



## Ruth Margaret Swithenbank

March 25, 1936 - August 24, 2013

Ruth Margaret Swithenbank of Worton, MD, died on August 24, 2013, at her home surrounded by her family. She was 77.

She was born in Houghton-Le-Spring in the north of England on March 25, 1936, only child of the late, William Thomas and Gwladys Bowen Collins. Mrs. Swithenbank was educated at St. Anne's College, Oxford University, and where she earned a Bachelor's and Masters degree in chemistry.

She married Dr. Colin Swithenbank on April 11, 1960. She had several short-term positions at the beginning of her career, and volunteered for multiple charities. After raising her children, she worked as a statistical programmer for Merck Pharmaceuticals in PA from 1983-1996. Her team analyzed data from more than 100 clinical trials, and she was integral to FDA approval of many drugs, including those used to treat HIV, high blood pressure, and pain.

In 1983, she and her husband purchased land on Still Pond Creek in Worton, MD, where they camped until building a summer home in 1985 and moving in permanently upon retiring in 1996. After retiring, Mrs. Swithenbank and her husband took many extended sailing trips on their PDQ yacht "Cadenza," visiting the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, and Guatemala, as well as many US destinations. They also spent several winters in their RV, visiting state parks from Virginia to New Mexico. Along with travel, her passions included scuba

diving, ballroom and square dancing, music, hiking, bird watching, biking, and reading.

In addition to her husband of 53 years, she is survived by her daughters, Rosalind Rosenthal (husband Daniel) of Boxford, MA, and Lynette Loew (husband, Eric) of Longmont, CO; along with her grandchildren, James and Rachel Rosenthal and Ryan Courtney, Jonathan, and Aryn Loew. Her son, Mark V. Swithenbank, predeceased his mother in 1981.

Services will be held on Thursday, August 29, 2013, at 11:00 A.M. at Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home, 130 Speer Road, Chestertown, MD 21620. The Rev. Sara Holben will officiate. Interment will be held privately.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

AUG **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Chestertown Location  
130 Speer Road  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
(410) 778-0055  
[info@fhnfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@fhnfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ruth Margaret Swithenbank*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Ruth Margaret Swithenbank*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Ruth Margaret Swithenbank*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



PG

“ *We met Ruth and Colin in the 1960's. We were neighbors and had many great times.*

*Our children played with their children. They are wonderful caring people. Cliff and I are very sorry to hear about Ruth's passing. We have so many memories to cherish, the parties, our children spending time at your home, the Lion's club affairs and Ruth being a taxi for us. God Bless the Swithenbank family.*

*With sincere sympathy Cliff and Pat Gahman.*

Patricia Gahman - September 01, 2013 at 08:38 PM

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“ Al and I are truly sorry to hear about the passing of Ruth. Words cannot express our sorrow and we want to offer our deepest condolences.

*We had first met Ruth and Colin in the Bahamas in the winter or 1998/99 on our first southern expedition on our PDQ '1 Cool Cat'. In September 2002, much to our delight, Ruth and Colin were able to join us for our wedding in Nova Scotia. I will never forget the time when we visited them at their home, Colin and Ruth insisted that we use their whirlpool bathtub and showered us with not one, but two bottles of wine to enjoy while bathing!! Now that was a treat after spending a long time on our boat.*

*Our sympathy to Colin and family at this difficult time.*

*Michele A. O'Neill and Allan E. Shortt  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia*

*“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen, nor touched, but are felt in the heart.” – Helen Keller*

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**Michele A. O'Neill** - August 29, 2013 at 08:49 AM