



Mrs. Phyllis G. Zack

September 28, 1925 - February 24, 2014

Phyllis Goodrich Zack, 88, of 89 Oak Hill Road, Pittsfield, Massachusetts died February 24, 2014 after a short illness. The daughter of Jennie Galliher and James Goodrich, she was born September 28, 1925, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts and educated in the local schools. Phyllis was a 1943 honors graduate of Pittsfield High School and worked for one year, prior to entering college, as a chemical analyst for General Electric analyzing steel and bronze for use in military ships and planes.

She graduated with honors in chemistry from the University of Massachusetts, in 1944 and was elected to Pi Beta Phi National Scholastic Society. Upon graduation from college she returned to G.E. and worked there from 1948 through 1951 before leaving to raise her two daughters.

In 1959, Phyllis joined the staff of the Berkshire Athenaeum as Assistant Reference Librarian and the following year she was named Head Reference Librarian. When the Western Regional Library System was formed in the early 1960's, she served as the Reference and Library Loan Librarian for the libraries of Berkshire County. She was also a teacher in Reference Library materials and gave classes to many pupils and librarians in the county. She received her Master of Library Science from SUNY Albany in 1968. She retired from the Berkshire Athenaeum in 1990 after thirty one years of service. In her early years, Phyllis was an active member of the Pittsfield College Club where she was chairperson of their 50th reunion celebration and served a term as Treasurer. After retiring, she volunteered in the library at Reid Middle

School for 12 years, substituted for RSVP and was an ongoing member of the PHS Class of 1943 reunion committee. She also enjoyed traveling with her husband to Europe and all over the United States.

Phyllis is survived by her husband of 65 years, Daniel Zack, her two daughters, Valorie Trela of Windsor and Leslie Zack of Pittsfield and her two grandsons, Brenden Trela and Ryan Trela of Windsor. She was predeceased by her brother, Donald Goodrich, her three sisters, Evelyn Garvey, Jane Alexander and Priscilla Waters and her son-in-law Francis Trela.

Funeral Notice:

There will not be any calling hours. A graveside service for immediate family will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in her memory to the Berkshire Humane Society, care of the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North St., Pittsfield MA 01201. DONATIONS CANNOT BE MADE ONLINE, but may be made through the Dwyer Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall

JT

“ *My mom worked with Phyllis in the reference department for many years. She considered Phyllis a good friend and always spoke highly of her to us. We are sorry for your loss*

Joe & MaryLou Trzcinka - March 06, 2014 at 07:29 PM

CM

“ *Dear Leslie and Valorie, I was so saddened to learn of your mom's death. A bunch of us would gather for lunch every now and then and sadly it has been about a year since the last 'old ladies' get together. Our next gathering shall not be the same without Phyllis. I worked with her at the Reference desk at the Athenaeum for a few years and felt such respect for her, her knowledge and her kindness toward people, myself included. Phyllis made the patrons feel comfortable and welcome by greeting each and every one of them, if only by smiling at them whilst in the midst of some intense other work. In later years when I was librarian at Taconic High School and in the process of changing from print to a computerized catalog, Phyllis was right there, volunteering her organizational skills and relentless patience with the project. She had an amazing work ethic.*

Such a loss to you both and your dad, but also to her friends and the Pittsfield community. She will be sorely missed. Please accept my most sincere condolences. Carol Messerschmitt

Carol Messerschmitt - February 28, 2014 at 04:24 PM

NS

“ I was a student and, later, a library card holder at the Berkshire Athenaeum. I remember Mrs. Zack quite well as a friendly, helpful person, particularly helpful in the reference department when I was researching term papers. Please accept the condolences of one of those students and people who remember Mrs. Zack for all she did for students and people alike. Nick Speranzo

Nick Speranzo - February 28, 2014 at 08:02 AM