

## Barbara Male Sargent



Barbara M Sargent died on March 2, 2009 at Mt Ascutney Hospital in Windsor, VT. She was born Aug 21 1920 in Springfield, MA, daughter of Edmund Stanley Male and Doris Wooley Male. She was a graduate of Hamden High School and Larson Junior College in Hamden,CT.

She married Richard Collier Sargent Jr on Mar 8, 1941. For 24 years they brought up their three daughters and son in Nichols, CT where she was very active as a Girl Scout leader, fund raiser for United Way, and American Cancer Society, singer in church choir, and actress in many Trumbull Country Theater productions. As she became active in social concerns, she helped establish the first Head Start nursery school in New England, tutored reading in the Bridgeport inner city, and established the first Senior Center in Trumbull. She became the first woman to be elected chairman of a political town committee in CT. She founded the first AFS foreign student exchange program, and was UN Day chairman for many years in Trumbull.

With her husband and son Richard she moved to Hartland in 1969 where she continued her theatrical and musical pursuits all around the Upper Valley – Gilbert and Sullivan, New Woolhouse Players and Freelance Singers in Woodstock, Christmas Revels in Hanover, and 21 years helping direct, produce and perform in Hartland's musical variety show. She was a specialist in dried flowers and ran workshops and lectured; taught ELF workshops for 20 years for VINS; president and then program chairman for 15 years for the Woodstock Garden Club; honorary Life Memberships in PTA in CT and VT; Grange Citizen of the Year 1993; founded and helped run Hartland Christmas project for 18 years. In May 2008 she received the VT Recreation & Parks Association Unsung Hero Award, member of Hartland Nature Club. She was active in Hartland Congregational Church-choir, did altar flowers, and was a member of the Ladies Benevolent Society.

For 28 years Hartland children have had swimming lessons in her pond. She was an active member of the Board of Civil Authority, and as Justice of the Peace, she performed over 200 weddings, the most recent being in Feb of this year. Since Jul 1, 2000 she has proudly performed 32 Civil Unions.

She was predeceased by her husband in 1985 and her daughter Joan in 1997. She leaves her daughter Linda and husband Constantine Alexander, daughter Carol, son Richard and his wife Bonnie, 8 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Donations may be made to the Hartland Congregational church, Mt. Ascutney Hospital or Hartland Community Arts. A Memorial Show and Party will be held at Damon Hall in Hartland, VT, Sunday April 5 from 2-4 pm.