

In memory of Judith Lang (1925 – 2018)

It was really a sad moment, when receiving the message that Judith Lang had passed away on 17 November 2018. Judith's health had been declining for some years, so we should somehow slowly have got accustomed to the thought of losing Judith, but nevertheless it's hard to believe. – It's a big loss for the family and the acoustic society, but we still have the wonderful memories about her as a person and a dedicated acoustician. Below are found some personal memories, adding more cases to obituaries about Judith made by other people.



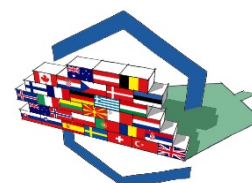
For many years, I had quite intensive communication with Judith. In 1994 (i.e. three years after her official retirement), a study "Acoustic conditions in dwellings – State-of-the-art" was made at the Technical university of Denmark for the Danish Ministry of Housing and Building, and I needed information from many countries, among other things about enforcement of sound insulation requirements. I asked Judith about the situation in Austria. She contacted by phone the regions Steiermark, Kärnten, Salzburg, Wien, Oberösterreich and reported the results. Judith found the huge differences in enforcement very interesting and decided to do follow-up in writing...

Many people around the world will remember Judith's efforts through several decades in international standardization. She was a member of several ISO and CEN working groups and active in the technical committees as well.

More recently – in fact 17 years after she retired officially - Judith was an enthusiastic partner, when applying for the European COST Action TU0901 "Integrating and Harmonizing Sound Insulation Aspects in Sustainable Urban Housing Constructions" in 2008, and she contributed immediately with input to the proposal. The proposal was approved in May 2009. Judith became a dedicated member of COST Action TU0901 running 2009-2013. At the TU0901 kick-off meeting in Nov. 2009 in Brussels, 22 countries were represented and three TU0901 WGs established. The experts were asked to choose one WG. But there was a big problem with Judith, who was very interested in all three WGs and had severe difficulties choosing... and ended up choosing two 😊

Unfortunately, Judith's health was already declining in 2013, when we had the TU0901 final conference in Copenhagen in December 2013 with about 135 participants from 29 countries, but we all signed a TU0901 book, which was delivered to Judith, thanking for her efforts. There was also another reason she regretted not to be able to go, since her granddaughter was studying in CPH at that time. However, Judith's health did no longer allow her to make such trips.

Judith was a "lighthouse" in the acoustic community due to her competences combined with dedicated enthusiasm. ... a "role model" for many building acousticians in Europe – both men and women, but maybe not least for women in acoustics?



Judith stayed curious the whole life and was an “iron lady” in the good way! She always contributed and kept the spirit high by being enthusiastic: We must...; We should also consider...; Yes, I can... When in 2007 asked about contributing to the Wiley Bauphysik-Kalender 2009, Schallschutz und Akustik, she made a long chapter (> 50 pages), “Schallschutz in Europa“, with acoustic requirements and noise survey results from many countries. She also continued making many presentations at EAA conferences until about 2012 and in companies. She also showed high interest in the international work in ISO/TC 43/SC 2/WG 29 about acoustic classification of dwellings.

During holiday trips, I visited Judith a few times in Vienna and once in Puchberg, where my husband and I had interesting discussions and a nice walk in the mountains with Judith and her husband, Felix.

Another very nice memory is Judith's 85 years birthday celebrated by TGM, where I was invited by TGM without Judith knowing that. I am still impressed by Judith and by TGM, who organized the event 19 years after Judith's retirement. Isn't it hard to imagine something similar happening to anyone else than Judith?

My thoughts go to Judith's family. I am grateful to have met Judith and will continue to be inspired by her life.

Copenhagen, 16 January 2019

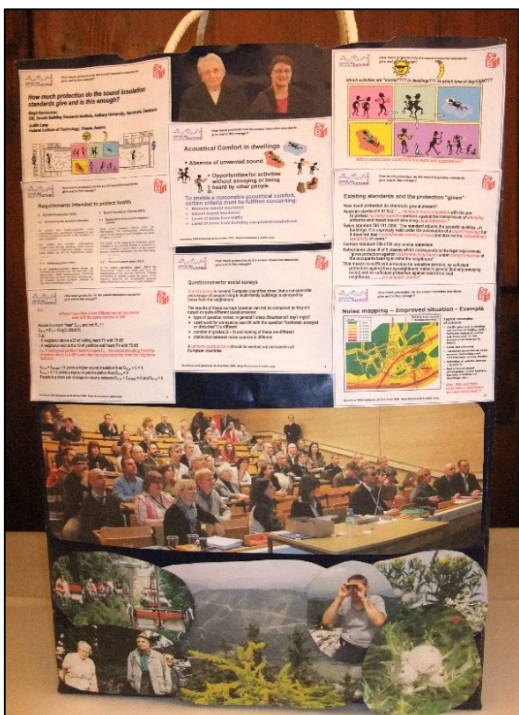
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Bag with photos & slides from COST TU0901



Lower part: Photos from Puchberg