



Helen C. Archambault

August 27, 1924 - May 1, 2016

LEWISTON - Helen C. Archambault died on May 1, 2016, in Lewiston. She was born in Paris, Texas, August 27, 1924, and was the oldest of three children of Angus and Cora (Allen) Choate. She was a graduate of the class of 1942 of Central High School in Little Rock, AR, and attended the University of Arkansas.

She met her husband, Philip L. Archambault, M.D., at Fort Sill, near Lawton, Oklahoma, where she was retraining veterans who had lost their hearing during WWII. They married in Little Rock in 1946 and moved to Lewiston, Maine, where Dr. Archambault became the first French-Canadian physician admitted to the staff of Central Maine General Hospital. They were married for 58 years and he died in 2004.

Mrs. Archambault was a homemaker and they had four children. She taught art as a volunteer at St. Joseph's School for many years, and loved to enrich children's lives by introducing them to various artistic styles and media.

She was an active member of the Woman's Hospital Association, volunteering at CMMC, (then Central Maine General Hospital) in the 1950s, and 60s.

As a resident of Lewiston, she had a particular interest in textiles, and her tenure as a member of the Arts Council of Maine in the 1970s allowed her to showcase them in an exhibition titled, 'The History of Textiles in Maine', at the Treat Gallery at Bates College.

She was a member of the board of The Guild of the Portland Museum of Art, raising funds by arranging European art tours from 1983 – 1994.

She was a voracious reader, loved literature and learning, and was known to take four courses at a time Senior College of USM well into her 80s. Those of particular interest to her were classes in history, literature and the opera. She was also a member of the Jane Austin Society of North America.

She had a deep appreciation for the decorative arts and antiques, and became an avid collector and an antiques dealer, specializing in oriental rugs. She had an extraordinary sense of the aesthetic and was a gracious hostess. She particularly enjoyed entertaining friends, neighbors and “her” Bates students, staff and faculty.

Mrs. Archambault is survived by her son Philip (Pat) and his wife Laura of Randolph, NH; son Thomas and his wife, Linda, of Bangor; son Andrew of Milton, MA and daughter Anne Archambault and her husband Robert Provencher of Freeport. They have eight loving grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Online condolences and sharing of memories may be expressed at <http://www.lynchbrothers.com>

ARCHAMBAULT, Helen C., 91, of Lewiston, died Sunday, May 1. Funeral services honoring Helen's life will be held Saturday, May 7, at 11:00 a.m. at Bates College Chapel. Burial will be held privately in the family lot at St. Peter's Cemetery, Lewiston.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made, in her memory to the Friends of the Lewiston Library, 200 Lisbon St., Lewiston, 04240

Family and friends are invited to visit Friday May 6th from 4-6PM at the PINETTE DILLINGHAM & LYNCH FUNERAL HOME 305 Alfred Plourde Parkway, Lewiston, 784-4023

Events

MAY **Visitation** 04:00PM - 06:00PM

6

Pinette Dillingham & Lynch Funeral Home & Cremation Services
305 Alfred Plourde Parkway PO Box 181, Lewiston, ME, US, 04240

MAY **Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

7

Bates College Chapel
College Street, Lewiston, ME, US, 04240

Comments



“ Dear Ann, Andrew, Tom, Pat, and your families,

I was so disappointed that John and I were not able to be at Aunt Helen's funeral. She was such a beautiful person. Our thoughts have been with you at this time.

John and Gwen Archambault

Gwen - May 08, 2016 at 02:42 PM



“ i wish to express my condolences to Helen's children Tom Pat and Ann. It was a distinct pleasure getting to know your mother as she explored the 'notion' of living in a retirement community for several years. She was interesting, fun loving, all about family and a force to be reckoned with. May God bless Helen and all who are near and dear to her and may we all be raised to a higher level of faith and understanding by her passing.

Lovingly, In my thoughts and prayers,

Frank Proulx

Frank Proulx - May 08, 2016 at 05:50 AM



“ Helen and I had such fun as we traveled to Jane Austen Society meetings in various parts of Maine because it gave us extra time for visiting. Soon we were expanding our road trip repertoire, driving to Damariscotta's Lincoln Theater to see a live Metropolitan Opera performance of The Barber of Seville.

