



Dorette Mae Rothschild Lemon

September 29, 1918 - February 25, 2016

Dorette “Dorrie” Lemon was born in Seattle, Washington on September 29, 1918 to E. Eugene Rothschild and V. Bess Snyder.

Dorette grew up in West Seattle, graduating from West Seattle High School in 1936. In 1940, she earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Washington. In recognition of her leadership and scholarship, she was selected for Mortar Board her senior year. It was the highest award for women in college. She attended the Boston University School of Social Work in 1941-42, and received a master’s degree from the Columbia University School of Social Work in 1943.

Dorette married Berlan Lemon on April 18, 1946. They were happily married until his death 62 years later. They had three daughters, Laura, Patricia and Louise. The family lived in Eugene, Seattle and Portland before moving to Corvallis in 1959.

Dorette worked for the YWCA in Seattle and Eugene from 1943-1947. After 16 years spent raising her daughters, she took a position at the Oregon State University Mathematics Department in 1963 as a secretary/bookkeeper. In 1972 she became the administrative assistant at the OSU Computer Center, and retired from that position in 1980.

While in Portland, Dorette served on the board of the YWCA, became a Girl Scout troop leader and taught Sunday School.

After moving to Corvallis, Dorette made friends, joined clubs and became involved in many activities that lasted a lifetime. She led a troop of Girl Scouts

through their high school graduation, and was pleased to reunite with eight of the “girls” last summer. She was actively involved with the AFS exchange program, including hosting a South African exchange student for a year. She volunteered with Crossroads International, RSVP and OSU Folk Club. Central to her life in Corvallis have been her memberships in First Presbyterian Church, PEO Chapter AR and her beloved “Gourmet” group.

Together with her husband, Berlan, she enjoyed attending OSU sporting events, dancing, playing bridge and traveling in the U.S. and abroad.

In 1959, Dorette was instrumental in establishing the Rothschild House in Port Townsend, Washington, as an historic site. The house, built by her grandparents in 1868, is now open to the public as a museum.

Also in 1959, Dorette entered and won a national contest sponsored by Betty Crocker and Sunkist Lemons to name a lemon pie recipe. First prize was \$25 per week, intended to be “food for life” for a family of four. Her prize checks arrived faithfully throughout her life.

Dorette is survived by her daughters Patricia Starker (Barte), Louise Runkle (Skip), grandchildren Geoffrey Vogel, Robert Vogel (Katherine), Wendy Little (Matt), Sally Starker (Zach), Andy Lasselle (Rachel), Grant Lasselle (Bryony), Erin Bryner (Jay), Colin Runkle (Laura) and 11 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Berlan, and daughter, Laura Vogel.

A memorial service will be held at 1 pm, Monday, March 7, at First Presbyterian Church in Corvallis.

Donations in her memory can be made to First Presbyterian Church, 114 SW 8th St, Corvallis, Oregon, 97333, or to a charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 7. 1:00 PM (PT)

First Presbyterian Church
114 SW 8th St.
Corvallis, OR 97330

Tribute Wall

MB

“ I had the pleasure and honor of meeting Dorette when I was a docent at the Rothschild House here in Port Townsend. For fun, I had made muffins from an old family recipe I found, rushed them to the House and plopped them still warm into one of the original cast iron muffin tins in the kitchen there. They were waiting on top of the old cookstove to share with her and the few others who had come for the occasion. She shared with us her own lemon recipe story as well as other memories. A truly delightful lady! What a Treasure to have had her in your family. Michele Bruns

Michele Bruns - March 22, 2016 at 02:08 PM

LF

“ Louise, my thoughts were with you and your family today as you celebrated the life of your wonderful mother. Grateful I swung by the end of Van Buren Street last year and found her home for one last visit with you two. That was fun and brought back a lot of nice memories. Take care, Larry

Larry Fariss - March 07, 2016 at 10:48 PM

AC

“ To the family of Dorrie,
I will be thinking of you today, and remembering with much affection Dorrie. She was such a faithful friend to my parents, Patty and Tom McClintock, for so many many years (Dorrie was one of the last people to come to speak to our father in his final days, and I can still picture her talking to him in her very quiet but oh so comforting voice as she sat closely by his bed), and a good friend to all of us. I have always admired how upbeat she was as she grew older and had more health issues, how thoughtful of others, how gentle. Dorrie was a fine and good woman.
She will be missed by many.
Very sincerely,
Anne McClintock Corbière

Anne Corbière - March 07, 2016 at 04:43 AM

CC

“ Mrs. Lemon was such an inspiration to me and a positive influence throughout my life. I was one of the "girls" who thrived under her leadership in Girl Scouts from the time I moved to Corvallis in 1959 through graduation from high school in 1965. I have such fond memories of those times and the many activities we all enjoyed together. I am so thankful I was able to visit with Mrs. Lemon one last time when I returned to Corvallis for my 50th high school reunion last summer. She may have passed from this earth, but her influence continues to affect my decisions to this day, and it always will. Thank you, Mrs. Lemon, for all you did for us! And to her generous family, thank you for sharing her with us!
Cheryl Osterberg Cheek -- Eureka, Montana

Cheryl Osterberg Cheek - March 04, 2016 at 09:58 PM

TY

“ *Dorrie was probably the most respected employee at the OSU Computer Center. Her quiet good humor helped bring a measure of calm to the chaotic atmosphere that frequently arose there.*

At the Center I was very dependent on her assistance and advice. In fact, during the early part of my tenure she alerted me that I was about to send a letter with "software" being spelled "softwear".

*Tom Yates
Director Emeritus
OSU Computer Center*

Tom Yates - March 02, 2016 at 09:27 PM

MC

“ *Dorrie was a treasure and she will surely be missed. I loved her Beaver stories as well as her Washington family stories of going to Port Townsend. I got to visit the Rothchild House once and gave her pictures of me on the front steps. She loved her girls and her family. I visited with her on Valentine's Day and I am so thankful for that visit. With much love and sympathy...
Malinda from her PEO chapter*

Malinda Choitz - February 26, 2016 at 04:45 PM

MW

Thank you for sharing Mrs. Lemon with our Girl Scout Troop. Cheryl said it best.

Mary Ellen Davis Westrick - March 18, 2016 at 04:21 PM