

## **Sally Virginia Peterson 1943-1993**

Sally Virginia Peterson was the first born, of identical daughters, to Marie E. Topping and Lester C. Peteron, twin sister to Ellen Alice, younger sister to Joanne Marie, the older sister to Robert Karl.

She was Robert Mulford and Sadie Aumack Topping's granddaughter spending every summer and many Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter vacations on their farm in Sagaponack next to Sagg Store. The Robert Mulford Topping family dates back to the early 1700's on Long Island.

Third grade, for the twins, was spent on the farm, enabling them to attend Sagg School where they learned many multi-age, multi-grade social and academic skills in that classic one room schoolhouse. Many fond memories are attached to Sagg School along with hours of swinging, sliding, rope jumping and just "playing school."

Sally graduated from Cornell University in 1965, and then went to obtain her Master's degree in education at Penn State University. Upon graduation from Penn State in 1967, she was hired to teach at the University of Delaware where she spent two years.

It was at this time that she married, and then moved to North Carolina where she taught at Meredith College for five years.

After a lengthy illness with Multiple Sclerosis, Sally passed away in the spring of 1993. She is survived by her two children and by her two sisters and brother.

Sally always wanted to be a teacher, and her desire to be one was inspired by her experiences at Sagg School.

Early in the 1990's as our young scholars graduated from public and private high schools, (very often the result of an excellent start at Sagaponack School), there was some discontent that many of the students could not qualify for the scholarships awarded because they lived outside of the East Hampton School District.

In 1995 Ellen Peterson Kirbet, in conjunction with her older sister, Joanne initiated the Sally Peterson Memorial Scholarship with a \$500.00 contribution in memory of their twin sister, Sally. They had both been students in Sagg, attending the school during third grade.

Our first bake sale in 1996 provided the first recipient with an award of \$500. Since then the committee has increased the Scholarship to total \$2500.00, given in two awards. We hope to increase this amount as our fund raising revenue continues to accrue.