I can still hear her enthusiasm when I suggested another trip to that theater because it was one of two places in Maine that would be broadcasting Othello live from the London stage starring Rory Kinnear as Iago. When I proposed that trip, her reply was succinct, "Oh, let's!"

Helen had such joy, intelligence and lightness of spirit that I'm torn now between loss and gratitude for the time we did have.

Each time, when we'd return to her home in Lewiston, she'd say, "Oh, that was fun. Let's do it again." Would that we could. Would that we could, indeed.

Marj Patrick
Auburn

Marj Patrick - May 06, 2016 at 11:06 AM



“ Hi All, Helen's children here.... We so appreciate the flowers that have been sent, though Helen's wish, and our wishes are:

THAT IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, YOU PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO HER FAVORITE CHARITY.

"FRIENDS OF THE LEWISTON PUBLIC LIBRARY",
200 Lisbon St.
Lewiston, ME 04240

Thank you for all your touching and sincere memories,

Anne, Tom, Andrew and Pat Archambault

They are unable to remove the "auto sales pitch" from the website without taking the tribute wall down.

Anne Archambault - May 05, 2016 at 02:52 PM



“ Having read Karin Jackson's memory, I agree completely! Helen had a grace and sparkle that is hard to forget and we shall all miss her charming presence at the Maine Jane Austen Society.

Sincere condolences to her family and friends.

Judith Clarke

Judith Clarke - May 05, 2016 at 01:17 PM



“ As a 9 year old visiting my great aunt Alice Scott, I wandered over to the Neelan home, as she called it, next door to hers and met a friendly young fellow named Andrew. For several months I called him Andrew Neelan, until one day he told me his name was Archambault, not Neelan.

This friendship was to last through the years until each of us wandered off to college and lives elsewhere. I crossed the river to Auburn, Andrew, I just found out, lives in the same city in Massachusetts that my daughter, Erin, and her family make their home. Small world.

The Archambault home became the center of our universe growing up. Be it a basketball game, baseball, or tennis, or just hanging together in the barn, the neighborhood crowd always seemed to end up at 373 College Street.

I hereby nominate Mrs. A, as we called her, for sainthood. She welcomed all of us into her home, treated the whole bunch as her own sons, and I truly believe we ALL became better men because of our association with her.

I was last in her company on Halloween evening 1990, as I took my daughter Trick or Treating in the old neighborhood I grew up in. When Mrs. A answered the door, she asked Erin where she lived, and when the reply was Spring Road in Auburn, she inquired what might have brought us to her neighborhood. Erin's reply was "my father says he grew up in your house".

Mrs. A took one look at me, and said "Billy McCarthy, I almost didn't recognize you with that mustache". Almost 20 years had not dulled her memory one iota. I can honestly say there will never be another like her. Rest in Peace, Mrs. A, and bask in all of the glory you created over more than 9 decades.

Bill McCarthy

Bill McCarthy - May 05, 2016 at 01:13 PM



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Bill McCarthy

Bill McCarthy - May 05, 2016 at 01:12 PM



“ So sorry to hear about Helen, a lovely lady, and a fellow Janeite in the Maine chapter of the Jane Austen Society. Helen's wit, charm and intellect were always evident; Jane Austen would have loved her. And probably would have created a character based on her.! She had a wonderful life. Condolences to the family - what lucky kids and grandkids to have her for a mom and grandmother!
Best wishes,
Karin Jackson

karin Jackson - May 04, 2016 at 10:01 PM



“ What a sweetheart you are for having written, Karin. Could there be a higher compliment than to be a Jane Austin character?? Depending...?
We so appreciate your condolences and appreciation of our mother. Anne

Anne Archambault - May 05, 2016 at 08:55 AM



“ Dear Anne, thank you so much! Through all the years of happy meetings of our Jane Austen Society, Helen was one of my very favorites! It was always such a delight to see her; I will miss her very much.

