

**Alice Ann Vaughan Barge WB '44**, of Nashville, passed away peacefully on Nov. 2, 2025. She had a long career in teaching and was active in many community organizations, especially those committed to nature and conservation. Alice Ann is survived by her son, her daughters, including Allison Floyd Bhandari '77, stepchildren, 19 grandchildren, and 28 great-grandchildren, including Allison Oldacre Griffin '03 and Carey Floyd McDonald '01.

**Patricia Potter McDonald WB '46**, of Nashville, passed away Dec. 17, 2024. Patricia co-founded Sailair Travel Agency. She served on the board of directors for Commerce Union Bank and was the first woman in that role. Patricia is survived by four sons, seven grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

**Joyce Hare Conrad WB '47**, of Troy, Alabama, passed away Nov. 10, 2025. Joyce was a teacher, and she was passionate about art as well as reading. She is survived by two sisters, two sons, one daughter, six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

**Char Sutton Hancock WB '47**, of Nashville, passed away July 6, 2025. She is survived by two daughters, including Julie Hancock Armistead '74, two sons, 13 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

**Peggy Elliott Tillery WB '47**, of Kingsport, Tennessee, passed away May 19, 2025. Peggy was an elementary school teacher for many years. She is survived by her daughter, son, sister, six grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

**Martha Ann Gambill Elliott WB '48**, of Nashville, passed away Sept. 16, 2025. After working in New York, she finished her career working at Vanderbilt University and Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She is survived by many nieces and nephews, including Glory Clark Beall '71, Clark Elam Harwell '90, and Emily Clark King '02.

**Irene "Kip" Potter Potts WB '48**, of Bethesda, Maryland, passed away July 4, 2025. Kip had a career as a teacher and director of a preschool and then worked in corporate education. She is survived by two daughters, one son, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

**Carney Overall Farris WB '50**, of Nashville, passed away July 18, 2025. Carney is remembered as a cultivator, tending her garden of family, friends, ministry, and beauty. She is survived by her daughters, Ginny Farris Gordon '76 and Evelyn Farris Raines '74, eight grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

**Carolyn Reynolds Fisher WB '50**, of Columbia, Tennessee, passed away Sept. 1, 2025. She was devoted to many community organizations in Columbia and Maury County. Carolyn is survived by two sons, two daughters-in-law, including Irwin Edwards Fisher '70, three granddaughters, and five great-grandchildren.

**Dean Gillespie Reeves '53**, of Nashville, passed away June 28, 2025. She was devoted to many community organizations. She was a founding member of Friends of Children's Hospital and president of the Harpeth Hall Parents Association from 1976-1978. Dean is survived by her husband, her daughters, Lyssa Reeves Styers '78 and Edie Reeves '82, her son, and three grandchildren, including Rachel Styers Newman '08.

**Betty Brothers '54**, of St. Louis, passed away Sept. 7, 2025. Betty had a successful career in real estate. She is survived by two brothers, two sons, one daughter, four grandsons, five granddaughters, three great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Barbara Massey Rogers '56**, of Nashville, passed away Sept. 3, 2025. As a loyal Harpeth Hall alumna, committed trustee leader, and generous donor, Barbara was instrumental in distinguishing her alma mater as an excellent school for girls. Barbara served on the Harpeth Hall Board of Trustees from 1970-1976, 1977-1983, and 1987-1991 and became an honorary trustee in 1998. Barbara is survived by her children, including Beth Clark Poe '83, eight grandchildren, and extended family members.

**Louise Bransford Frazer '58**, of Nashville, passed away Aug. 21, 2025. Louise was very involved in the community, loved to travel, and play bridge. She is survived by two daughters, including Genevieve Frazer Ferguson '90, one son, five grandchildren, brother, and sister, Anna Mary Bransford Lenderman '62.

**Alexine Wilkerson '58**, of Franklin, Tennessee, passed away Oct. 11, 2025. After college, she began a remarkable career in public relations with NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center. Alexine is survived by her nieces and nephews.

**Gayle Bracey Cummings '59**, of Atlanta, passed away on July 3, 2025. She loved working with underserved children, teaching, gardening, tutoring, and volunteering with many community organizations. Gayle is survived by two sons, one daughter, and seven grandchildren.

