



Margaret Fraser Sax

1924-2015

NOVEMBER 28, 2015

UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF HARTFORD
50 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Margaret was born March 10, 1924, in Aberdeen, Scotland, to David and Charlotte Little. She grew up in Elgin, a small seaside town in the North of Scotland, with her three older sisters, Kay, Betty, and Dot. In the 1930's the family moved to Edinburgh. From an early age, Margaret loved books, excelled in school, and later attended the University of Edinburgh. As a university student during WWII, she was recruited as a decoder and worked at, then-top-secret, Bletchley Park located near London. She was sworn to secrecy until the program was declassified in the mid-1970's.

After the war Margaret returned to the University to finish her degree and then worked in the Library's reference department. While working there in the 1950's she was awarded a Fulbright Exchange Scholarship to work at the MIT Library in Cambridge, MA for a year. It was there that she met her future husband, student Edward Sax. After the Fulbright ended, she was offered a position at the MIT Library and returned to the United States where, on July 31, 1958 she and Edward married in a small ceremony at the Harvard Chapel in Cambridge, MA.

Margaret stopped working when their first child, Laura, was born in 1959. At that time they moved from their Cambridge apartment into Edward's childhood home in Boston while his parents were away on a year-long sabbatical. Later, they moved into an apartment in Arlington, and Stephen was born in 1961. They bought their first house in Wellesley, MA and Vicky was born in 1966.

In 1968, when Edward got a new job, they settled in West Hartford, CT, where they lived for over 40 years. Margaret and Edward were very creative "do-it-yourselfers" and made lots of home improvements. Always thrifty, Margaret did her own wallpapering, interior painting, and even reupholstering.

As her children got older, Margaret returned to the work she loved and accepted a position at Trinity College's Watkinson Library in Hartford. This was no small feat in the early 1970's. Perhaps the strong cups of tea she enjoyed in the morning and afternoon helped her work full-time, manage three children, and still prepare dinner every night by 6 pm.

For almost 20 years she was assistant, then associate curator of the College's rare books collection. In addition to helping students find original source materials for research projects, she also created exhibits highlighting

various parts of the collection. She generously shared her broad knowledge of history and language, as well as her love of art and literature with many people.

From an early age Margaret always enjoyed traveling and made sure her family went on vacation every year whether it was camping; spending time visiting Sax grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins; or searching for fossils in West Virginia. Every few years she would take the family to Scotland where two of her sisters still lived in the family home in Edinburgh. After the children were grown, she and Edward took trips to many places including Turkey, Ireland, Spain, and Sicily.

Margaret and Edward were very active members of the Unitarian Church in Hartford. The family rarely missed a Sunday, and during the 70's and 80's were part of the church's "extended family" program which brought together church families for organized trips and social gatherings. One of the most memorable gatherings of the year was a pot-luck Thanksgiving feast for 20-30 which was held in the Sax living room. There were two turkeys and a special long table set-up to fit the large gathering.

Throughout the years, Margaret and Edward have welcomed many people around their dinner table and into their home. Margaret kept in touch and corresponded with her many friends, from here and abroad; from her early years through retirement. Christmas greeting cards were always stacked high!

She enjoyed time with her grandchildren and their families. Laura, her husband Fred Figlewski, and their children Alex and Madeline in Baltimore; Stephen, his wife Colleen, and children Ian and Eloise in Seattle; and Vicky, her husband Andy Pastore, and their daughter, Ella in Boston. Margaret often shared stories from her childhood and asked the grandkids early on, "What do you what to do when you grow up? What interests you?"

After retiring from Trinity, she devoted much time to organizing the Hartford Unitarian Church archives. She and Edward moved to Seabury Retirement Community in Bloomfield, CT about 10 years ago where she continued to pursue the activities she loved including lots of walks; drawing and painting; gardening; reading; volunteering; taking ALP classes; and getting to know new friends.

*We celebrate her spirit,
and will miss her warm smile
and kind heart.*