

# OBITUARIES



**DONNA FELT ARSENAULT COOPER**

**BRUNSWICK** - Donna Cooper, 73, passed away in Brunswick on November 17, 2015 after a long illness.

She taught at Morrison Memorial School in East Corinth, Marion C. Cook School in Lagrange, Milo Elementary and Pine Tree Academy in Freeport.

She was predeceased by her loving parents Eunice and Lester Felt and her devoted husband, Andrew Cooper. She is survived by her children: Leisa Maxwell and her husband Scott, Greg Arsenault and his wife Stacey and Kristen Gaughan, her grandchildren: Kyle, Kelsey and Kaitlyn Gaughan, Meghan Arsenault and Elora Maxwell, her dear sisters: Diane Worcester and Valerie McClelland and her mother-in-law May Cooper.

Donna would like to let her beloved friends and family know how precious you all have been to her. Knowing and loving each one of you was the success story of her life. She was confident we will meet again, joyfully, when the trumpets sound.

A service for Donna will be held in the spring. A full tribute and guestbook are available on tributes.com. In lieu of flowers, a scholarship in her name has been created at [gofund.me/donnacooper](http://gofund.me/donnacooper)



**CLAIRE BURTON**

**MACHIASPORT** - Claire Goodridge Burton passed away peacefully in her sleep November 23, 2015. Claire was born April 28, 1944 in Hartland, Maine. She was the daughter of Frank and Frances Goodridge of Canaan, Maine.

She grew up in the Canaan and Bangor area and attended Mary Snow School before moving to Wallingford, CT. She graduated from Lyman Hall High School in 1963. Claire worked at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in North Haven for ten years before returning to Machiasport, Maine where she worked at Helen's Restaurant as a cook and baker.

Claire is survived by her husband Merlin Burton, her son George Goriss and his wife Tracie and two granddaughters, Hannah and Emily Goriss of Gorham, Maine.

A celebration of life will be held on Sunday, November 29th at 1:00pm at the Head of the River Baptist Church, Cutler, Maine. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Head of the River Baptist Church, P.O. Box 42, East Machias, Maine 04630.



**CEDRIC W. RYDER**

**HERMON** - Cedric William Ryder, 76, died unexpectedly November 21, 2015, in Hermon while hunting with his son. He was born July 20, 1939, in Newburgh the son of Ira P. and Beatrice I. (Hamlin) Ryder.

Cedric loved hunting and fishing. There are many great memories fishing with his son on Sundays either open water fishing or ice fishing. He will be missed by the Swanville Gang during ice fishing season. Cedric loved his job and all the people he worked with at the Carmel Elementary School. He will be dearly missed and was well loved.

He is survived by his children, Keith Ryder and wife Angela of Belfast, Sharon Ryder of Wichita Falls, TX, Kevin Ryder of Kentucky; six grandchildren, Dacia and Taila Ryder, Brandi Senior, Shannon Mueller, Zach and Kevin Ryder; brothers, Sheldon Ryder and wife Hazel, Erwin Ryder; a sister Donna Turner and husband Wayne; several great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins, and many dear friends.

Services will be private for the family. Condolences to the family may be expressed at [www.BrookingsSmith.com](http://www.BrookingsSmith.com).



**GORDON DEAN HOPE**

**BANGOR** - Gordon Dean Hope, 84, died Nov. 19, 2015, at the Maine Veterans Home.

Born and raised in Millinocket, Maine, he was the only son of Harry and Dorothy Hope.

Dean having served in the U.S. Air Force, met his wife of 62 years, Hazel May (Hemmings) Hope, while stationed in England. Returning to live in Millinocket and then Bangor, together they raised four sons. Dean (Clyde) was best known on Interstate 95 by big rig drivers and state troopers. Spending 20-plus years helping to clear the road of accidents as a Wrecker Driver. Dean and Hazel loved their summer road trips, taking their camper all over New England and Canada. Dean also went by the handle of, Casper the Friendly Ghost, when on his CB radio. After retirement, Dean and Hazel loved to spend time with their grandchildren.

