



Dagmar Günther-Stirn

March 8, 2013

Dagmar D. Günther-Stirn, 81, passed away in her home in Cromwell. She was the beloved daughter of late Wilhelm and Emilia Marcella Günther-Stirn, the sister of Mignon Kolb of Warwick, RI., and aunt to Alexander Kolb and his wife Faith of Massachusetts, Christopher Kolb and his wife Staci of RI, Lilly, Timothy, Benjamin, Christopher Jr., Charles Kolb and many cousins. Her beloved Sheltie, Leddy, who accompanied her everywhere, went to Doggie Heaven last year.

Born in Tienjin, China, she traveled to all corners of the world – from Antarctica to Africa, Canada, North & South America, British Isles, Scotland, all of Europe, Turkey, Egypt, Greece, and, of course, several trips to China - and she enjoyed every minute of it. Her knowledge of history was extensive and she was often able to assist tourist guides.

Dagmar graduated from the Tenacre and Dana Hall Schools, and from Wellesley College in 1953. She received her Masters from Columbia University's School of International Affairs and did the bulk of her research for her dissertation in Berlin, Germany. As a Dana Hall alumna, she was Class Agent for many years, a Corporator of the school, founding member of the Helen Temple Cooke Society and a member of many fundraising committees at both Dana Hall and Wellesley College. Following her studies in Berlin, she became an adjunct professor in Political Science for a few years at the University of Connecticut and later at the University of Hartford.

Dagmar was a great lover and supporter of the arts in Hartford, Newport and

New York City. She was a longtime subscriber to the Hartford Symphony, Hartford Stage and Theater Works. A very loyal subscriber to the Metropolitan Opera for 50 years, she often attended Tuesday nights as well as Saturday afternoon performances. Her tailgate parties in garage of the Metropolitan before performances were famous and the food delicious.

The number of organizations she served and supported was vast, among them the Wadsworth Atheneum, Archeology Society of Hartford (past president), World Affairs Council of Connecticut, and the Hartford Conservatory. She sang with the New Britain Opera Society and participated in the medieval pageant of the Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival at Epiphany at the Asylum Hill Congregational Church.

Dagmar had a full and interesting life. She was compassionate and fun-loving, and a loyal friend to many. She will be sorely missed.

In celebration of her life, a Memorial Service will be held on Thursday, March 21, 2013 at 11:00 AM at the Asylum Hill Congregational Church, 814 Asylum Ave., Hartford. With a reception immediately following the service.

Donations in her name may be made to either Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA or to a charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Service

MAR 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

Asylum Hill Congregational Church
814 Asylum Ave
Hartford, CT

Tribute Wall

JM

“ Dear Mignon, I am deeply saddened by the news, just received, of Dagmar's death. As Joan Manning so beautifully expressed, Dagmar was unique. When we spoke last, perhaps 3 months ago, I sensed no hint of illness. She was an important influence in the lives of so many, including all of my children who knew her as Aunt Dagmar. Her death is a closing chapter in an era - the history of a closely knit group of extraordinary Wellesley Class of 1953 graduates who bonded together as they experienced both the good and the bad things that life can bring. We will miss her fruit salad, laden with spirits, her holiday stoellens, her plum kuchens, and her voice. Yes, she was usually late and I envied her right to be so. Dagmar was generous in her support of so many causes and always humble, seeming to live in a world of her own creation. Dagmar inherited the kindness and grace of your beautiful mother, and the courage and strength of your father whom she cared for with such devotion. We send our condolences to you and your family and regret that we cannot be with you on the twenty first. Dagmar will not soon be forgotten. She was exceptional. Fondly, Joe Messer and family.

Joseph V. Messer, MD - March 16, 2013 at 04:48 PM

JM

“ A dear friend for more than fifty years, Dagmar brought fun, adventure and stories galore into our lives. Our frequent "Berlin Reunions" began in Warwick Neck when our children were toddlers. The toddlers are now grown and married but they all knew Tante Dagmar well as she shared weddings and christenings with us all. I will cherish many great memories of time spent with her, including waiting for her to arrive or put the meal out! (It was always worth waiting for.) She always seem to run on a different clock to most people.

Her travels, wide experiences and knowledge of just about everything made her the most unique person to have touched my life. Her kind nature will be remembered as it was appreciated throughout our friendship.

Joan Manning

Joan Manning - March 16, 2013 at 02:24 PM

EC

“ *Emilia Carlson purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dagmar Günther-Stirn.*



Emilia Carlson - March 16, 2013 at 02:18 PM

DF

“ *Dagmar F. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dagmar Günther-Stirn.*



Dagmar F. - March 15, 2013 at 06:48 PM