

Obituary for Martha Porter Kilgour

Madison

She was born near Tenney Park and passed-on there April 13, 2010. But her active life took her far beyond that base to many regions and expansive ideas.

After Lapham School, East High and Principia College, she got her master's in science education at UW. She taught in Beloit, Hyannis, Mass., and Japan, then at Gompers and Lakeview in Madison. At the Nishmachi School in Tokyo she learned to celebrate diverse cultures.

When she married in 1964, Bill Kilgour was the lucky guy. As the family grew in 1970 she became the Mom who nurtured "good judgment" in her kids. She required daily music practice and only one hour of TV - usually. Martha promoted family camping trips and an eight-week ramble in the UK when the kids were young teens. Chris and Sarah recently switched roles by taking Mom to camp; Writing-in-the-Wild included kayaking and her scary "flying squirrel" antics harnessed high on the ropes course.

Making music was her joy ever since piano lessons at age 4. She enjoyed a long career as a piano tuner. But she found the real soul of music at Sonata Piano "Camp" in Bennington, Vt. Every year since 1998 she came home saying, "Bill, this was the best year ever."

"God Bless the Whole World - No Exceptions!" That defined Martha's view of human relations. It guided her in minor and major decisions, from hosting overseas students to adopting our children. She loved practicing the concepts of Christian Science as a way to push back narrow dependence on material things, and to understand the fullness of Life as modeled by Christ Jesus.

Martha was active with state capitol history buffs, Tenney-Lapham, Euturpe, Audubon, Arboretum and parks volunteers.

Martha was the fourth of five children born (1933) to Ruth and Phillip Howe Porter and the last of that generation. Her siblings were John, Peggy (Farquharson), Mary Leigh (Herdegen) and Ann. The many nieces and nephews will now carry on the Porter family traditions.

Martha was a fine model of a life well lived. Her husband Bill, and children Chris and Sarah and family will be working to reflect Martha's thoughtful joy and vitality. The memorial service will be at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 29, 2010, at OLBRICH GARDENS. Details and biography at: www.866allfaiths.com.

In lieu of flowers, friends are invited to support First Church of Christ, Scientist, 610 S. Segoe Road; or the YWCA, 101 E. Mifflin St.