



Lieselotte Inge Hoffmann

November 4, 1942 - September 3, 2026

Reading, Pennsylvania

Lieselotte Inge Hoffmann died in Reading on September 3, 2026. She was eighty-three. Born there on November 4, 1942, to parents who had come from Stuttgart by way of a long patience, she grew up in a city that still had pretzels at the edges and offices in the middle. She learned English at school and a second set of manners at the table. She never treated either language as a costume.

She spent twenty-nine years in a bakery that smelled of lye and coffee, first as a helper, later as the woman who could tell, from the sound of a mixer, whether a batch would hold through a late truck. She would not let a widow be rushed. She would not let a vendor invent a discount that made the register a liar. After a bad afternoon she sat in the stairwell with the radio off until her hands were quiet. She kept extra coffee for the plow driver whose morning had already been too long.

She married Paul Hoffmann in 1964. They raised a daughter in a two-family that needed storm windows and a son who needed a ride to choir at hours no one should be awake. Paul drove a bread truck. Lieselotte packed lunches and considered a Sunday roast a civic obligation. After he died in 2016 she kept the garden of tomatoes against the porch and the habit of sending a plate next door.

Friends remember a woman who showed up with soup as if that were the natural use of a Tuesday, who could explain a price without making it a sermon, and who kept one good coat. She loved a quiet gallery at the art museum, a cup of coffee that was never quite hot enough, and the river when it looked like pewter. She died in Reading, the brick city she refused to narrate as a punch line. The counter is closed. The fairness she practiced there is harder to replace than a recipe card.

Services

A memorial in Reading. A gift to a bakery-workers' fund or a parish pantry suits her.

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