

Mirriam E.(Salhanick) Schwartz, 87, of Anacortes, Washington, died Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at her home, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on April 13, 1921 in Chelsea, Massachusetts, the daughter of Jacob and Annie (Keen) Salhanick. Mirriam grew up in Revere Beach, Massachusetts where she acquired a lifelong love for the seacoast, evident in her later watercolor paintings. Her early childhood was influenced by her uncle Leo Keen, a professional portraitist, and natural writer and teacher. She grew to love art and intelligent conversation, and pursued her love of knowledge throughout her life. She maintained a lively interest in science, art, and political events, reading and occasionally corresponding with various authors. Her worldly conversation was her hallmark, and had a lasting impact on friends and family.

Mirriam was educated as an artist and draftsman, and worked as a technical illustrator during the later WWII years and into the 1950's at the MIT Instrumentation Laboratory in Cambridge MA. The lab was led by Charles Stark Draper, inventor of inertial guidance systems used in air travel and in space exploration. After moving to New Jersey and raising three children, Mirriam began a second career at the age of 55, moving to Emeryville, California, where she thrived as a technical illustrator for the engineers and physicists at the University of California's Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory for 15 years.

In 1990 Mirriam retired from the Berkeley Lab and, following her daughter Lori, moved to Anacortes, Washington, to live near both her daughters. Mirriam soon became involved with the community. Always an avid bridge player, she had played regularly with her friends in California, and continued in Anacortes with new friends at the Senior Center. She volunteered for the Senior Center Board and

joined a very active Kiwanis group in Anacortes, where she made many dear friends. She immersed herself in Kiwanis service activities. In 2007, Mirriam was honored to receive the Kiwanis Hixson Award for her efforts to promote access to clean water to the children of the world. Her passion for this project was fueled by her continuing interest in the work performed by the scientists she had so enjoyed working for at the Lawrence Berkeley Lab at the University of California.

Above all, Mirriam was a devoted mother to her three children, Barry, Anne, and Lori and will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Mirriam is preceded in death by her parents, Jacob and Annie Salhanick, her former husband Aaron Schwartz, and her sister Lillian Bornstein, and brothers Albert and Harold. She is survived by her son, Barry Schwartz of San Diego, CA; daughters and son-in-law, Anne Schwartz and Michael Brondi of Rockport, WA, and Lori Keen of Anacortes.

A celebration of Mirriam's life will be held on what would have been her 88th birthday, April 13, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. at the Anacortes Senior Center. A casual, after lunch potluck dish is suggested. Please bring a memory to share. Memorials may be made to the Anacortes Kiwanis or to the Anacortes Senior Center. Arrangements are in the care of Evans Funeral Chapel and Crematory, Inc., Anacortes, WA and the San Juan Islands. To share memories of Mirriam, please sign the online guest register at www.evanschapel.com .