

RUTH BAILEY

Gone but not forgotten, ever



Ruth Bailey passed away peacefully with her family by her side, Saturday, April 27th, 2013.

Ruth was someone everybody knew. Her accomplishments were legendary but she never mentioned all she had accomplished in her lifetime. For whatever reason she continued to offer her time, expertise and knowledge to each person who asked for her help. She hated to say "no" to anyone who needed her.

She was a staunch member of the Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society in San Jose, California. She was involved in Lapidary and Jewelry both at the club level and also at the CFMS level and later at the AFMS level judging competitive exhibits and giving support and help to beginners. She was by-laws chair, parliamentarian many times at both the CFMS and AFMS levels.

Ruth was CFMS President in 1983. She was there during good time as well as bad times. She was awarded the highest achievement in CFMS, the Golden Bear in 1989. And was the Honoree for the CFMS Scholarship in 1986-87.

She went on through the AFMS chairs culminating in the AFMS presidency in 1994 in Houston, Texas. She was recognized as Honoree for the AFMS Scholarship in 2003 by the CFMS, and chose two students from Stanford University.

Ruth was honored along with Ed Romack in 2009 at the AFMS Billings, Montana AFMS/NFMS Convention and Show, with the highest award given " The AFMS Recognition Award."

Not one to sit on her laurels, she involved herself in Competitive Judging, at both the CFMS and AFMS level, attended Wildacres Judges Training, and was a member of both the CFMS and AFMS Uniform Rules Committees; helped with the Endowment Funds for both CFMS and AFMS. She was AFMS Scholarship Secretary beginning in 1998 to present. Ruth was also a charter member of S.C.R.I.B.E., an editor's thing.... And was a Bulletin Editor Judge at both the CFMS and AFMS level.

Over the years in her lighter moments she attended many Northern California club events, always bringing an exhibit to share, even when the cases became too heavy for her to put in her car by herself. She also enjoyed the early years at Quartzsite and Tucson.

I'm exhausted just writing and remembering. Most people would be proud of even one of her many accomplishments, but she never thought about it in that vein.

As for ALAA, American Lands Access Association, Ruth was there in Brunswick, Ohio at the beginning of ALAA 1992. She was a charter member and director until she became the Treasurer beginning in 2009, and kept our books straight and the officers and directors straight too. She was ALAA membership chair as well until 2013 when we wrestled the membership away from her to give her some much needed rest.

Ruth, you are already missed...but we know you would say, "Get on with it, we have work to do."

Shirley Leeson,
ALAA President 2013
.....and friend.