

OBITUARIES

RUTH R. WOODMAN, November 23, 1920 – January 16, 2011. In 1952, Ruth Randolph Woodman was mother of two little girls, and her stay-at-home New England relatives worried about her delivering a third baby in India. She remarked, "Quite a few babies have been born in India." And on her deathbed, when asked how she was, she whispered, "I'm fine." She never lost her optimism and zest for life.

Ruth, known as Ruthie or Poochie to her family and numerous friends, was born November 23, 1920, in Newton, Massachusetts, the third and last child of Jacob H. and Helen Randolph. She studied ballet from an early age, attended Newton public schools and Colby Junior College (now Colby-Sawyer College) in New London, and then trained in ballet in New York under famed dancer, teacher, and choreographer Vincenzo Celli. Marriage to Everett M. Woodman of Franklin changed her plans for a dance career – but only temporarily.

Her husband's international work took her to France, India, and Morocco, and it was in India that her dance career came to life. In Madras, now Chennai, India, the Woodmans lived next door to three young South Indian women known as the Travancore Sisters, who were already hugely popular as film stars and classical Indian dancers. The neighbors became fast friends, and soon Ruth was studying the Bharata Natyam dance form under their guru. Astounding the local Tamil-language newspapers that an American mother of three could dance at all, let alone with proficiency, she performed with the three sisters and with dancer (later film actor and painter) Bhaskar Roy Chowdhury.

In New Delhi, India, Ruth gave birth to her fourth daughter and founded the American-International Ballet School, where she taught pupils of a dozen different nationalities. American dancer Richard Maitland joined her in teaching and performing, and the school put on many concerts, dancing for India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, and to benefit the Bengal Flood Relief Fund and the work of Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Back in the United States, while her husband Everett served as President of Colby Junior College, Ruth worked tirelessly to promote the cultural life of the college, which in 1972 awarded her an honorary bachelor's degree, citing her patronage of the arts.

She was an excellent athlete and fervent student of languages, studying French, Hindi, and Arabic. She was also renowned for her hospitality, warmth, and a gift for making people feel special.

For many years, Ruth and Everett Woodman made their home in Andover, at the Ragged Mountain Fish and Game Club. During the last five years of Ruth's

life, she made her home at Woodcrest Village in New London, where her radiant smile and graciousness made her beloved by staff and fellow residents. She died there peacefully at the age of 90 on January 16, 2011, after a period of declining health.

She was predeceased by her husband in 2007 and by her brother J. Hepner Randolph and her sister, Jane Kendall. She is survived by daughters Betsy Woodman of Andover, Lee Woodman of Washington DC, Jane Cohen of Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, and Deborah Coleman of Watertown, Massachusetts; by grandchildren Ben Coonley of Brooklyn, New York, Genevieve Cohen of San Diego, California, and Eliot Cohen of Boston, Massachusetts; by sister-in-law Dorothy Hatch of Portland, Maine; by sons-in-law Lawrence Ballon of Washington DC, Robert Cohen of Boston, and Walter Coleman of Watertown; and by several nieces and nephews.

A private family service will be held at a later date. Contributions in Ruth Woodman's memory may be made to the Everett M. and Ruth R. Woodman Award, c/o Chris Reed, Director of Annual Giving and Advancement Services, Colby-Sawyer College, 541 Main Street, New London 03257; telephone 526-3797 or 800-266-8253; e-mail ChReed@Colby-Sawyer.edu. The award is a scholarship for transfer students to the college.

MINNIE G (FLANDERS) HALL, 79, of Warner died Monday, January 24, 2011, at Presidential Oaks Nursing Home in Concord.

She was born August 11, 1932, in Warner, to the late Ernest J. and Amy M. (Anderson) Flanders. She was also predeceased by her husband, Edwin E. Hall, who died in 1999.

She is survived by two sons, Steven E. Hall of Andover and Louie G. Whitcomb of Nashua; two brothers, David Flanders of Warner and Paul Flanders of New Hampshire; one sister, Dorothy Johnson of Warner; and one grandchild.

A graveside service will be held in the spring at New Waterloo Cemetery, Warner.

