



Sylvia died peacefully on October 5, 2007, following a stroke. She celebrated 61 years of marriage with her loving and devoted husband, C.Leroy Sanders, who was her primary caregiver at home since her first stroke five years ago. She is greatly missed by Roy and their children Heather Wiffen (Graham), Richard Sanders (Susan Fisher) and Wendy Pyper (Ken) and grandchildren Ben and Emily Wiffen, Arthur and Erica Sanders, and Nicholas Pyper. She will be fondly remembered by friends and family.

Sylvia's first job in the family music shop in Birmingham sparked her lifelong love of music. During WWII, as a youth in the women's branch of the British Army, she was awakened to the horrors of war. Her remarkably diverse early careers included munitions machinist, entertainer, clerk in the British Army's records office and hairdresser. As a post-war

bride, Sylvia joined Roy in Canada and supported him through university. She worked as a homemaker, but soon became a house and cottage designer and builder, real estate agent, land developer and financier. Sylvia's artistic flair was expressed in painting and pottery. Her intense curiosity about other cultures, history, nature and genealogy, and her desire to promote peace and understanding, fed her enthusiasm for exploring the world.

For 50 years, she worked tirelessly helping organize countless events and campaigns to oppose war and injustice. Since the early days of building solidarity with the U.S. civil rights movement, opposing the Vietnam War and nuclear weapons tests, she was very active in numerous peace organizations, including the Voice of Women and Operation Dismantle.



Sylvia was a driving force in the Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade. She charmed and inspired volunteers, led by example, challenging activists and politicians alike. A longtime socialist and feminist, she supported the NDP, especially the "Waffle" movement, and continually strove to motivate others. Until the very end, she was still striving to contribute. Moments before her recent stroke, she was planning with Roy to distribute leaflets and signs.



photo: Koozma Tarasoff

Sylvia Sanders

(nee *Whittlesey*)

April 1, 1920 — Oct. 5, 2007

A Celebration of the Life of *Sylvia Christine Sanders*

Opening Words: Reverend Frances Leigh Deverell

Chalice Lighting: Emily & Ben Wiffen, Nicholas Pyper,
and Arthur & Erica Sanders

Music: "Oh, Had I a Golden Thread" (Pete Seeger)

Celebrating a Life: Reverend Frances Deverell

Heather Wiffen

Music: "I'll See You Again" (Noel Coward/Monica Lewis)

Don Sanders

Nick Aplin

Helen Levine

Sister H el ene LeBrun, SCJ

Song: "If I had a Hammer" (Lee Hays/Pete Seeger)
(led by Keith Shackleton)

Koozma Tarasoff

Chris Page

Richard Sanders

Song: "We Shall Not Be Moved" (led by Keith Shackleton)

Reflection: Reverend Fred Cappuccino

Responsive Reading: "Litany of Remembrance"
(see opposite side of the next page)

Silence

Music: "Imagine" (John Lennon)

Closing Words: Reverend Frances Deverell

Music: "What a Wonderful World" (Louis Armstrong)

Chalice Extinguishing:

Emily & Ben Wiffen, Nicholas Pyper, Arthur & Erica Sanders

Recessional

Music: "Last Night I had the Strangest Dream" (The Weavers)



Visit the Sylvia Sanders memorial website!

<<http://sylviasanders.ca>>

View hundreds of **photos** of Sylvia's life, learn more about her five decades of **activism** and leave an anecdote, a memory or message of peace in the the online **guestbook**.

This website is a work in progress. If you have photos of Sylvia, stories about her involvement in peace and human rights, or any other material or ideas on how to remember her full and vibrant life, please contact Richard:

<overcoat@rogers.com>



Unitarian Universalism

UU congregations affirm and promote by these principles:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part



Operation Dismantle petition table, 1984