**Carol Beach Feitel '60**, of Spartanburg, South Carolina, passed away June 18, 2025. After teaching elementary school, she and her husband enjoyed owning a farm and raising horses and livestock. Carol was active in her church and founded an equine therapy program. She is survived by her husband, her sisters, Anne Beach Was '68 and Bea Beach Madden '58, two daughters, one son, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

**Lucy White Hoffman '60**, of Knoxville, passed away on Sept. 17, 2025. She was a trailblazer in the real estate industry. Lucy is survived by her son, daughter, granddaughter, sister, Georgeanna White Payne '52, and many nieces and nephews.

**Corinne Ryan Middleton '61**, of Jefferson, South Carolina, passed away Sept. 20, 2025. Following her passion for travel, she embarked on a distinguished career as a flight attendant for Pan Am and Delta Airlines. She is survived by nieces and nephews.

**Anne Sanders '68**, of Seattle, passed away Oct. 2, 2025. She is survived by her sister, Martha Sanders Gennett '70, her stepdaughter, her former husband, and numerous cousins.

**Deborah Thornton Stegall '72**, of Birmingham, Alabama, passed away June 30, 2025. She was a beloved special education teacher at Mountain Brook Junior High, where she changed countless lives and had a deep faith. Deborah is survived by her husband, her brother, sister-in-law, Currey Turner Thornton '74, four children, and 13 grandchildren.

**Christina Varallo '87**, of Nashville, passed away Nov. 6, 2025. She attended St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana. Christina worked in the music industry as an assistant producer. She is survived by her mother, brother, niece, uncle, and extended family and friends.

**Catherine Perry Buletti '91**, of Folsom, California, passed away July 27, 2025. She graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She is survived by her husband, son, and daughter.

**Liz Ligon Papapietro '96**, of Brooklyn, New York, passed away from pancreatic cancer on May 28, 2025. She was a supremely talented professional freelance photographer. She is survived by her husband and daughter.



Barbara Massey Rogers '56 and Beth Clark Poe '83 at Step Singing in 1983



## IN MEMORIAM PAST TRUSTEE



## Barbara Massey Rogers always had the best interest of the girls at heart

**Barbara Massey Rogers '56**, of Nashville, passed away Sep. 3, 2025. As a loyal Harpeth Hall alumna, committed trustee leader, and generous donor, Barbara was instrumental in distinguishing her alma mater as an excellent school for girls. Barbara served on the Harpeth Hall Board of Trustees from 1970-1976, 1977-1983, and 1987-1991 and became an honorary trustee in 1998. Past Head of School Dave Wood remembers, "As a Harpeth Hall trustee, Barbara always had the best interest of the girls at heart."

Barbara co-chaired the capital campaign in 1975-1978 to raise funds for the Idanelle McMurry Center for Arts and Athletics with fellow community leader Ed Nelson. During the campaign, Barbara and Gayle Elam Smith '55 made personal visits to school neighbors to assuage any fears they had about the construction of the school's newest building. Barbara was also instrumental in securing the gift for the Jack C. Massey Center for Mathematics and Science, which opened in October 1985 and was dedicated in 1991 following her father's death in 1990. At the dedication ceremony, Barbara said her father would be "very proud that generations of young students will pass through the doors of the Massey building to prepare them for the important roles they will play in the future." She was also a lead donor to the renovation and rededication of the Massey Center in 2003-2004. In addition to supporting capital projects at the school, Barbara also sponsored the annual all-school read through the Massey Lecture Series endowment fund she established in 1998.

Barbara was a highly respected community leader and philanthropist, who, among her many interests, was a major force behind the growth and success of Belmont University through the creation of the Jack C.



Brad Reed, Head of School Ann Teaff (1998-2014), Beth Clark Poe '83, Barbara Massey Rogers '56, and Bill Shipp at Harpeth Hall's 2004 Leadership Dinner following the rededication of the Jack C. Massey Center.