Dean is survived, in addition to his wife, Hazel, by sons, Garry Hope and wife, Brenna (Lynch) Hope, Stephen Hope and wife, Marie (Therriault) Hope and family, Gregory Hope and family, and Darren Hope and Kim Rich and family. Also grandchildren, Ashley Hope, Meaghan Hope and Jenna May Hope; great-grandchildren, Chayse Hope and Zoe Morley; and several great-nieces and great-nephews. Dean was predeceased by two sisters, Dawn Madore and Marion Lyons; and nephew, Dick Burby.

We will all miss him dearly.



**SEYMOUR LIPKIN**

**BLUE HILL** - Seymour Lipkin, Born 1927, Detroit, Mi., died Mon, Nov. 16 2015, Blue Hill, Me. He was a pianist, conductor, teacher, musical collaborator, and for 29 years, Artistic Director of the Kneisel Hall chamber music school and festival in Blue Hill; which, at his death, he had conveyed to the very pinnacle of American musical life. He was a pianist prized for the purity, clarity and humility of his performances. Never indulging in device or grand gesture, he employed his intelligence, introspection and discipline to illuminate the shape and architecture of the music he played, paring away extraneous mannerism to make clear the line in the music, drawing the listener along. Because his playing was so free from artifice or additional 'fluff,' one would suddenly hear the composer's (and the music's) purpose, often making even pieces that might be familiar, more alive and available to be understood.

A diminutive, somewhat spare man, he quietly, over years of un-flamboyant dedication in teaching and performance, attained a standing of pre-eminent respect - reverence even, among both his colleagues and the musical community at large. It was typical of his concerts that they should be as populated by fellow musicians as by members of the general public. He enjoyed a spectacular early career. A student of Rudolf Serkin and Mieczyslaw Horzowski at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, at 17 he was selected to accompany the famous violinist Jascha Heifetz on a USO tour during the second world war, two years later winning the Rachmaninof Prize, a national piano competition adjudicated by Vladimir Horowitz, which earned him debut performances with all the major American symphony orchestras. However, he did not appear to seek the large-scale public prominence that these beginnings offered. His parallel interest in conducting led him first to an apprenticeship under George Szell at the Cleveland orchestra, followed by a position as Assistant Conductor at the New York Philharmonic. Ultimately this interest, and his frustrations with the shortcomings of the piano as an insufficiently lyrical instrument, led him to put aside performing for twenty years, serving in that period as Conductor of the Joffrey Ballet and the Long Island Symphony Orchestra.

He returned to performance in 1981, joining the faculty of The Juilliard School and assuming the Directorship of Kneisel Hall in 1987, having earlier been appointed to the faculty at Curtis as well as teaching at a series of other music schools. Lipkin's exacting standards, and the quality he sought, created a demanding framework. Not, however, a pitiless demand for abstract perfection, but an insistence that musicians play with engagement, honesty and without self-indulgence, attentive to hearing both colleagues and themselves, attending tirelessly to details, however minute or thankless. He liked to refer to a story perhaps revealing of his own attitudes, which involved the tyrannical conductor Arturo Toscanini. A psychiatrist and amateur musician was asked after attending a rehearsal where the conductor had been particularly difficult "But why do the musicians take it? Why don't they just walk out?" The psychiatrist answered "Because he doesn't do it for himself." This was epigrammatic of Mr. Lipkin. His approach to music making was selfless, his adherence to musical ideals quite unrelated to questions of ego or career. He would tell students, "We become the greatness of the composer we are dealing with," in this one statement both encouraging the student, and shining the light on the composer, deflecting the attention from the performer.

