

HELEN J. COON

1910-1996

Founding Member, Friend and Benefactor

Northern Chesapeake Unitarian Universalist Society

Helen J. Coon was born on August 2, 1910 in Dallas, Texas. On Helen's birthdays her father gave her stocks as a way to induce her to save money. She played the stock market all her life.

After graduation from Southern Methodist University, Helen began teaching math at an elementary school in Dallas. She later changed careers to become a mathematician for the U.S. government. Helen was not very fond of Texas, so when a position opened for her in Maryland at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, she took it, and moved north in 1945.

She began as a Ballistician in one of the Ballistics Research Laboratories. Through her career at Aberdeen she was promoted to Mathematician, to Statistician, to Mathematical Statistician, and finally to Analytical Statistician. In 1957 Helen was elected to the Advisory Council of the Ballistics Research Lab as a member of the scientific staff. As a mathematician at Aberdeen, she was a professional woman before there were professional women.

In 1970 she retired and moved to Bel Air. Helen traveled in Europe, Africa, and Latin America. She especially enjoyed Africa, taking many trips, one lasting two months. She liked traveling alone and meeting people in the countries she visited.

She joined the Harford County Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Helen gave a couple of sermons at the Fellowship. She met with the children's religious education groups and gave talks on such topics as the value of diversity. When a rift formed in the Fellowship, Helen was distressed. But she became a charter member of the new congregation, the Northern Chesapeake Unitarian Universalist Society.