

Mary Arlene Conklin Heine March 31, 1914 - Sept. 1, 2006



Madison – Mary Arlene Heine, nee Conklin, died Friday, Sept. 1, 2006. She was the beloved wife for 66 years for Richard W. Heine and is survived by her husband, a daughter, a son, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She was born March 31, 1914 in Iowa City, Iowa, the daughter of Lee and Gladys Conklin from Grand Rapids, Mich. She graduated from Grand Rapids south H.S. (in the same class as President Ford).

She attended Grand Rapids Junior College and Olivet College on voice and art scholarships and received degrees in both fields. She then taught at Grand Rapids Lee H.S. for four years. One March 30, 1940, she married Richard W. Heine. They lived in Flint, Mich., where he worked for General Motors Institute, until he volunteered for the Navy as an engineer in September 1943. Mary followed Richard wherever his naval assignments carried him, using her musical talents to bless many people at church services, weddings, and military services. Following naval discharge they returned to Flint, Michigan and then moved to Madison when Dick was employed by the University of Wisconsin in 1947. In Madison, Mary resumed her musical career becoming a major performer at UW campus events and as a soloist at various events sponsored by UW Presidents and Chancellors.

The quality of her spirit and ability kept her much involved in all aspects of UW and Madison's musical circles until around 1970 when her voice left her because of a head injury. She continued playing the piano for personal enjoyment and family and informal events until suffering a series of strokes around 1995. In recent years she enjoyed the many good music programs offered at Oakwood even to her last day. She is also remembered as a devoted mother, providing a loving and God-Fearing home for her children; as a gifted interior decorator and artisan in needlepoint; and as a spirited and loyal friend. Thanks be to God! A memorial service will be held Saturday, Sept 30, 2006, at 2 p.m. in Resurrection Chapel.