



Saundra Barrett Taylor

March 21, 1944 - February 17, 2018

Saundra Barrett Taylor passed away on February 17, 2018, at the IU Health Hospice House in Bloomington, Indiana. She was the daughter of Howard Goodwin Taylor and Mary Margaret Barrett Taylor and was born in Lexington, Kentucky on March 21, 1944. In 1955 Saundra moved with her mother and brother Howard to the San Fernando Valley in California. She graduated from Reseda High School in 1962, attended Pierce College and then UCLA where she earned a B.A., a M.A. in History and a Masters in Library Science.

Saundra began her library career at UCLA and became the Manuscripts Librarian and the Assistant to the University Archivist in the UCLA Libraries Department of Special Collections. In 1974 Saundra moved to Bloomington, Indiana to become the Curator of Manuscripts/Head of the Manuscripts Department at the IU Lilly Library. She held that post until her retirement in 2008. In addition, Saundra taught an annual course for the IU School of Library and Information Science. For her important work on the preservation of Hoosier heritage, Saundra was recognized by Governor Orr in 1988 as a "Sagamore of the Wabash". Saundra was active in many manuscripts organizations, both state and national.

Saundra travelled extensively including trips to Europe, China, Easter Island, Costa Rica, Australia and New Zealand. Her last international trip was to Italy last July. Saundra became an IU sports fan as soon as she moved to Bloomington and attended her last IU basketball game in early December. She was an IU football season ticket holder for over 35 years.

Theater was one of Sandra's loves. She was a current board member of the Bloomington Playwrights Project, a supporter of the IU Theater and Dance Department and of Cardinal Theater and was past president of the IU Faculty and Drama Club.

In her retirement, Sandra became involved with the Monroe County History Center where she was a former board member, served on both the sports and cemetery committees and volunteered at the center. Sandra also volunteered at the IU Kinsey Library where she catalogued manuscripts. Other memberships include the League of Women Voters and the Monroe County Democrats' Club.

Sandra is survived by her brother Howard Taylor, Roseburg, Oregon, her sister-in-law Linda Taylor, Centennial, Wyoming, her niece De Ann Taylor Bocko (Andy), their 2 children of Laguna Niguel, California, her nephew Tony Taylor of Centennial, Wyoming, cousins Jane and Bob Smith of Louisville, Kentucky. Sandra leaves behind many friends in Bloomington and elsewhere.

Please make a donation to your favorite charity in Sandra's memory. A gathering to remember Sandra's life will be held at the Monroe County History Center Saturday, February 24, 2018, from 2-4 pm.

You are invited to share a memory or leave an online condolence to Sandra's family at www.allencares.com

Tribute Wall

CJ

“ I met Sandra when I worked at the Lilly Library. We bonded over IU basketball and when she had a spare ticket, she would often invite me to join her at Assembly Hall. After she retired from her long career at Lilly, she generously donated her time and expertise to the Kinsey Institute (where I had gone to work)--she spent one day a week in the chilly archives on the top floor of Morrison Hall, organizing the papers of Masters and Johnson and other researchers. We would chat about the latest project, share stories about our cats, and of course, talk about basketball if it was the season.

Catherine Johnson-Roehr

Catherine Johnson-Roehr - March 15, 2018 at 11:12 PM

CH

“ I was a graduate work-study student under Sandra at the Lilly Library. She went out of her way to make me feel like a valued member of the 'team' even though I was not a professional. One particular memory will always stand out: she invited me and another graduate student to her house for Thanksgiving dinner (which was delicious). After taking us home, she returned to find her dog muzzle-deep in the turkey cavity, having pulled the carcass to the floor from the kitchen counter and already devoured most of the remaining thigh and leg. No turkey leftovers that year, and luckily no damage to the doggie innards either.

Carol Harding - March 01, 2018 at 06:06 PM

SE

“ *Saundra was an energetic worker with the History Center's Cemetery Committee. Just last October she helped us with work in the Smithville Cemetery. She was also helping to edit a book on the cemeteries in Monroe County, until she got too weak. She will be greatly missed.*

Scott Emery - February 22, 2018 at 07:12 PM

CH

I worked for Saundra as a student in the early 80s. She was brilliant! She treated me great. I remember a wonderful get together at her house and her beloved dog and her cat Skylar. I learned a lot working for her at this wonderful place at Showalter fountain. We had breaks in a lavish den where we all sat in a circle on sofas and nice chairs. She engaged all of us in wonderful conversations. I can still hear her wonderful laugh. Great woman.

Colleen Hayford - April 09 at 08:22 AM

CH

Add on to above: we worked together at The Lilly Library Rare Manuscripts and Rare Books Archive.

Colleen Hayford - April 09 at 08:24 AM

DS

“ *Saundra prepared generations of students to become effective, knowledgeable rare books and manuscripts librarians. Her commitment to individualized instruction built on each student's strengths and interests. I recall the enthusiasm from so many of Saundra's students as they prepared exhibits, choosing just the right items from the treasures in the Lilly Library. It has been a pleasure to share Saundra's post-retirement enthusiasm for the theater, especially the BPP.*

Debora Shaw - February 22, 2018 at 08:30 AM

AO

“ *Sandra will be sorely missed. I knew her through her association with The Manuscript Society--she was a former Trustee and regular attendee at our annual meetings. She loved archival work and delving into rare manuscripts. When I joined the Society and attended my first annual meeting, she was the first to welcome me. I shall long remember that act of kindness.*

Allen Ottens

Vice-President

The Manuscript Society

Allen Ottens - February 21, 2018 at 11:39 AM