BESSIE R. PRINCE, 94, passed away on February 1, 2011, at The Morrison in Whitefield. She was born June 12, 1916, in Beeville, Texas, to Frank A. and Sallie M. Robie, who predeceased her. She lived most of her life in Franklin and Salisbury, moving to the North Country in 1977. Her greatest joy was having been a farmer's wife and a homemaker. She had a great love for all children.

Bessie was a member of the Trinity United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women in Whitefield. She was also a 50-plus year member of the Ionic Ragged Mountain Chapter 20, Order of the Eastern Star in Franklin.

She was predeceased by her husband, Donald S. Prince, in 1977; two daughters, Laurette (Prince) Locke and Nancy Lee Prince; and a sister, Ruth Mary Robie.

Survivors include her daughter, Betty Lou Fenmore of Whitefield; sister, Deloice Lutz of Duncanville, Texas; granddaughter Sara Lee Locke of Ithaca, New York; grandson Toby L. Locke of Andover; two great-grandsons, Christopher and Charles Cloutier; and a niece, Sandra Flood.

Calling hours will not be held. A graveside service will be held in the spring at Franklin Cemetery. Remembrances may be made to The Morrison, 6 Terrace St., Whitefield 03598. Visit Bailey Funeral Home's Web site at BaileyFH.net for more information or to send an online condolence.

RUTH SANBORN KING, 101, died Sunday, February 6, 2011, at Havenwood in Concord, where she received extraordinary care from the staff.

Born September 20, 1909, to John and Jennie (Ring) Sanborn of Loudon, Ruth developed an early love of books and learning. After graduating from Pittsfield High School and Boston University, she taught school in Loudon, East Andover, and Hampton. Then, returning to school, she earned two master's degrees at Columbia University, one in education and the other in library science.

Ruth worked as a librarian at Wheaton College, Cortland State Teachers College (now SUNY-Cortland) and Harvard Business School from 1940 to 1953. From 1957 to 1975, she was a librarian in the Massachusetts public schools and at New Hampshire Technical Institute.

Ruth enjoyed mountain climbing with the Appalachian Mountain Club. It was through AMC hikes that she met Edward D. King. Following their marriage, they continued to be active with the Appies.

In the mid-70s, the couple moved to Henniker, where Ruth became increasingly involved in peace activism.

After the death of her husband in 1990, she moved to Heritage Heights and started writing her memoirs about growing up in Loudon. *Listen to the Crickets*, published in 2007, captured the farm experience in New Hampshire during the early decades of the 20th century.

Ruth was a longtime member of the Concord Unitarian Universalist Church and the American Library Association.

She is survived by her daughter Cornelia King of Philadelphia; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Unitarian Universalist Church, 274 Pleasant St., Concord 03301.

JANICE B. (SAWYER) NOLAN, 90, of Windsor, Connecticut, beloved wife of the late Jules F. Nolan, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, February 9, 2011, her 90th birthday, at Windsor Rehabilitation and Healthcare. She was born February 9, 1921 in Wilmot to the late Leon E. and Bessie (Bell) Sawyer. She moved to Windsor in 1942 during World War II to work at Pratt and Whitney from which she retired in 1977 after 24 years of service. She was a 50-year member of the Wilmot Grange #309.

In addition to her husband and parents she was predeceased by four brothers; Curtis, Leon, Henry, and Channing Sawyer and three sisters; Mildred Howard, Lois Stanley and Arlene Currier.

A memorial service was held in Windsor. Burial will be private. Donations in Janice's memory may be made to the Windsor Volunteer Ambulance, PO Box 508, Windsor CT 06095. For online condolences, visit CarmonFuneralHome.com.



Chadwick Funeral and Cremation Service

We are well into 2011!

Wouldn't it be a good idea to make an appointment to preplan in March or April? It's a great way to start the year and a wonderful item to have accomplished. Perhaps Gram or Gramp has been putting it off and you could help make it happen. You could make the suggestion, be supportive, and know what's going on if you are a part of the process. If Gram and Gramp are more private then just help them make the call.

Help each other on the journey as we travel together.

Call Charlie or Marion Hafner at 526-6442, or e-mail us at Hafner@tds.net.

Charles and Marion (Chadwick) Hafner
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