



Margaret M. Szydlik

April 23, 2010

Maggie Szydlik, who once closed her eyes, put a finger on a map and, as a result, emigrated from London, England to San Francisco, California, died Friday, 23 April, at her home in Winter Park after a lifetime of world travel.

Margaret Mary McLaughlin was born in Finchley, North London, to two immigrants from Ireland: Henry McLaughlin, of Londonderry, Northern Ireland, and his wife Sarah, of Wicklow, Republic of Ireland. Throughout her life, Maggie joked that she had to leave Finchley because "Maggie Thatcher was the Member of Parliament for Finchley and there was simply no room for two Maggies in Finchley."

After starting her career with the BBC in London, she moved to San Francisco and got a job with NBC News. While with NBC, she worked with Chet Huntley and David Brinkley at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. In 1969, she married Frederick P. Szydlik, who was serving in the U.S. Navy, and moved with him to Washington D.C.. Maggie transferred to the NBC affiliate in Washington. Among her assignments with the news department was coverage of the opening of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts at which Leonard Bernstein conducted the premier of his Mass.

In 1972, the Szydliks emigrated to Wellington, New Zealand, where Maggie worked for the country's public television service in news and current affairs.

She also received a BA degree from Victoria University. The Szydliks lived in New Zealand for seven years before returning to the U.S.. They lived in Albany, NY, Boca Raton, FL, and Vienna, Austria where Fred was on assignment for his employer, IBM. In 1997, the couple moved to Winter Park.

Maggie was an active member of the English-Speaking Union and the University Club of Winter Park. She was also a member of many book groups, including the Morse Literary Group.

All her life, Maggie reveled in her Irish roots, delighted in her English heritage, and remained addicted to reading and traveling the world. Fred, her husband of 40 years, is her only survivor.

In lieu of flowers, friends may make donations in Maggie's memory to the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Orlando, through the Orlando Health Foundation, 3160 Southgate Commerce Blvd. Suite 50, Orlando, FL 32806, or at www.orlandohealth.com.

A get-together to celebrate Maggie Szydlik's life will be held at a later date

Tribute Wall



“ *In mind and heart always.##imported-begin##Peter and Barbara##imported-end##*

April 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *I enjoyed Maggie's quick wit and intelligence. She was such bright light in our Morse Reading Group. I will miss her.##imported-begin##Henrietta Katzen##imported-end##*

April 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Fred: I am so sorry. Maggie 's passing leaves a great void in our Literary Group and in my heart. she was a delightful lady, both strong and funny. I shall miss her library visits. God be with you .##imported-begin##Mary Lou Ghezzi##imported-end##*

April 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Fred, we are so sorry to hear about Maggie. She was always such an upbeat and happy person and I always enjoyed talking to her. She had such enthusiasm and zest for life. I wish I had gotten to know her better. We know this makes a tremendous void in your life and we pray that God grant you strength and peace during this difficult time. We are just around the corner at 451 Huntington so please feel free to stop by any time. Take care, Pam and Tom Smith##imported-begin##Pam and Tom Smith##imported-end##*

April 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Fred,
What a delight Maggie was! She was the kind of woman one wished they had hours to spend with. I miss seeing her walking through the neighborhood with her backpack full of books. Our hearts and thoughts are with you.
Pam and Steve Coutant###imported-begin##Pam and Steve Coutant###imported-end##

April 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ In our family "Freg and Maddie" had a privileged place, we all remember their NZ visits to us and ours to them in the New York, Florida and Vienna They were always a time of happiness and laughter. Maggie you were fun to be with and Fred you weren't so bad for the occasional chuckle.###imported-begin##The Parkinson Family###imported-end##

April 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ A lover of literature and of life, Maggie knew that to love life was to love literature. She was such a bright presence, so immediately and fully "There" when talking with you, laughing, eyes twinkling with wit and intelligence. I remember Maggie from long ago and far away, the 1960s in the S.F. Bay area, but the memory has not faded, nor will it ever. She would yank you out of your complacency or doldrums or whatever that stupid place was that you were finding so comfortable at the time. She was an explosion of life. If you didn't want to participate, stand back, but her wit and gentle humor would soon rope you back in. By all those who were so fortunate to have known and loved Maggie, she will be greatly missed. When it's my turn to cross over into that imagined place beyond "the undiscovered country's bourne," I am going to ring up Maggie, catch up, have a glass of wine, and find out what she thinks of the latest Booker Prize long list of nominees.

Now that's a reason to hope for an afterlife!##imported-begin##Chris Kirchner##imported-end##

April 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Fred, Maggie will be in our hearts forever.##imported-begin##Ellie & Stan##imported-end##

April 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Fred, I didn't know about all the varied details on Maggie's work experience and travel. What an extra-ordinary woman! We were honored to have known her. One of my fond memories is when we were singing carols at our X-mas party she insisted that we sing a few of those less well known carols which I am sure she grew up with. I was standing next to her and fumbled the words and notes but she sang with heart and voice. She will be missed by all that knew her.##imported-begin##Greg & Roberta Favis##imported-end##

April 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ A sad farewell to Maggie, a very dear friend remembered for her wit and infectious enthusiasm for life. Many wonderful memories of times enjoyed together in San Francisco and Sacramento will be cherished always. A truly exceptional person.##imported-begin##Deirdre Kirchner##imported-end##

April 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Fred, Saturday's celebration of Maggie's life was beautiful. I'm just sorry Chuck and I did not know her better.##imported-begin##Judi Sanborn##imported-end##

April 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Fred,
I will always remember the summer in San Francisco when you and Maggie met. We shared eggs and caviar and the drinks you guys called "skip and go naked".
When you and Maggie drove around New Zeland you made me a cassett tape narrating your journey.
Do you remember when you guys came to Sonora, to the gold rush country. You had a yellow Volkswagen van. You and Maggie and my wife April spent the entire day at Lyons Lake. That was the last time that I saw Maggie but far from the last time that I thought of her.
You guys always treated me as an equal.
Thank you both,

Craig##imported-begin##Craig Butelo##imported-end##

April 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Oh, Fred - We were so very sorry to hear your news of one of our favorite people, even though from a long time ago now. I imagine Maggie (and you too, as youi were so much a pair) were favorite people of a great many others. We never saw enough of you, but maybe we can right that with you soon - up here? or in Florida next winter (if we haven't sold our apartment - unlikely for a while!) We send you our love, Fred-----Laurie and Adele##imported-begin##Laurie and Adele Everett##imported-end##

April 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM