

Curriculum Vitae of Maria Neuper, geb. Hofinger

1.6.1947 – 5.3.2015

Childhood and Education

Maria is born from a long-established farmer family in Steinerkirchen am Innbach , a small pilgrimage site in Upper Austria; her brother is Franz (already passed away), her sisters are Hilda and Elisabeth; Karin, the daughter of the latter, is Marias godchild.

Since her first year in school is clear: Maria wants to become a teacher.

After primary school she attends the Gymnasium of the Schulwestern in Wels, followed by teachers' seminary in Linz; there she meets her Walther, her later husband.

Start as a Teacher in Weibern

With great enthusiasm Maria starts her profession in Weibern, a farming community, where she feels at home from the beginning. The first time of her profession indelibly remains in her memories until her end; from this time Maria had to tell many stories , some of which were written down and can be found in these web pages. Her love remains a secret; Walther starts his studies after the military service.

Marriage + Money earning + Children

After only 2 ½ in Weibern Maria marries Walther; the young couple moves to St.Gilgen where Maria continues to teach at secondary school: she teaches in the morning while the father watches son Walter, born 1971. At noontime she takes over child care, manages their households and prepares for teaching in parallel, while Walther commutes to Salzburg for his studies. Teaching at secondary school is not Maria's preference, but necessary for earning money, because Walther does not do so as a student.

Nevertheless, the young family finds sufficient time for manifold contacts, for instance to the Bonomo family, which are lasting until today.

Housewife, Mother and developing Interests

Exactly at the finish of Walther's studies daughter Barbara is born in 1973, Maria drops her profession in favour of being a mother and follows Walther to his places of work, a short time in Saalfelden and then in Salzburg near the Leopoldskroner Weiher (known from the „Sound of Music“ tours).

With the temporal resources now released Marias curiosity appears manifest. Maria were part of the beginnings of body work in Salzburg (Sensory Awareness, Feldenkrais Method, Orff Institute, etc), also of the beginnings of psychology, where she was committed to the

telephone counselling service. From that time friendships to Dores Beckord-Datterl, Maria Schweichhart-Reichsöllner, Dorli Diermaier and to others have been lasting until Maria's end.

Maria also is being invited to Hoffmann's roundtable, where the young couple meets Joan und Phoebe Kloss. Maria's manifold contacts lead to the opportunity for the family later in 1986 to move to the apartment in Getreidegasse, where the needs of the teenager-kids are met better than by the muds near the pond of Leopoldskron during early childhood.

Back to the Teaching Profession

After 8 years being a full-time housewife Maria returns to her well-beloved profession in 1980. Now she applies all the experiences gained from her own children, from body work and from psychology to her professional work.

Starting in the primary school at Maxglan in Salzburg Maria is involved into the school pilot „Innovierte Grundstufe“ soon. The pilot meets Maria's opinions: there is no grading, which supports to establish cooperation between kids and to avoid competition; parents are allowed to join into class any time – such contacts were Maria's interest since Weibern. And the pilot requested for „phases of free learning“, a kind of learning Maria was familiar with since her childhood in the small farming village.

The pilot pushes significant changes into the practice of schools, which attracts interested visitors from Austria and abroad. However, these changes also create resistance in the system, which force Maria to leave Maxglan and to work as a reserve pool employee and to jump from one school to the other throughout Salzburg for substituting other teachers for some days.

From this situation Maria is saved by Elisabeth Riefler, headmaster of the primary school at Salzburg Aigen, where she could continue working in the well-beloved pilot, now with backing. The pilot ends with Maria's retirement.

Retirement and being Grandmother

In 2003 retirement coincides with Walther's professional move to Graz. Maria's professional experiences with kids motivate her to support young women, who want to reconcile children and job. Maria does not go into political activities, rather, she carefully selects some women, for instance Stefanie Lindstaedt or Andrea Fournier, and supports them personally.

In the meanwhile son Walter and his wife Bettina Aminger brought two children into the world, Wenzel und Lisi, eagerly awaited by Maria; later on comes Vinzent. The family builds up a farm house in southern Burgenland, where they are within reach for Maria, being a grandmother becomes another great mission. Whenever she is needed she boards a train to Szentgotthard with her bike and cycles from Mogersdorf to the „Specklberg estate“.

The last Years in Linz

Another professional move of Walther leads to Linz in 2012. The grandkids are beyond the age where a grandmother is immediately helpful, so the larger distance is appropriate.

At the time, when the third grandchild, Vinzent, is born, Maria is already occupied by her illness, which determines her last years. Daughter Barbara moves to Linz and supports Maria greatly. Medical care is optimal in the hospital of the „Barmherzige Schwestern“. After a surgery on life-and-death in spring 2013, Maria regains considerable quality of life; in spite of massive medical treatment, no glimpse of beauty and joy escapes Maria. She knows all the fine shops in the city of Linz and the respective carriers, for instance Silvia Gschwandtner. Also young women, who connect arts with holistic approaches to life like Daniela Köppl, or women, who go their own way of alternative healing like Maria's niece Monika Kronsteiner, find a wise friend in Maria. So she circled from one chat to the other through the city, while the circles become smaller and smaller.

The last weeks Maria spends in the palliative care unit of the „Barmherzige Schwestern“ where her peaceful passing away is devotedly supported, and where the family is given ample space and time for farewell at the deathbed.

Leave-taking is celebrated in a small circle of friends and relatives in the old chapel in the Barbara cemetery in Linz on March 12th 2015. The sufi musician Orwa Saleh contributed the right sound with his oud. Maria's grave has number 223 in section 1 at Barbarafriedhof in Linz.

Epilogue

Maria said, she has completed all what was important for her on earth; nothing has remained open. Maria always was in move, so the location of her grave is chosen such, that you can see it from the train when leaving Linz towards Vienna.

Maria passed away in peace with all people she met during her live, no matter how close they came or how much distance she established. In the minds of all these people Maria knew herself to live on.