Barbara Massey Rogers '56



Marilyn Hovey Herbert '56, Barbara Massey Rogers '56, and Ann Shull Lauterbach '56

Massey College of Business, Jack C. Massey Center, Doyle Rogers Distinguished Chair of Law, Massey Performing Arts Center, the Barbara Massey Rogers Center, and numerous endowed student scholarships. In addition to her philanthropy and service on many non-profit boards in Nashville and in Palm Beach, Florida, Barbara was a woman of great faith, a good friend, and a wonderful mother and grandmother.

She is survived by her children, including Beth Clark Poe '83, eight grandchildren, and extended family members. Her daughter, Beth, who served as a Harpeth Hall trustee from 2004-2010, shared, "Earlier this year, I found mom's 1956 Harpeth Hall yearbook. We would sit together, turning each page slowly as she remembered her time at Harpeth Hall. She spoke so fondly of her days there — playing tennis, basketball, and field hockey — but what she treasured the most were the friendships that stayed

with her throughout her life. As her health began to fail, those same dear friends from Harpeth Hall came to see her every week. They held her hand, sang hymns by her bedside, and brought the same love and joy that had filled their school days together. Seeing their faces — both in those worn yearbook pages and beside her once more — was a moving reminder of the lifelong bond of friendship that Harpeth Hall nurtures so well. She was forever grateful for those bonds."

In her speech at Harpeth Hall's 2004 Leadership Dinner, Barbara said, "... commitment to excellence is what leadership is all about. It is what has made our school great in the past and is what will continue to expand its greatness in the future. The exciting and successful future of this great institution rests in your capable hands."

Harpeth Hall is most grateful to Barbara for her strong belief in the importance of a Harpeth Hall education. Through her own leadership and philanthropy, she has left an indelible mark on the school.

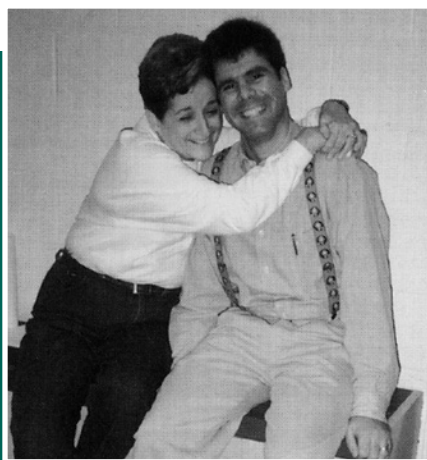


## Carol Chambers Oxley leaves behind a legacy of grace, intellect, compassion, and unwavering faith

Carol Chambers Oxley, age 87, passed away peacefully on Sept. 6, 2025, in Franklin, Tennessee.

A devoted wife, mother, grandmother, educator, and member of her community, Mrs. Oxley's life was marked by a deep commitment to family, faith, and the pursuit of knowledge — along with a dry wit and exacting standards that shaped generations of students.

Born in 1937 in Atlanta, Mrs. Oxley pursued her passion for mathematics with determination and excellence, earning a bachelor's degree from Union University in Jackson, Tennessee, and a master's in mathematics from Vanderbilt University.



At the end of most school days, Carol Oxley had a signature way of saying goodbye to colleague Tad Wert. "She'd poke her head into my classroom and say 'Let's make like a bread truck and haul buns!' That's the kind of person she was: funny, smart, and warm-hearted." It was quintessential Carol Oxley — witty, memorable, and delivered with perfect timing.

A formidable presence in Harpeth Hall's math department for 29 years (1969-1998), Mrs. Oxley didn't just teach mathematics — she transformed it. "Before she came to Harpeth Hall, girls had to go to MBA to take AP Calculus," recalls upper school math teacher Tad Wert. "Carol started our first AP AB Calculus class, and her students were soon earning top scores."

As department chair, Mrs. Oxley stressed that the goal of the math department was to "give each girl the finest possible math education in accordance with her ability." She designed a cumulative curriculum that allowed students to build on core principles year to year, ensuring long-term mastery. "She cared about her students very much, and she had high expectations for them," remembers Mr. Wert.

Her kindheartedness and consideration for others extended to the colleagues in her department. "When I was hired," Mr. Wert recalled, "she immediately made me feel at home, and she took care to make sure my teaching load wasn't burdensome. On a personal level, I

remember her generosity — she baked beautiful cakes for all occasions, and when our daughter Anna Claire was born, she made a birthday cake for her every year for years. She also hosted the entire math department at her Franklin home annually, describing us as 'a fun bunch of people who get together for dinners, substitute when necessary, and help each other out on the rare occasion one of us doesn't have the answer.' When I became department chair, she was my role model."

