



## Ina Claire Fraser

January 27, 1928 - July 23, 2013

Ina Claire (Stanley) Fraser, age 85, died in Portland on July 23 as a result of complications from a fall. She resided at Capital Manor in Salem. She was born Jan 27, 1928, in Long Beach California to Ralph Dean and Luella (Harmon) Stanley.

Ina always loved learning and going to school. She entered kindergarten three months before a severe earthquake in Long Beach destroyed her school. For the next three years she and her classmates attended school in tents while the community began re-building. When Ina was eight, she moved with her family to a remote mountainous region of Northern California. There she and her sister Martha continued their education in a one room school, riding horseback six miles and fording a creek nine times each way. Ina excelled as a student and graduated from high school after her family moved to Gresham. She was only 16 years old.

Ina interrupted her college education after two years to marry Robert Arnold Fraser in 1947 in Corvallis where the couple lived until 2011. She eventually went back to college, earning a master's degree in education from Oregon State University. Ina taught in the Corvallis Public School District for over 20 years.

After retiring, Ina volunteered at Good Samaritan Hospital for 20 years, and

she and Arnold monitored bluebird boxes in the Corvallis area for the Audubon society. The couple also enjoyed camping with the Roaming Antlers and square dancing with the Spinning Antlers. Together she and Arnold also traveled to all 50 states and enjoyed many cruises and European trips.

Ina was an active member of the First United Methodist Church in Corvallis. Her hobbies included reading, gardening, birdwatching, camping and sewing. An accomplished seamstress, she made a special quilt for each of her four grandchildren. Recently, with the help of other Capital Manor residents, Ina completed a Sunbonnet Sue quilt begun by her mother in the 1920's. Over many years Ina participated in writing groups in Corvallis and later at Capitol Manor. This summer her family has begun editing and selecting from her many colorful stories to compile a book about her life.

Ina is survived by her sons David (Diane) and Douglas (Holly), daughter Deborah (Pete) Helsell, grandchildren Lincoln (Meagan) Gable, Dylan, Megan and Andrew Fraser. She was predeceased by her husband and her two sisters, Martha Griffiths and Nancy Kerley.

Ina's memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 30, at the First United Methodist Church in Corvallis. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Ina's name to the Audubon Society of Corvallis at [www.audubon.corvallis.or.us](http://www.audubon.corvallis.or.us).

Ina had a tremendous sense of humor and she loved to laugh. Wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, sister, daughter, friend. Ina was loved and will be greatly missed.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUL 30. 11:00 AM (PT)

First United Methodist Church  
1165 NW Monroe Ave  
Corvallis, OR

# Tribute Wall

RS

“ To Ina's family,

*For many years, Ina and Bob were our wonderful neighbors, and surrogate grandparents to our children, Leslie and Nathan. We lived far from our parents and sibs and in many ways Ina and Bob were our role models for creating a happy family. We have a very special photo of Ina and Nathan baking together in her kitchen. Nathan is 5 or 6, covered in flour, standing on a chair with Ina next to him, both grinning ear to ear.*

*Nathan and Lincoln are about the same age, and Ina loved to tell about when they were quite little, playing in the front yard, enjoying a very boyish moment. Facing the street, side by side, they had discarded their pants and she thought, knowing boys, must have been having a peeing contest. Ina's description of her view from their living room window left me with a very endearing image of their plump little buttocks that I will never forget.*

*Thank you for the beautiful service. Your memories and pictures helped to fill in the parts of Ina's life I never knew, and made me wish so deeply that I had kept in better touch. Ina found so much to enjoy in life, and in her memory, I want to hold on to her laughter and wonderful sense of humor, to carry it with me through the tough times, as I believe she must have done.*

*Thank you,  
Robin Strauss*

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**Robin Strauss** - August 05, 2013 at 02:25 PM

CS

“ Ina's family -- you will not know me, but I am sure you will receive many messages such as mine, for I know Ina touched many people's lives in wonderful, positive ways. I first met Ina and Bob over 25 years ago, at the Merrymates potluck group from the Methodist church. I loved talking to your mom, a teacher like me. She was always so positive and full of love -- and that glow is reflected so well in the picture of her on this page. It was evident in that potluck group that she and your dad had a wonderful marriage full of joy and kindness and respect, and kept fresh with their many adventures. Like others, I am awed at learning a little more about her background -- I knew Ina was amazing, just didn't know how much. I hope your hearts are full of all the wonderful memories her lifetime has given you. With my heartfelt sympathy, Carol (Nelson) Sumner

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**Carol Sumner** - July 30, 2013 at 06:35 PM

EE

“ I wish to express my deepest sympathy to the family of Ina Fraser. She was a constant friend of the Audubon Society of Corvallis as a volunteer on the Bluebird Trail in the 1980's and 1990's. Her monitoring of bluebird boxes contributed to the return of bluebirds to the Willamette Valley. I will be forever grateful for her help.

Sincerely,  
Elsie Eltzroth

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**Elsie Eltzroth** - July 28, 2013 at 06:12 PM

LJ

“ *Larry Johnson lit a candle in memory of Ina Claire Fraser*



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**larry johnson** - July 27, 2013 at 09:07 PM

PP

“ *Dear Dave, Deb and Doug -- Carol had told us of Ina's death, and you've been in my thoughts and prayers.*

*This morning when her obituary appeared in the GT, I learned for the first time of Ina's early years. Ina and I became friends when we room mothers at Adams school, and then we talked a lot when I was back at OSC getting my elementary teaching certificate. Then when she started on that same path, we talked more about how it was going.*

*No wonder Ina was so resourceful - having had such a challenging early schooling and getting herself there and back. I hadn't known of her quilt making and would have loved sharing ideas about that with her.*

*One day your Dad and Mother attended an open house here at Stoneybrook Lodge, and I was so hopeful that they would move here and I'd have more time with Ina. It wasn't to be, and it certainly was wise to move to be near family.*

*Please know I'll be sending prayers to all of you as you adjust to your new status as being the "older generation" in the Fraser family.*

*Blessings,  
Pat Phillips*

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**Pat Phillips** - July 27, 2013 at 11:10 AM

CW

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Celia (Smith) Walker** - July 26, 2013 at 05:24 PM