



Aase Marie (Arnold) Loescher

January 31, 1928 - November 24, 2015

Aase Arnold Loescher, 87, passed away on Nov. 24, 2015 after a brief illness. She was born in Brooklyn, New York to Valborg Stengel Arnold and Oscar Arnold in Brooklyn, NY where her father was an engineer. She spent much of her early childhood in Norway, moved back to the U.S. during her elementary years, and continued to visit her relatives in Norway throughout her life.

She greatly loved her two nations: the U.S.A. for her "wonderful life" and Norway for her "beloved heritage".

Following her 1950 graduation from Swarthmore College with a bachelor's degree in economics, she received a Fulbright Scholarship and studied in Bergen, Norway. Following her travels, she worked as an intelligence analyst for the federal government in Washington D.C. In the summer of 1953 she met fellow Swarthmore alum Samuel Loescher, a professor of economics at Indiana University. They married that November and she moved to Bloomington where she resided for the rest of her life.

She worked for the IU Press until starting a family. Aase and Sam had three children and six grandchildren, all of whom will greatly miss Aase's positive spirit, thoughtful wisdom, endless encouragement, and social conscience.

Aase felt called to serve. Second only to her family, Aase was committed to her community and to promoting peace. She believed that government, NGO's, and businesses should meet the needs of the people. To that end, she was an active member of the local chapters of the following organizations: League of Women Voters (former officer and 50+-year member); Common Cause of Indiana (member of the statewide board); Consumer Funeral Alliance; and Monroe County United Ministries (board member). She also served as executive director of the Community Service Council, and advocated for the needs of several different children as a CASA volunteer.

Aase was an avid peace activist and described by others in Bloomington as "the voice of peace for our community for many years". Although preferring to stay out of the limelight, she was a faithful presence at peace rallies throughout South Central Indiana. Aase was active in the local and state chapters of a number of peace-related organizations beginning in the 1980's. She participated in the Ground Zero campaign, raising awareness of the nuclear war threat. She was a former chairman of Bloomington's Congregations for Peace (CPax) and served as treasurer for Bloomington's Peace Action Coalition (BPAC). She was active in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and faithfully attended monthly Hour For Peace gatherings up until her death. In 2009 Monroe County Church Women United awarded her their first Human Rights Award for how she lived out her "unwavering belief in the importance of peace".

Aase is survived by daughter Randi Stocker (Richard) of Franklin, IN, son Rolf Loescher (Donna Darcy), of Columbus, IN, daughter Siri Loescher of Bloomington, IN, and grandchildren

Christopher Stocker (Katie) of Minneapolis, MN, Rebecca Stocker of Boston, MA, Justin Loescher of Houston, TX, Corey Loescher of West Lafayette, IN, Timo Loescher of Carmel, IN, and Sam Loescher of Laramie, WY.

A service celebrating her life will be held on Saturday, December 12 at 10:30 am, at First United Church in Bloomington, Indiana. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Monroe County United Ministries (<http://mcum.org/support/> 827 West 14th Court, Bloomington, IN 47404) or Women's International League of Peace and Freedom (<http://wilpf.org> 777 UN Plaza, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10017). And non-monetary donations may be made to Opportunity House (<http://mcum.org/opportunityhouse/> 907 W. 11th Street, Bloomington, IN).

Arrangements have been entrusted to Allen Funeral Home and Crematory, 4155 S. Old State Road 37. The family requests that memories of Aase be posted at www.allenfuneralhome.org

Tribute Wall

“ I’ve known Aase for as long as my memory reaches back. Aase was such a wonderful person, a pillar of stability and support. She taught us children (Siri and I) lessons in thought provoking ways. A few examples to illustrate this follow.

A long time ago, when we were in seventh grade, a lady selling magazines came by as we were playing in the front yard. She asked to use the facilities and we (regrettably) agreed. Later that afternoon, Aase noticed that her wallet, which she always kept at a place close to the front door, was missing. We feared the worst. We felt miserable. Later we did find the discarded wallet - containing credit cards, no cash - underneath a bush between our houses so confirming our right to feeling miserable. Aase’s later response to all of this was along the lines of how the lady must have really needed help and that it was ok that she found it (referring to missing items such as shampoo and soap). At the time I couldn’t understand the omission of the obvious, a couple years later I sort of did. Now, looking back it seems a most graceful acknowledgement of an important step into adulthood. I wonder if she intended it this way.

Sometime during our college years, Siri had a fender-bender incident with the big station wagon. Mortified, she confessed. Aase’s response: akin to “that’s why you are driving that car and not ours”. A bit of a revert here: from adult-to-adult (stolen soaps) to adult-to-child ... but sooo appreciated at the time.

My final example, and there are so many from the times in between, is in the context of maternal instincts. I was declining an invitation to a hot-air balloon experience Aase had organized for Siri’s birthday. Aase responded with her own story about how the then young children - Rondi, Rolf and Siri - were playing in the yard when a large 5-6 foot snake, possibly a Copperhead, from the creek slithered into the yard. Without a second thought (Aase reported), she took a hoe and chopped the snake in half. I have wondered about this often (being so out-of-Aase’s nature), there is a message there.

Aase, with her caring nature, also provided great financial support (as it turned out) for my mother. Following a bad bought of the flu, we had signed up for a secondary health insurance policy. When conditions later worsened and financial support was needed, we encountered trouble working with the insurers. There were letters exchanged, for me then in California hard to respond to – especially when letters were possibly misplaced. Aase stepped in, demonstrated that the policy had been effective before our times of trouble and compensation was then received. We (my Mom and I) appreciated this then and I do strive to have such impact someday/somewhere/somehow with an act of kindness that may likewise have such great impact.

I will forever picture Aase in this way: she was always at the front door (always dressed so proper, almost formal) to say welcome and later to say good-bye. Aase was never ever too busy for that.

Michiko Minty - January 07, 2016 at 12:21 PM

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“ *Aase was truly a woman of peace. Her clarity, gentleness and and quiet determination will be much missed. I feel privileged to have known her.*

Antoinia Matthew - January 07, 2016 at 12:21 PM