

Anne Louise Davis, dedicated to Plainfield

PLAINFIELD — Miss Anne Louise Davis, 86, died Jan. 26, 2000, at Genesis Elder Care — the Woodlands in Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield, she was a lifelong resident, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Davis; and sister of F. Edgar Davis.



Miss Davis graduated from The Hartridge School in Plainfield in 1930. Finishing high school during the Depression, Miss Davis attended Katherine Gibbs to learn secretarial skills and went to work as a secretary for the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency in New York City. After six years there, she was the company's liaison to its public relations office and moved on to become a literary agent handling contracts for non-fiction magazine articles, radio, T.V. and movies. She would work full time during the week in New York and then would volunteer 7 to 11 p.m. as a nurse's aide at Muhlenberg Hospital.

Miss Davis was dedicated to the city of Plainfield, feeling "everyone has a debt to society, a responsibility." She served with the Friends of the Plainfield Public Library, the United Way of Plainfield, North Plainfield and Fanwood, the Plainfield Area Humane Society, the Historical Society of Plainfield, the Beautification/Anti-Litter Campaign, the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee, the Downtown Development Corp., Junior League of Elizabeth and Plainfield, the Kids' Bookmobile, the Mayor's Youth Employment Committee, the Plainfield Rumor Control Bureau, the Plainfield Action Services, the Plainfield — Central Jersey Chamber of Commerce, the Plainfield Symphony, the Sycamore Twig, the Auxiliary of Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center and the Union County Ancillary Manpower Board. She founded the South Second Street Youth Center, Plainfield, and served on its board; she also served as president of the Plainfield Public Library Board of Trustees for many years. In addition, she was an accomplished sculptor who learned at the Jewish Community Center in Plainfield. African mahogany was her favorite medium.

In 1971, Miss Davis was recognized by the State of New Jersey and the Plainfield Board of Education for writing the schools' newsletter; in 1977, she received the Whitney Baker Award by the United Way of Plainfield, North Plainfield and Fanwood; in 1981, the First Volunteer Service Award by the Junior League of Plainfield — Elizabeth; in 1987, a special recognition from Healthy Mothers — Healthy Babies Program; in 1990, a special citizen recognition from the City of Plainfield; and in 1991, was nominated for President Bush's One Thousand Points of Light.

At a testimonial dinner held on Sunday, June 30, 1991, at the Twin Brook Country Club in Watchung, 130 people from the numerous organizations and the Plainfield community gathered to recognize Anne Louise Davis, an evening described later by one of the participants as "a roomful of people with great admiration for this woman and her constructive life." Aside from the accolades she received from friends, she received a written commendation from President George Bush and a proclamation from Mayor Harold Mitchell. True to form, the proceeds of the \$30-a-plate dinner were used to buy books for the Plainfield Public Library.

Surviving are her sister-in-law, Dorothy C. Davis of Essex, Conn.; and two nephews, F. Edgar Davis Jr. of Plainfield and Geoffrey C. Davis of Geneva, N.Y.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Feb. 17, 2000, at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in Plainfield.

Contributions in her memory may be made to either the Plainfield Area Humane Society, 75 Rock Ave., Plainfield, N.J. 07060; the Muhlenberg Foundation, Park Avenue at Randolph Road, Plainfield, N.J. 07060 or the Plainfield Public Library, West Eighth Street and Park Avenue, Plainfield, N.J. 07060.

Arrangements are under the direction of Higgins Home for Funerals, 209 West Eighth St., Plainfield.