His rigor was applied in far greater measure to himself than to students or colleagues. In the hours before every single faculty performance at Kneisel Hall, students on the campus would hear his preparations, a methodical march through a series of finger-exercises of his own devising - simple and maddeningly dull-sounding patterns which he used to foster control of the individual muscles of the hands and arms. Generally musicians before a performance will be heard playing and re-playing all the most demanding passages in the music to be played. Lipkin, instead, faithfully adhered to this routine - before every single concert. His special ire was reserved for young pianists who, in the heat of performance, might play with too much self-involvement (and volume), not listening or deferring to their colleagues. In avoiding this himself, Mr. Lipkin designed a lower music stand for the piano, which though it made reading the score more difficult (and turning his pages a terror), blocked less sound, so he might more accurately gauge his interaction with fellow performers.

In 1995, after a first marriage to Catherine Bing, he met and later married Ellen Werner, who became his partner in guiding the development of Kneisel Hall. He is further survived by his son from his first marriage Jonathan and wife Danae Oratowski, stepchildren Daniel Walker (Melisa), Benjamin Walker (Jennifer), Sarah Hodges (Curtis), grandchildren Sophia Lipkin, Eve Lipkin, Louis Walker, Harry Walker, Melina Walker and niece Clare Schwarz (Mark Zdzairski).

One might easily misunderstand the determination with which Lipkin addressed what he saw as his duty as a musician. It was sometimes joked that his only manifested weakness was a fondness for cookies, in particular New York style Black-and-Whites. He could appear unswerving, unrelenting or sometimes, fierce. In fact, the dedication with which he addressed himself to his craft was in service to his absolute delight in the music he played, a joyous liveliness in all his performances, which inspired generations of both colleagues and students, and allowed that music to remain relevant in a much-changed world.

Donations in his memory may be made to Kneisel Hall, P.O. 648, Blue Hill, ME 04614.

## Leader of disabilities rights, advocacy in LA dies at 86

BY ELAINE WOO  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

In 1958, Robert Shushan was a Los Angeles high school teacher with hopes of joining the administrative ranks when his sister disrupted his plans.

She belonged to a grassroots parents group that wanted to provide an alternative to institutionalization for children like her son, who was born with profound intellectual disabilities. But the group was broke and falling apart. Would Shushan consider taking charge as its first executive director?

He thought he would help out temporarily, but he wound up guiding the Exceptional Children's Foundation to the forefront of its field over the next 40 years.

Under his leadership, the Los Angeles-area nonprofit pioneered programs to tap the potential of people whom society had largely written off. It is now one of the oldest organizations in the country providing training, jobs and other services to children and adults with Down syndrome and other conditions.

"He was there at the frontier ... a very creative and strong spokesperson for individuals with developmental disabilities," said Leslie B. Abell, an attorney and past chair of the foundation.

Shushan, who was known nationally for expanding opportunities for the developmentally disabled, died Nov. 9 in San Diego after a short illness, said his son, Larry. He was 86.

His efforts to help one young man whose challenges involved his looks as well as his mental limitations inspired "Behind the Mask," a 1999 TV movie starring Donald Sutherland.

Shushan "was a pioneer in addressing the physical appearance of individuals with disabilities to help them overcome social stigma and biases based upon their looks," said David Dubinsky, regional director of SourceAmerica, a national organization that creates job opportunities for disabled workers.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, on June 23, 1929, Shushan was the youngest of six children of Russian Jewish immigrants. He moved to Los Angeles with his family when he was 10.

After graduating from Manual Arts High School, Shushan studied music and sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles, earning a bachelor's degree in 1951 and a master's in education in 1953.

He was a counselor and department head at Polytechnic High School in the San Fernando Valley when his sister told him about the problems facing the foundation: It was \$12,000 in the red and the officers had been thrown out.

He took the job in part because "I was kind of hooked on this particular kid," he said of his nephew, who had been named after him.

One of Shushan's first major initiatives as director was a program that enabled adults with developmental disabilities to "learn and earn" by performing packaging and assembly jobs under contracts with government agencies and community organizations.