Karin

karin Jackson - May 05, 2016 at 11:45 AM



“ To Helen and Family ,
You shared a room with my mother Velma Strout at St Mary's Hospital , i was Blessed to have met you , Such a sweet darling woman you was , so caring, gentle and kind You touched my heart ... You will be missed Hugs Helen ,
To the family , my heart goes out to you all , My thoughts and prayers are with you ,
Donna Desrosiers 171 Pine St Lewiston , Maine 04240

Dawna Desrosiers - May 04, 2016 at 09:12 PM



“ Dawna, You are dear to have read her obituary and contacted us. There is so much good in the world. You are a case in point.

Anne

Anne Archambault - May 05, 2016 at 08:56 AM



“ Tom,
I always enjoyed hearing your family stories in the early years of knowing you. I recall visiting your Lewiston home over a Christmas holiday to meet your family and for your family to meet your godson Brian Thomas. My sympathies to you and your family.
Sincerely,
Pat Poulin West

Patricia Poulin West - May 04, 2016 at 06:26 PM



“ Dear Tom, Pat, Anne and Andrew,

I have such vivid and wonderful memories of time spent in your home with Phil and Helen. I always felt welcome and always enjoyed the family dynamic which in retrospect, was often like being in a sit com. There was humor, intellect, warmth, politics, maybe a little tension now and then but always a safe place for friends to gather. My condolences to all of you. Enjoy the memories and stories as I know you will.

All my best,

Howie Zack

Howard Zack - May 04, 2016 at 10:53 AM



“ Wow, Howie, you beautifully encapsulated our home life with mom. Thank you for writing.
Love, Anne
Anne Archambault - May 05, 2016 at 08:57 AM



“ Mrs. A. was like a second mother while growing up with Tom, often keeping me out of trouble with my own mother! I was always welcome in her home and she in my heart.
Robert Limoges

Robert Limoges - May 04, 2016 at 09:01 AM



“ Bobbie, it is the very meaning of life to have life-long friends like you. We appreciate your being there for us and doing a eulogy for her. You are well equipped! Love, Anne
Anne Archambault - May 05, 2016 at 09:00 AM



“ Dear Pat, Tommy, Andrew and Anne,

My deepest condolences. Your mother was a definite highlight of our high school years, and shall always have a place in my heart. I send you all a warm hug. It is always a wrenching experience to lose a parent, but the last one is the hardest. Take comfort from one another, your families and your friends.

Much love,

Louise Saucier Valdes-Fauli

Louise Saucier Valdes-Fauli - May 04, 2016 at 08:54 AM



“ To all Helen's friends... Please know that her wishes were, and our wishes are, that in lieu of flowers or other tributes to Mother, that donations be made to the "Friends of the Lewiston Library". Thank you very much.

Pat, Tom, Andrew and Anne

Anne Archambault - May 04, 2016 at 07:59 AM



“ My sister(Patricia Kaul Hopkins) and I(Barbara KaulBuxton) are nieces of the late Mildred Dumais of Lewiston who was a good friend with Helen. We met Helen thru our aunt and we want to extend our sympathies to Helens family! What a smart, lovely and classy lady!

Barb Buxton - May 04, 2016 at 07:46 AM



“ Dear Barbara and Patricia, Thank you very much for your condolences. Mother just loved Millie and Roland. The old guard falls away, but are not forgotten. Love, Anne

Anne Archambault - May 05, 2016 at 09:03 AM



“ Dear Baltasar, What a lovely sentiment about Mother. Thank you. Anne

Anne Archambault - May 04, 2016 at 07:33 AM



“ Helen was the perfect neighbor. She is resting after a life that filled us all with grace and beauty.

Baltasar Fra-Molinero - May 03, 2016 at 08:18 PM



“ Dear Anne, Pat, Tom and Andrew,
Fred and I can only add our thoughts to the many which are here. We loved Helen, and enjoyed her humor, wit, and wisdom over more than 40 years. I miss her so much. We will remember her enthusiasm and excitement, her interest in all that is beautiful, and her love of the people in her life.

From Nancy and Fred Holler

Nancy Holler - May 23, 2016 at 05:32 AM