



Marjorie Norton Bishop

March 17, 2018

Marjorie Norton Bishop, formerly of 5 Greystone Road in West Hartford, died peacefully on March 17, 2018 at her home at The McAuley retirement community in West Hartford with family by her side. She was 97. She was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years, Melvin T. Bishop; her oldest son, Thomas N. Bishop; and her sister, Marilyn Baldwin, of Indianapolis, IN. She is survived by her brother, Robert Norton (Carol) of Vashon, WA; son Robert W. Bishop (Ruth) of Middletown, DE; daughter Beckie Wooster (Bob) of Hernando, FL; daughter-in-law Carol Bishop of Portland, OR; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Born in Schenectady, NY on May 8, 1920 to Leland and Esther Norton, Marge grew up in Fairfield, CT and graduated from Rodger Ludlowe High School in 1937. After graduating from the University of North Carolina in 1941, she taught home economics at many schools around Connecticut, including Talcott Junior High School in West Hartford for 14 years. Marge was a lifelong learner with an independent spirit and a zest for life. After she retired from teaching, she remained active at First Church of Christ Congregational in West Hartford, where she sang in the choir and served on many boards and committees. She also gave piano lessons, belonged to multiple book clubs, audited classes at the University of Saint Joseph, and volunteered for organizations including the New Britain Museum of American Art, Meals on Wheels, and the Avery Heights senior living community. Her other interests included gardening, cooking, sewing, music, bridge, entertaining, and traveling. In 2010, just before her 90th birthday, she was profiled by the West Hartford News in an article that began, "Marge Bishop shovels her own snow, cuts her grass with an old-school rotary mower and recently returned from a trip to Paris where she took a barge down the Seine River." The article noted that even at age 90, the jump in her step was "akin to a track runner coming off a starting line." Marge credited her longevity to the love of her husband, whom she met on a blind date at Grand Central Station, and her family and friends. Well into her 80s and 90s, she was dancing at the weddings of her grandchildren, and she was difficult to keep up with even after she began using a walker. Her family often joked that she might outlive them all. Marge had a genuine, boundless curiosity about the lives of her family and friends and the world around her and had an enviable memory for any age. With her kind heart and open mind, she made lasting friends of all ages and from all walks of life. She had a way of making

anyone she talked to feel special and important. It is not an exaggeration to say that everyone who knew her, loved her. She truly loved living at McAuley and joined the community's welcoming committee soon after she moved in. Her friends there recalled how she would greet new residents with fresh-cut flowers from her garden and how she immediately made them feel at home. And even after her health began to decline, she still maintained her sense of humor and the sparkle in her eye.

A celebration of Marge's life will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at the First Church of Christ Congregational, 12 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to the church. For directions and online condolences, please visit www.taylorandmodeen.com.

Comments



“ Lisa Marie lit a candle in memory of Marjorie Norton Bishop



Lisa Marie - March 25, 2018 at 04:47 AM



“ I met your Mom about years ago at a quilt show- you would have thought she was Elvis -- - to me it was my greatest joy to be in her classroom and spend any extra time I had there with her. I adored her. She was the most wonderful teacher and sewing became my great love. It gave me so much joy to be able to Thank her after all those years and tell her what she meant to me and still does. I love the beautiful long life she had and marvel at her mowing the lawn and shoveling snow and giving flowers to the new residents to welcome them. Just shining her beautiful light - You are all so very blessed to be in her fold. God Speed Mrs. Bishop. I am sure heaven is becoming a bit prettier everyday with your special touches xo

Lisa - March 25, 2018 at 04:51 AM



“ I was truly blessed to have Mrs. Bishop as my sewing teacher at Talcott Junior High School. She instilled a lifelong love of sewing in me with her kindness and gentleness. Mrs. Bishop was a wonderful teacher who was gifted in the art of encouraging students.

Kathy Guinan Mozzochi

Kathleen Mozzochi - March 24, 2018 at 10:06 AM



“ Marge was my "favorite substitute" when I taught Latin and Spanish at Conard High School many years ago. She was the best! You may ask why. It was because she had such great rapport with my students. We all loved her. As a Department head who often had to be out of the classroom to observe other teachers I appreciated her desire to carry out my lesson plans and to keep the students involved. She was always my first choice to sub for me.

In addition her son Tom was the Vice President of the student government which I advised, so I was close to the family, Finally she and her family lived only a few blocks from where I lived, so we often saw each other.

She was a dear friend who enriched my life, and I will miss her the rest of my days.
RIP, Marge. Jack Darcey

Jack Darcey - March 22, 2018 at 08:26 PM



“ Very sad to hear of Mrs. Bishop's passing, she is a part of my childhood memories of growing up in the Webster Hill area and the wonderful community of the Messers, Weber's, Hammonds, Saunders, Twaddles and all the families that enjoyed each others company. I used to babysit for Beckie ...my sincere condolences to all the family
Nancy Toennies Hopkins
Barnstable, MA

Nancy T Hopkins - March 22, 2018 at 10:03 AM



“ With great sadness to hear of Marge's passing, she was such a dear friend of my parents and family. Marge taught with my dad Andy Gibson at Talcott Jr High in West Hartford and were friends forever. I am saddened by this news, because I was supposed to bring my mom (Marion Gibson) over to see Marge in April, how I wished I got a chance to do that. Marge will live in our hearts forever. I hope my dad and Marge meet up again in Heaven, I am sure they will be laughing like they always did. I will miss her very much. My sincere condolences to Marge and Mel's entire family, may she always rest in peace.
Sincerely, Drew Gibson

Drew Gibson - March 18, 2018 at 06:04 PM



“ We were so sorry to learn of Marge's passing. We enjoyed many years of volunteering with her and Mel at the New Britain Museum, sharing dinners and hospitality with her, and going with her on that wonderful French barge cruise with the museum just a few weeks before her 90th birthday. She will be fondly remembered and greatly missed!

Mark Giulietti and Stephen Hard

Mark Giulietti - March 18, 2018 at 12:45 PM