



## Helen Platt Goss Vibberts

July 20, 1916 - November 12, 2005

Helen Platt Goss Vibberts was born on July 20th, 1916, at 48 Grove Hill in New Britain, Connecticut. Her father was Stanley T. Goss and mother was Louise Platt Goss. Helen graduated from the Oxford School in Hartford in 1933 and from Vassar College in 1937. She spent the next two years teaching dyslectic students at the Forman School in Litchfield, Connecticut, under the direction of Dr. Samuel Orton, one the first doctors to diagnose dyslexia and develop a treatment for it.

Just after the outbreak of World War II, Helen volunteered for service in the U.S. Navy as a WAVE officer, setting a pattern of service she would follow all her life. Helen was trained in communications in Northampton, Massachusetts and reported for duty to the office of the New York City Port Director where she was promoted to head of the coding department. She later received a posting to the Fleet Naval Radio Station in Wahiawa on the Hawaiian Island of Oahu. After the war, she mustered out of the Navy as a full lieutenant.

Helen then moved back to New York where she worked for Time Inc. in the communications office and eventually progressed to the newsroom. She was offered a job as head of the newsroom in Paris, but declined the position.

On May 12th, 1951, Helen married Jack Vibberts in New Britain, Connecticut. The couple moved to Farmington for two years, then Southington, where

Helen lived for the rest of her life. Helen and Jack designed their Southington home, helped build it and loved working together clearing the woods, planting the gardens and establishing the lawns. She was predeceased by Jack in 1998.

As a small child, Helen spent her summers in Nantucket at her parent's home on Pawgvet Lane. She loved being aboard Gaviota, her father's motorboat. When she married Jack, Helen began spending her summers on Martha's Vineyard at the home of Jack's parents in Harthaven. Helen loved to fish Vineyard waters for blues and striped bass aboard Jack's boat Windward II.

Helen and Jack traveled a lot - often to England, Wales and Ireland and on many cruises aboard friends' boats exploring Bermuda, the Exumas and the British Virgin islands. Later in life, Jack purchased Skimmer, a 29 foot Dyer power boat, in which they cruised Long Island Sound, Gardner's Bay and the Vineyard Sound - often mooring her in Harthaven Harbor. Helen loved to play golf and tennis and was an avid bridge player. She enjoyed sewing and needlepoint.

Helen was a constant volunteer. Among her first loves was the New Britain Museum of American Art, where she served on the Women's Committee from 1967 until her death and was secretary-treasurer for twenty-two years. She helped edit the museum's newsletter and helped establish the museum's traditional "Twelve Days of Christmas." She was a member of the Building and Grounds Committee. A Blood Bank Captain of her local Red Cross for thirty years she also served as a Board member. She edited the Volunteer Newsletter. She was given three Red Cross awards, one of them the "Volunteer of the Year" award for 1985-86. She was also secretary of the Connecticut Red Cross - Connecticut Council. Helen was a devoted member of the First Church of Christ-Congregational in New Britain, serving as a member of the Women's Fellowship, co-chairman of the Flower Committee

and as one of three chairmen for the Building Committee for the new church on Corbin Avenue. She was a member of the New Britain Garden Club since the early 1950's; She served as President from 1962-1964 and received an award for 50 years of endless support and enthusiasm She was also made an honorary life member of the Federated Garden Clubs in Connecticut. Helen was a member of the New Britain Jaycees and the New Britain Civic Improvement Committee.

On Saturday morning, November 12th, Helen passed away peacefully at New Britain General Hospital in the company of her family.

She is survived by her brother, Charles P. Goss of Bloomfield; her sister, Elizabeth G. Young of Bloomfield; her sister-in-law Phronsie V. Conlin of Martha's Vineyard, Mass; and many nephews and nieces.

A memorial service will be held Saturday November 19, 2005 2 PM at First Church of Christ Congregational, 830 Corbin Avenue, New Britain. There are no calling hours. Donations to honor Helen may be made to the charity of the donor's choice. The Carlson Funeral Home, New Britain is assisting the family with arrangements.

Please share a memory or note of sympathy with Helen's family by clicking on "GUESTBOOK" at the bottom of this page.

# Tribute Wall

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“ I've known Helen for over 20 years, both through First Church and as Executive Director of the Friendship Center in New Britain. The Friendship Center is an agency that offers a continuum of services for those who are poor and homeless in the greater New Britain area. Helen, quietly with no fanfare, which was her consistent style, gave \$1200 a year \$100 each month to the Friendship Center for over 20 years. She asked that we not waste our time or money with a thank you note each time she sent a check. All she requested was a year end statement for tax purposes.

*I didn't know the entire story of her life and was fascinated with her early endeavors. Fascinated but not surprised. She was a woman of incredible style, intelligence, dignity and compassion. I will miss her because, although I did not know her well, I always admired her.*

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**Ellen Perkins Simpson** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM