

MILDRED SPEISER (1931-2024)

Mildred Speiser, a longtime member of the Three Parks Independent Democrats and 63-year resident of 310 Riverside Drive, the Master Apartments, died July 26. She was 93 and a lifelong New Yorker.

Mildred was a career art and math teacher in the New York public schools, beginning in 1953 at P.S. 166, which she attended before entering Joan of Arc Junior High School and Hunter College High School.

In 1953, Mildred received her B.A. degree in political science and in 1955 her master's degree in education, both from Hunter College. Afterward she did graduate work at Cornell University, New York University, University of Montana and University of Colorado.

Mildred later taught in various junior high schools and lectured in graduate mathematics, business and teacher-training courses at Hunter College and Marymount Manhattan College. Rather than referring to herself as a teacher, she liked to say that she was an “architect of human destiny.”

She was the founder and a board member of the Hunter College High School Alumni Association. Mildred kept in touch with her classmates and retained all of the letters she received from them, donating all of them in addition to her other papers to Hunter

College. Some of the information in this obituary was obtained from that source.

At the 1975 high school Alumni Association reunion, Mildred was elected president and served until 1983, when she was elected to the Hunter College Hall of Fame. She was also a member of the board of directors of Hunter's Sylvia and Danny Kaye Playhouse. She additionally was an advisor for students in the college's Public Service Scholars Program.

Mildred's hobbies included reading, theater, sports, ping pong, writing poetry and humorous short stories, and traveling. She edited "Math Skills by Objectives" (1988) and published "Our '76 Founding Sisters" (1976). Her poems and short stories were published in "Seeds in the Wind - Ethical Workshop Poets" 1968, "Echo, the Bloomingdale Poets" and "Reflections in Poetry & Prose" by the United Federation of Teachers (Retired Teacher's Chapter). Led by her passion for poetry, Mildred founded a club called Poetry in the Park which held an annual event for over 15 years at W. 103rd Street and Riverside Drive.

After retirement, Mildred continued to participate in community activities. She was the longest resident of the Master Apartments, knowledgeable in all aspects of the building and maintained its archives.

In addition to Three Parks, she was an active member of the 102-103 Streets Block Association and Bloomingdale Aging in Place. She leaves a niece, Susanne Barkan; and nephew, David Speiser. Donations in Mildred's memory may be made to Maine's Wendell Gilley Museum, which is dedicated to inspiring artistic creativity and engagement with nature, pursuits dear to Mildred and her family.