



Helen May Brown

August 8, 1916 - August 23, 2005

Passed away Tuesday, August 23, 2005, at Bronson Hospital, Kalamazoo. Mrs. Brown was born August 8, 1916 in Chicago, the daughter of Hannah and Alfred Osberg. She was preceded in death by her parents (at the age of 12 years) and later by her two brothers, Clifford and Harry, both of Battle Creek, MI. She was also preceded in death by her guardians and cousins Elizabeth and Margaret Anderson of Evanston, IL. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Jay Madison Brown, of Kalamazoo; her daughter, Dr. Jenaay Brown of Tampa, FL; her son, Gregory Brown of Kalamazoo; and several nieces and nephews. She graduated from New Trier High School, Winnetka, IL in 1934, received her Bachelor's degree from Northwestern University in 1938, and her Master's degree from Northwestern University in 1942. She was captain of the Northwestern University women's swimming team in 1938 when they won the Big Ten championship. She later studied dance with Martha Graham and Eric Hawkins at Connecticut College. Mrs. Brown began her teaching career at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Camp schools, then the Detroit Public School System where she also danced in "The Bartered Bride" and other musicals at The Fisher Theater. While in Detroit, she taught swimming at the Detroit City Women's Athletic Club. She then joined the Western Michigan University Physical Education Department in 1947 and taught there for 34 years, moving to the Department of Dance when it was formed. She retired with associate professor emeritus status in 1981. Mrs. Brown was a member of the First Congregational Church of Kalamazoo, served on the Board of Christian

Education and, occasionally, did substitute teaching. She also enjoyed doing volunteer work for the Kalamazoo Humane Society, Kalamazoo Institute of Art, and Bronson Hospital. Following her wishes, cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held Saturday, Sept. 3, 11 AM at the Bloomingdale Chapel. Burial of cremains in Spring Grove Cemetery, Bloomingdale, MI. Those wishing may make contributions to the American Cancer Society.

Previous Events

Service

SEP 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bloomington Chapel
203 East Spring Street
Bloomington, MI