

Obituary: Barbara Wheeler Spaulding, entrepreneur, former New Canaan resident

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by New Canaan Advertiser

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Barbara Wheeler Spaulding, born March 29, 1922, in Brooklyn, N.Y., the daughter of Marion and Arthur Wheeler died peacefully Sunday, September 3rd, at Casa Dorinda in Santa Barbara, Calif.



Barbara Wheeler Spaulding

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Barbara lived in New Canaan, CT for the first 50 years of her life, attending New Canaan Country School, The Shipley School and Sarah Lawrence College.

Barbara founded Clothes Incorporated, a women's apparel boutique located at 27 Elm Street in 1964 which was the first of several business ventures. In 1971 she moved to Santa Barbara with her children to be near her sister Dotsy and brother-in-law Jack Adams, as well as her Aunt Kitty and Uncle Evans Pillsbury. In 1975 Barbara co-founded The Whitney Shop West in Montecito Village with the assistance of her good friend Judy Stinchfield. The store was well known for its great selection of clothes and gifts. In 1984 Barbara married Edward R. Spaulding who was a native of Santa Barbara. They split their time between Montecito and Big Timber, Mont.

Barbara was the loving mother of two daughters, Cookie Agnew of Big Timber, Mont. and Alexandra Bongaerts of Summerland, Calif., and New Canaan, Conn., the grandmother of Angus Agnew, Philip Bongaerts NCHS 2005 and Nikki Bongaerts NCHS 2007, the mother-in-law of Joost Bongaerts and aunt of six nieces and nephews.

Her parents, husband, sons, Philip Livingston DuVal and Ian Chapin DuVal, younger sisters, Catherine Wheeler Jones and Dorothy Wheeler Adams predeceased her.

A celebration of Barbara's life will be held at a future date at Casa Dorinda in Montecito. Her ashes will be interred in the family plot of Putnam Cemetery in Greenwich, CT. Donations in Barbara's honor may be made to The Braille Institute of Santa Barbara, 2031 De La Vina Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93105; The Casa Dorinda Legacy Campaign, 300 Hot Springs Road, Santa Barbara, CA, 93108; or the charity of your choice.

Barbara's family wishes to acknowledge the amazing staff of Casa Dorinda's Personal Care Unit who enabled her to live a fulfilling and vibrant life until the end.