Mrs. Oxley's dedication to teaching excellence was recognized at the highest levels. She was awarded Harpeth Hall's Owen Chair for Excellence in Teaching in 1995 and received the U.S. Presidential Scholars Certificate of Excellence from the Department of Education in 1998. The latter honor came when Kristina Treanor '98 was named a Presidential Scholar and invited Mrs. Oxley to attend the White House ceremony as her most influential teacher.

But perhaps her most memorable moments weren't captured in awards.



Students still talk about the day in the early 1990s when a cell phone — a rarity at the time — rang during honors pre-calculus class. The student, Rebecca Russell Howard '94, had told a boy at Baylor in Chattanooga to call her during study hall, but she'd forgotten about the time change.

Rather than confiscate the phone, Mrs. Oxley told the student to answer it, then took the phone herself to ask the young man why he wasn't in class studying math. "Classic Mrs. Oxley," Mrs. Howard remembers. "She was my all-time favorite teacher." Mrs. Howard went on to major in economics at Washington and Lee and earned her law degree from Vanderbilt — a testament to the strong academic foundation Mrs. Oxley provided her honors and AP students.



Outside the math classroom, Mrs. Oxley's creativity shone through in many forms — baking, quilting, painting, gardening, and her beloved Winterim course, Cake Decorating and Quilting, which gave students a glimpse of her playful side.

Beyond Harpeth Hall, she lived her faith through service, teaching Sunday school at First United Methodist Church, volunteering at GraceWorks, and serving on mission trips to Guatemala. In her later years, she received the same love and care from her close church family through meals and visits, continuing to find joy in the simple activities that brought beauty and comfort into the lives of those around her.

Years after her retirement, her teaching methods and her spirit continue to influence Harpeth Hall's math department. As Mr. Wert noted, "Even though she retired years ago, in my classes I still use lots of effective teaching tricks she showed me. She certainly left an impressive legacy here."

Mrs. Oxley is survived by her husband, John, with whom she shared 66 wonderful years of marriage, her sons, cherished granddaughters, sister, brother, and many others whose lives were touched by her wisdom and wit.

# Joyce Ward's spirit lives on through teaching award

By Jessica Bliss



Above: Middle school French teacher Cécile Lainé engages with her students as they present their La Personne Spéciale projects.

Left: Joyce Ward taught at Harpeth Hall for 37 years and now has an award in her honor.

Center: Joyce Ward with her toga-wearing students during a class presentation

Chicago House in Luxor — a rare experience for high school students. Her career was marked by distinction: Tennessee Latin Teacher of the Year, Outstanding Teacher of the Year at Harpeth Hall, the Owen Chair for Excellence in Teaching, and Peabody College's Golden Apple Award. She died of cancer in 2008, but the imprint of her international scholarship remains.

Mme Lainé carries that spirit forward. A student-centered and equity-minded educator with 17 years of experience, she specializes in teaching for language proficiency and intercultural competence through storytelling and personalized instruction. She chairs the world language department of Harpeth Hall's Daugh W. Smith Middle

School, mentors teachers across the state, and continues her own learning as an author of language-learner books and co-author of *Le Petit Journal Francophone*, a monthly resource for students around the world.

To receive an award bearing Mrs. Ward's name is an honor that resonates within the world language community at Harpeth Hall and our alumnae community — a connection between two educators who, decades apart, built pathways for students to see the world with curiosity and understanding.

**When** middle school French teacher Cécile Lainé learned last fall that she had been named the 2025 Joyce Ward Teacher of the Year, the news held special significance — a recognition that tied her work to a teacher whose influence still threads through Harpeth Hall.

The award, presented by the Tennessee World Language Teaching Association, honors the life and legacy of Joyce Temple Ward '60, a beloved Latin educator who taught for 37 years at Harpeth Hall. Mrs. Ward joined the faculty in 1971 and soon became known for her ability to bring the ancient world to life. She led students through Italy, Greece, and Egypt on 15 study-abroad trips, even ushering them past the iron gates of