"He believed in the value that people with developmental disabilities could contribute to the business community. He was well ahead of everybody in believing in what could be contributed to business from our population," said Scott Bowling, who in 1999 succeeded Shushan as president and chief executive.

Later, Shushan introduced a fine arts training program that enabled them to create, exhibit and sell their work. He also helped establish a center for teaching independent living skills, such as how to prepare a meal, catch a bus and maintain an apartment. Called the S. Mark Taper Center for Exceptional Citizens, it is one of 16 centers operated by the foundation, which now has an annual budget of more than \$25 million.

One of Shushan's proudest achievements was a study he conducted in the early 1970s for his doctoral dissertation at UCLA. It was sparked by his young daughter, who asked him if a child she saw in a nearby car was developmentally disabled. The child wasn't behaving unusually, but it took only a quick glance for Shushan to sense that his daughter, then 5, was right.

That experience led him to mount an experiment to determine whether there were

specific visual cues that people use to identify a person as mentally challenged. He thought it was important to find out if simple cosmetic improvements could erase those cues and thereby increase the social acceptance of such individuals.

He took photographs of 26 young adults, some of whom had normal features and abilities and others who had Down syndrome. He took another set of photos of the latter group after making small adjustments in their appearance, such as adding makeup and stylish glasses.

When he showed the photos to separate groups of volunteers, the results were startling. The volunteers shown the "before" shots quickly identified the subjects who were developmentally disabled. But when another group of volunteers was shown the "after" pictures, he found that they were far less likely to identify the subjects with Down syndrome.

In 1991 Shushan oversaw a dramatic makeover of a young man named James Jones, whose social issues stemmed not only from his low IQ but from his physical features and traits, including missing and grossly misshapen teeth, a menacing walk and a thick, dirty beard. His nickname was "Wolf-man."

Shushan arranged for him to undergo months of dental restoration by oral surgeons who donated their services. He counseled Jones on his grooming and other habits, put him in a new set of clothes and had his hair cut and styled. Jones, who had said at the outset that he just wanted "to look regular," was transformed. "All of sudden," Abell recalled, "he had confidence."

A story about Shushan and Jones in the Los Angeles Times Sunday magazine led to the 1999 CBS movie, which starred Sutherland as Shushan and Matthew Fox as Jones. It ends with film of a real-life reunion Shushan arranged between Jones and his estranged father.

Shushan's first marriage ended in divorce. Besides his son Larry, of San Diego, he is survived by son Jeff of Seattle; daughter Debra Shushan of Albany, Calif.; a granddaughter; and two great-grandchildren. His second wife, Mary, died in 2010.



**REBECCA MARIE MILLER**

**BANGOR** - Rebecca Marie Miller, adopted daughter of Pamela and Andy Meucci passed away unexpectedly October 28, 2015. Rebecca was born February 24, 1942 to Earl R Miller and Marguerite (Lermond) Miller.

Rebecca saw life through the eyes of a child and lived life to its fullest every day. Rebecca enjoyed playing tic tac toe and was a very funny, artistic and intuitive individual. She liked to play jokes on others and her laugh was contagious. You could find Rebecca dressed to the nines and she always loved to accessorize with lots of jewelry and pocket books. Every life she ever touched loved her back.

Rebecca is survived by her brother Granville Miller and her sister Tessie Montgomery and was predeceased by her parents as well as her brother Arlo Miller.

Friends and family are invited to her celebration of life on November 27, 2015 at the Meucci residence 17 Rutland Street in Bangor 5 to 8 p.m.

### How to Contact Us

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DEADLINES:

4:30 p.m. day prior to publication.

Monday deadline is 4:30 p.m. on Friday.



The Bangor Daily News Classifieds and Obituary Departments will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday November 26. Our Circulation Department will be open from 6am-10am for missed and late papers. Thank you for your business.



Bangor Daily News