



## Mary Stewart Laird

July 3, 1941 - January 13, 2014

Mary Stewart Laird  
(1941-2014)

Mary (Molly) Laird, 72, of Lebanon Springs New York died peacefully at her home on Monday, January 13.

Molly was born in New York City on July 3, 1941. She graduated The Brearley School and Bennington College. She received a Master's degree in psychology from John Jay College and a PhD from Hunter College in biopsychology. Her lasting appreciation of birds was nurtured by the role of pigeons in her scientific studies. Later in life, Molly chose a second career in nursing and at the age of 55 obtained a nursing degree; she worked as a RN until 2013, when she retired from Columbia Memorial Hospital. Molly derived great satisfaction from her work as a nurse. Professionally, she will be remembered for the ways in which she embraced her relationship with colleagues and advocated for her patients. Molly's friends and family draw inspiration from her courage, vision, intelligence and independence.

Molly was a private person who had diverse passions, interests and strong, well-informed opinions. Her mind was never idle. She was an avid reader. One of Molly's favorite pastimes was knitting. She would take on any knitting project that caught her mind's eye, and she received numerous awards for her aesthetic and skill. Molly loved her home and gardens and especially enjoyed the music of the small waterfall that came down in her front yard. She was an accomplished gardener of eclectic, carefully selected, specimen plants. The

Independent Country Homes featured her garden in an article entitled "Gardening Gullivers in Lilliputian Land." Molly was also a talented, adventurous cook, much to the delight of her friends and family. Careless of material concerns, Molly enjoyed a rich spiritual life. She was a lifetime member of the Episcopal Church, and she served with devotion and pleasure on the vestry of Christ Church Episcopal in Hudson, NY.

Molly is predeceased by her mother, Sara Hanford Stewart, her father, Charles Stewart, her stepmother, Peg Stewart, and her life partner, Gloria Laylor. She is survived by her daughter, Rachel (Robert) Ranieri, her grandchildren, Eliza and Nicholas of New Canaan, CT, and five siblings, Nancy Nadig of Barrington, IL, Andrew Stewart of New York, NY, Edgar Stewart of Concord, MA, Gordon Stewart of New York, NY, and Susan Stewart of Bristol, VT, as well as by many beloved brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews, and her adored bird and constant companion, Sheila.

A funeral service will be held at Christ Church Episcopal on Saturday, January 25 at 1pm.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial donation may be made to Christ Church Episcopal, PO Box 411, Hudson, NY 12534.