

Betty Haas

Betty Geismer Haas died peacefully in her sleep at home on Friday, December 3, 2010. She was 97. Betty Geismer grew up in Shaker Heights, a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio, and graduated with honors from Wellesley College in 1935. Upon graduation she attended Western Reserve Law School and in 1936 she married Joseph Haas of Atlanta, whom she met in Boston, when he attended Harvard Law School. After moving to Atlanta, Betty shared her love of education as a teacher, tutor and nursery school founder. Additionally, she earned a broker's license later in life. She was an athlete and The Standard Club golf champion at age 50. In Atlanta, Betty practiced her hobby of farming on 26 acres near Chastain Park. When the farm was sold in 1959, she founded the Atlanta Committee for International Visitors (ACIV), now the Georgia Council for International Visitors (GCIV), which continues to host representatives from around the world. Among ACIV's guests were diplomats from African countries, and at Betty's insistence, Atlanta hotels integrated to accommodate the guests and their hosts. Throughout her life Betty supported the cultural, civic, and academic institutions of Atlanta, as well as Wellesley College, and the University of Michigan which her children and two grandchildren attended. Betty is survived by her daughter Susan Reinach of Atlanta, GA, her son Jeffrey Haas of Santa Fe, NM, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. A Memorial Service will be held at The Temple, 1689 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA 30309 on Sunday December 5th at 2:30 pm. In memory of Betty Haas donations may be made to: Geismer Haas Reinach Dean's Merit Scholarship Fund 711085 Office of Gift & Records, 3003 S. State St., Ste. 8000, Ann Arbor, MI 48109 or Mollie Stearn Geismer & Mollie Geismer Mendelson Memorial Fund, Wellesley College Development Services, Attn.: Debbie Mulno, 106 Central St., Wellesley, MA, 02481. Arrangements by Dressler's Jewish Funeral Care, Atlanta, 770.451.4999.

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