

James P. Yeich

August 24, 1930 - August 5, 2023

James P. Yeich, 92, born 1930, of New Milford, PA entered into rest on August 5, 2023. He is the son of late Vernon and Luella Damier Yeich. He was also predeceased by his brother, Vernon and wife Inge Yeich; and his sister, Barbara. Jim is survived by his twin brother, John Yeich.

Jim was a topographical surveyor in the Philippines for four years with the Army, which triggered his life-long interest in geography. He graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 1957 and did graduate work in Salzburg, Austria for four summers. He taught geography at Blue Ridge High School for 35 years, taking a two-year break after the first four years to teach at Cuttington University in Liberia. Jim was a long-time member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in New Milford and served on the vestry. He was also an avid traveler who hiked the Appalachian Trail and bicycled 3800 miles coast to coast, across the US and Ireland. His multimedia lectures on his travels in the US and abroad made Jim a popular after dinner speaker.

In line with Jim's desire to educate and encourage others, he wanted to offer his body as an anatomical donation to a University Hospital for medical students. There are no public services.

Tribute Wall

DW

“ Just head the news of Mr. Yeich's passing. He was my favorite geography teacher in middle school. In fact, I was telling my own children about the neat things that he talked about in those classes 30 years ago - hiking and the Appalachian trail, and how he had visited Devil's Den SP near where I live now - and how I wished I had run into him and chatted with him after high school, but never had the opportunity. He sure did lead a very interesting life, and as a student of his, it encouraged me to strive to explore and appreciate the outdoors.

Danielle (Peck) Warner - November 19, 2023 at 12:00 PM

WB

“ Today i happened across the recent obituary of James p Yeich. I was saddened to hear of his passing. I remember him most as a teacher in school. Jim was not merely a teacher, but an educational advocate. He had a wealth of knowledge and yearned to share it. May you rest in Peace.

Wayne Brewer - September 14, 2023 at 02:43 PM

JK

“ Mr. Yeich was the best teacher I ever had. I know several of his former students who went on to study geography at various universities. His love of travel was contagious and inspiring. I saw his Appalachian Trail slide presentation as his student and it left an impression that I couldn't shake. To date, I've hiked 1600 miles, and think of him often along the way.

Joseph Kernan - August 14, 2023 at 08:02 PM

SB

“ so sad to hear this. Jim welcomed me warmly when I started attending St. Mark's. He always had a kind word and a smile for everyone. What a sweet man. Prayers and love for all who love him.
Sue Brizzolara

Sue Brizzolara - August 12, 2023 at 08:20 PM

MA

“ Our dear friend Jim. A true gentleman. We have many happy memories of our holidays with him.
Maisie xxx

maisie - August 10, 2023 at 05:08 AM

WE

“ Great teacher. Most useful class.
Condolences to the families.



Wendy - August 09, 2023 at 02:52 PM

JB

“ After I listened to a couple of old messages with Jim's cheerful voice, it saddened me to know he could never leave a new one. That's when I started missing him.

Jack Braunstein - August 08, 2023 at 07:01 AM

JE

“ Jim Yeich was a very special, gentle man. He was a great teacher in school. Then as an adult, we attended St Mark's Episcopal Church together. He made the best chocolate chip cookies. After Mom passed away, Jim would send "Thinking of You" cards to my sister, Judy Abbott. Rest in peace, Jim.

Jane Abbott Evans - August 08, 2023 at 06:29 AM



“ A profound educator and friend to so many. May we enjoy the memories, the tales of his adventures, and celebrate a life well lived. May he rest in peace.

Lisa Marie - August 07, 2023 at 05:39 PM

NB

“ Nancy Bellucci lit a candle in memory of James P. Yeich



Nancy Bellucci - August 07, 2023 at 10:50 AM



“ Great man! Long life well lived. Thank you for the warmth I'm still feeling after 30 years, sir. Guys, let's all be like Jim Yeich. He rocked!

Andrey Yagodzinsky - August 07, 2023 at 05:56 AM

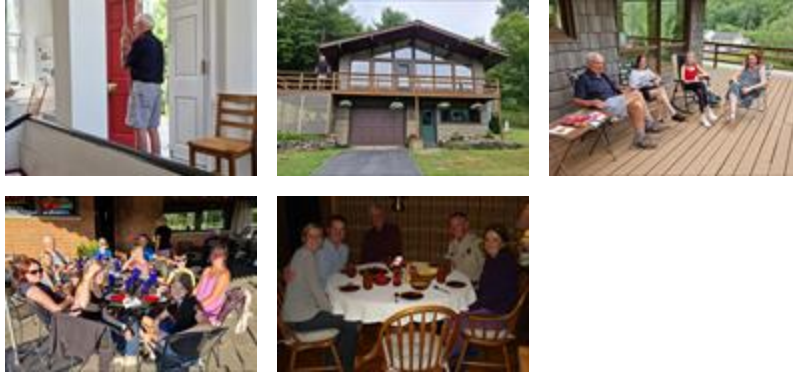
NF

“ He was the first friend I met when I came to Blue Ridge. Come to find out, we graduated from the same high school, Nescopeck. We remained good friends through all these years.

Norman Foster - August 06, 2023 at 10:03 PM

GO

“ 9 files added to the album Gerald's memories



Gerald Obermair - August 06, 2023 at 07:39 PM

GO

“ On his first visit to Salzburg in 1974 Jim rented a room at my grandparent’s. I was 6 months old at the time and Jim always remembered that this was when we first met. During his later summer stays in Salzburg, he regularly visited my family and so I got to know him. I was happy and privileged that during my very first trip to the US it was Jim who served as my host and introduced me to your beautiful country and to wonderful people, many of whom I still know and some of whom are meanwhile dear friends. I was always welcome at Jim’s and hence I have countless fond and funny memories and anecdotes from my visits, which I like to share at times. Jim took me to beautiful places: hikes and museums in Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire, together with him and a friend we climbed Mt. Katahdin, we went to DC and stayed with his brother, he supported me during my year abroad in Ohio such that he drove me all the way to Bowling Green and lent me his bike for one year so that I could get around. Every other year I had the chance to visit Jim where we would meet friends, spend long evenings with witty discussions, or, at times, fix his computer. Last summer I was especially happy that I could finally introduce him to my family, Jim was too.

I miss Jim, but I am grateful to have had him as a friend for so many years and I will be able to fondly remember and tell of our shared experiences for a long time to come.

I’d like to offer my sincere condolences to Jim’s brother and family, also in the name of my family, my parents and sister, and the Winklhofers.

Gerald Obermair - August 06, 2023 at 07:25 PM

DB

“ Jim has been my teacher, mentor, and friend for 37 years. I was fortunate enough to have been invited on many adventures with Jim, from biking in Prince Edward Island, Canada to canoeing with alligators in Florida. Jim was the best host I have ever met. He taught us through example to value others and that the people we meet along the way are to be treasured. These last few years that sentiment has resonated in many of our conversations. He remembers everyone's name and life's current events. This included my children, which they noticed and appreciated. He inspired us to learn more, travel, explore, and laugh as we savor life. His zest for travel planted seeds in many of us and it has shaped my friendships, career, and family. I can not exaggerate the impact he has had on my life. He was never one to take himself too seriously and his wit was as legendary as his chocolate chip cookies. I miss him deeply.

Don Burchell - August 06, 2023 at 06:03 PM

JK

I have never had a chocolate chip cookie that compares.

James Kernan - August 06, 2023 at 07:13 PM



So well said.

Lisa Marie - August 07, 2023 at 05:34 PM

DB

“ 11 files added to the album adventures with Jim



Don Burchell - August 06, 2023 at 05:16 PM

 William Kelly

“ He was a great teacher & I always enjoyed his slide shows. Later in life I was his neighbor & would talk to him whenever I had the chance. He was a good man & will be missed..

William Kelly - August 06, 2023 at 04:38 PM

JK

“ Jim was a superb geography teacher and had a profound positive impact on my life. I went on a bicycling trip to Ireland with a small group that he arranged when I was in high school. I was thrilled to be in his Ireland travel presentation. His class and that trip inspired me to earn my BA, MS, and PhD in Geography. I have been a geography professor for 18 years now, and have brought dozens of student to other countries. Jim taught me in Ireland 40 years ago to always explore when traveling, even if you're tired, to fully experience new places. To this day I warn my students and two daughters "if you take a nap you are missing out" when traveling. I just spent 5 weeks in Costa Rica and was thinking of Jim last week as I reminisced about my travels.”

James Kernan - August 06, 2023 at 03:54 PM

ML

“ *Mary Lavin lit a candle in memory of James P. Yeich*



mary lavin - August 06, 2023 at 12:51 PM

SR

“ *Mr. Yeich was one of my very favorite teachers in high school. I have the best memories of the things he shared with us of his world travels.*

Sandi Darrow Raub - August 06, 2023 at 11:25 AM

PM

“ *Patty Morris lit a candle in memory of James P. Yeich*



patty Morris - August 06, 2023 at 09:49 AM

CH

“ *Jim Yeich was well known in our community who shared his home and travels to many of us. There was magic in his presentations, as a teacher, his slide shows, and his outgoing personality. Jim was a great friend and colleague who was always willing to extend his friendship to others. He was an icon and legend in his own right and will be greatly missed.*

Curt and Shirley Hepler - August 06, 2023 at 08:55 AM

JD

Jim was a "neighbor " for the many years that we lived in New Milford. He always had a smile and a greeting. He will be greatly missed in the community.

Judith Daniels - August 06, 2023 at 09:42 AM

JK

His presentations were magic and his love of travel was infectious. He was my favorite teacher years ago, and I was in his Ireland presentation!

James Kernan - August 06, 2023 at 04:29 PM

CH

“ *Connie/Dave Humbert lit a candle in memory of James P. Yeich*



Connie/Dave Humbert - August 06, 2023 at 08:49 AM

MM

“ *Marsha Brant Morrison lit a candle in memory of James P. Yeich*



Marsha Brant Morrison - August 06, 2023 at 08:22 AM

NA

“ It was an honor and a pleasure to call Jim a family friend. He was a very generous and kind person. We enjoyed many good times at his home watching his slideshows and eating his delicious homemade cookies with ice cream. He gladly shared his knowledge to help us get started backpacking, then we had fun sharing stories from our trips on the AT. He was also a wonderful visitor whenever we invited him to share a family meal with us. Years ago, when we decided to build a house very similar to his, he even happily shared his house plans with us. Thru the years, Jim was always interested in what our family was doing. He never failed to say "give my regards to your family" when we talked on the phone. We will treasure our memories of him.

Nancy - August 06, 2023 at 06:30 AM

V(

He was a awesome teacher. I really enjoyed the films from when he hiked the Appalachian trail.

Valerie tapper (Wayman) - August 06, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ Mr. Yeich was one of the best teachers at Blue Ridge high school. He also was one of the best cookie bakers that I've ever come across. He was my favorite teacher and will be sorely missed. Rest in peace Mr. Yeich.

Jeffrey Tingley - August 05, 2023 at 11:27 PM

JS

“ Mr. Yeich was one of my favorite teachers and one of the most interesting people I have known. He will be missed.

Jim Shaw - August 05, 2023 at 11:24 PM

DT

I enjoyed Jim's geography class. His stories of his early days working as a surveyor in South America were interesting. He taught how to make maps and how to read them as well. Enjoyed field trips to the state parks around Pennsylvania and New York my wife and still enjoy going to those parks to this day. One thing that sticks in my mind is when he showed the slides of the aborigines tribes in Australia. He would show you how beautiful the country was in color but also show it in black and white so you could see the not so pretty version. He was a great teacher in my book and will be missed.

David Thomas - August 07, 2023 at 07:18 PM

ST

“*Mr. Yeich made a profound impact on my life. I am partly in education today as a result of his love for teaching his subject matter and his kindness to me as a student in his classroom. I enjoyed learning from his assigned projects, films from his trips around the world and his willingness to use field trips. Ricketts Glen St. Park, Delaware WG and the Apalachin Trail are still often visited place for me because of his example. I am saddened by his passing but am thankful that I got to learn under and know such an amazing person. Someday I will climb Mt. Katadin for Mr Yeich!*

Sam Thomas - August 05, 2023 at 09:23 PM

PR

So sorry to hear of Jim's passing he was a great man. When Terry and I would go to outings he would always bring his homemade molasses cookies, Terry just loved his homemade cookies. Jim was a great man. You will be missed, Paulette

Paulette Rafferty - August 06, 2023 at 10:56 AM

JK

Fond memories of Ricketts Glen and The Delaware WG from back in the 80s.

James Kernan - August 06, 2023 at 04:26 PM

CJ

“ *Chris Jones lit a candle in memory of James P. Yeich*



Chris Jones - August 05, 2023 at 09:01 PM

ER

“ *I had him in school for geography, was a great teacher. He will be dearly missed*

eileen (Gulick) Resseguie - August 05, 2023 at 07:00 PM