

Remembering Elaine Starrett of Rockport and Annisquam.

By Rita L. Teele

Elaine Starrett who lived in Rockport, was partner of Alden (Al) Robinson of Annisquam for ten years. She was friend to many in the village, was involved in activities including the exercise classes that were held in the Village Hall, and she loved any excuse to sing.

In November of 2019, ten years after it was held in June of 2009, I asked her about the concert in the Village Hall that was put on by "Share the Music." Elaine was part of the choral group. Attached are the photographs that I was able to take at the time; Elaine provided identification of the musicians.

"I have almost all the information you are seeking. It is fun for me to relive the show. John Stewart is the bass player, a resident of NH but a good friend of Alden's. Not Smiley on the trumpet, but it is Mel Deveau, a powerhouse musician. Sadly he passed away a few weeks after his 95-year-old Dad died. Mel provided wonderful care. I would sit with him at the Beverly Senior Center when Mel and Alden were playing in the band. A delightful man. I do miss those days. Sigh.

Do you see me as a nurse on the stage next to a large sailor? It is a WWII show (the name of it eludes me but I will find it) by Share the Music. We performed it 7 times, one at the Center for Homeless Veterans, in Boston, and all benefitting that institution. Long story, I know, but I loved the question."

[Al Robinson played the trombone and is included in the first two images.]







Elaine died in January of 2021; her obituary is included below.



Elaine MacGray Starrett

July 2, 1929 - January 25, 2021

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Rockport - Elaine MacGray Starrett, 91, died peacefully at her home in Rockport on January 25, 2021, after a brief illness, with family by her side. Artist, writer, dedicated mother, wife and sister, Elaine was known for her wit, positive attitude, generosity, and care for others. Born in Newton, Massachusetts, she grew up in Needham, Massachusetts, the daughter of the late Charles L. MacGray, MD and E. Constance (Kitchener) MacGray. She graduated from Needham High School in the class of 1946, and then attended Ottawa University in Kansas and Newton-Wellesley Hospital School of Nursing in Massachusetts. Elaine moved to Rockport in 1965 to be close to her sister Janet MacGray. In 1967, she married Loyd M. Starrett, a Boston-based attorney and Rockport town meeting moderator for more than 30 years. Loyd predeceased Elaine in 2006. Elaine was active in the arts and music community of Cape Ann. She was a member of Chorus North Shore (formerly Rockport Community Chorus) for over 50 years, and sang with Share the Music and the Cape Ann Symphony Singers. Always striving to improve her singing ability, she was a longtime student at the Wendy Betts Vocal Studio. At age 52, Elaine followed her life-long passion for the fine arts and began as a part-time student at Montserrat School of Visual Arts in Beverly, Massachusetts. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a Concentration in Painting in 1989 from Montserrat College of Art. After graduation, she was a dedicated and engaged college alumna and supporter. Shortly after arriving in Rockport, Elaine joined the First Baptist Church, where she was an active church and choir member. More recently she joined St. Paul Lutheran

Church in Gloucester, where she sang in the choir and made many dear friends. Throughout her life the family cottage in Kittery, Maine, ("Braecopse") was a favorite spot where Elaine spent many summers in the company of family and friends. It was here that, as a young child, she was introduced to life by the sea. Her father would take his family of six out on the Piscataqua River in their 16-foot Swampscott dory "Jolly" to fish, swim, and picnic. Elaine treasured that dory her entire life-she could often be seen rowing it around Sandy Bay, teaching her own children to row and fish. She was the beloved sister of the late Enid M. MacGray, RN, Lorna E. Tuthill, Charles K. MacGray, Constance E. Powell, and The Rev. Janet M. MacGray. She was also predeceased by her first husband, Andrew T. Bower Jr., and her loving partner of 10 years, Alden W. Robinson of Annisquam, Massachusetts. Elaine is survived by son Thomas Bower and his wife Janet M. Bower of Chicago, Ill.; daughter JoEllen Bower and her partner Julie A. Shaw of East Montpelier, Vt.; daughter Amy S. Bower, Ph.D., and her husband David C. Fisichella of Falmouth, Mass.; and son Charles D. Starrett, MM, Mass., and his wife Jung-Ock S. Starrett, JD of Brookline, Mass. She was beloved by her six grandchildren: Amber J. Oja, Priscilla Bower, Julia J. Starrett, Sophia D. Starrett, Sara L. Fisichella, and the late Colleen E. Shea. She also leaves behind nine nieces and nephews. Elaine is also survived by her step-daughter Lucinda Starrett, JD and her husband Allan M. Bates of Altadena, Calif.; her step-daughter Sarah J. Starrett, JD and her husband Thomas A. Williams of University Park, Md.; her step-son Loyd B. ("Ben") Starrett and his wife Regina R. Starrett of Miami, Fla.; and her step-daughter Patricia M. Fouts of Murfreesboro, Tenn.; as well as eight step-grandchildren; and two step-great-grandchildren.