. His mother always encouraged the endeavor. Skip had the vision of giving customers high quality products at an attractive price. They grew the business of almost 30 years and moved it to its present location at Route 34 in Colts Neck.

In 1977, Skip and Janet bought a farm in central Arkansas where they started a new pick-your-own venture selling apples and peaches direct to the customer. After Janet's death in 1993 Skip returned full-time to New Jersey.

Skip served as a Deacon and Elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Red Bank (Tower Hill). He also served on the Colt Neck Zoning Board and Board of Education. Later, he served on the Rutgers University, Cook College Board of Managers. He was a director of The First Merchants Bank.

Besides his parents, Carroll is predeceased by his beloved wife Janet and his sister Carolyn Smith. He is survived by a daughter and a son, Martha Barclay of Berkeley, California and David Barclay of Colts Neck. He is also survived by six nieces and nephews: Nadine Raley of Austin, Texas; Kathryn Dewitt and her husband Michael of Scarborough, Maine; Jane Murphy and her husband Tim of Jackson, New Jersey; Fred Mc Donald and his wife Robin of Jackson, New Jersey; Barbara McPheters and her husband Ralph of Okabena, Minnesota; Bonnie McDonald of Englishtown, New Jersey.

Freeman Funeral of Freehold, New Jersey is in charge of arrangements. Services will be private.

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