



Esther Louise Friend

JUL 18, 1921 - JUL 18, 2015



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5



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Esther MacNeill Friend, age 94, of Lewes, DE, passed away on Saturday, July 18, 2015, 10 days shy of her 95th birthday at Beebe Medical Center in Lewes. She was born in Attleboro, MA, on July 28, 1920, daughter of the late Robert James and Florence Emmeline (Hewes) MacNeill.

Esther graduated from Plainville High School (Massachusetts) in 1938. She received her BA from Oberlin College, OH in 1943. Esther then married, produced two sons, and simultaneously earned a MEd in Secondary Education at Temple University in 1957. She also continued Post Graduate studies at Temple University and the University of Vermont. The degree led to years of teaching and counseling in public schools. She then took early retirement to return to Plainville to care for her parents in the house where she had grown up.

Esther moved to Delaware, built her home in Georgetown, and worked for a law firm there as a title-searcher. It was during those years that she returned to theatre work as an actress, backstage dogsbody, and also directing at the Milton Theater and at Possum Point Players in Georgetown. A convinced Quaker, she enjoyed writing, having published "Living Happily in the Great Depression and Beyond." Her last engagement was July 8th of this year when she spoke to a packed house at the Unlikely Story bookstore in Plainville about her book and growing up there during the depression.

In addition to her parents, her loving husband, Donald Russell Friend, a sister, Miriam Hutchinson and her husband Robert, preceded her in death. She is survived by her sons, Douglas Friend and his wife Vicki of Lewes, and Larry Friend and his wife Masha of Oak Orchard; three grandsons, Christopher Spillman, Daniel Spillman and his partner Chrissy, and Jesse Friend; two great-grandsons, Lucas and Henry; a nephew, David Hutchinson and his wife Kaki and a niece, Beth Piper and her husband Arnie. She will be sorely missed for her humor, wisdom and candor by her family and many friends who loved her dearly.



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Funeral Services will be private. A memorial evening in her honor is currently being planned and will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Esther's name to the Possum Point Players, P.O. Box 96, Georgetown, DE 19947, the site of her last appearance playing a character other than herself.

Please sign Mrs. Friend's online guestbook at this site.

[PDF Printable Version](#)



Tribute Wall

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JH

Josh Hitchens posted:

Esther was an incredible woman who mentored me in the first show I ever directed - A Midsummer Nights Dream at Possums when I was still in high school. She gave me strength that I still feel today as a professional director in Philadelphia, and I will never forget her courage and spirit.

October 16 at 8:00 PM

SS

Susann Studz posted:

What a inspiration she was to all of us! I will not forget her what a joyous soul!

October 15 at 8:00 PM

MM

Marie Michael posted:

I am so honored to have had the chance to see her in her last performance at Possum Point. She was simply wonderful.

October 14 at 8:00 PM

SA

Stephanie Allman posted:

Esther is an inspiration to me and many others with her humor, honesty, warmth, fortitude and everlasting curiosity. I am blessed to have known Esther as a beloved friend, companion, mentor and neighbor from the day I moved to Lewes. She will always be remembered.

October 13 at 8:00 PM

BS

Beverly Helene Smith posted:

In the words of Gerald Manley Hopkins: "Her prime of life - cut down too soon By death - as th morning flower at noon...." Rest in peace in Gods loving arms

October 13 at 8:00 PM



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KK

Kim Klabe posted:

I sure do miss you! You were one of the brightest and best. Always reading, always learning, always laughing and smiling. You have been such an amazing influence on my life and I will miss riding to the theatre with you, running lines, sharing a stage and just being in your fabulous presence. Love you always.

October 13 at 8:00 PM

RR

Robert Rosenberg posted:

I had known Esther only a brief time but we had such great plans for theater in Lewes. She was a wonderful friend and co-worker. We will try and build a program her ein Lewes in her honor.

July 29 at 8:00 PM

HH

H.W. Dick Hannam posted:

I will truly miss having Esther as a friend and neighbor at Huling Cove. To her family members, please accept my condolences. I know you will greatly miss her as well.

July 24 at 8:00 PM

ML

Maxine Lawrie posted:

Today I received an electronic message- informing me of Esther's passing. I met Esther, at the Possum Point Player's reading group, January 2001. Esther was the facilitator. Esther was one of the most generous, practical, fun loving, hard working, interesting, admired by teens and adults alike, a researcher into history, book writer and modest individual- I ever had the privilege to know. I will always remember Esther and will miss her so much. My sincere condolences to Esther's sons and family.

July 24 at 8:00 PM

JD

Janet Becque Dittrich posted:

Doug, Vicki and Friend Family, I am deeply sorry for your loss. Ester was a true inspiration in the selfless way she lived her life. Much love to you all.

July 24 at 8:00 PM



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JT

Joan Tyndall posted:

To know Esther was to love her, she was the most amazing woman I have ever known and I am sad to read of her passing but glad that her life was long and she lived it fully.

July 24 at 8:00 PM

JG

Juanita Latter Gary posted:

Esther was a pleasure to be with, a wise, interesting conversationalist, and simply a good person. I thought she should live forever, but was sadly mistaken. She will be missed by her family and all who knew her. Nita Gary

July 23 at 8:00 PM

MA

Madelyn Adams posted:

Doug, Vicky & Family, My heart is with you.

July 23 at 8:00 PM

JH

Jim And Louise Hartzell posted:

We feel the loss of a great friend and beautiful person.

July 23 at 8:00 PM

MQ

Mary Quinn posted:

Fondly remembering Mrs. Friend, a teacher and counselor when I attended Stanton School District as her student. I attribute my devotion to learning and the pursuance of my career in part to dear Mrs. Friend.

July 23 at 8:00 PM

JM

John Marino posted:

Our thoughts are with you at this most difficult times. We are selfish in our wish to have known her longer and better. Lorraine & John Marino

July 21 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Esther by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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