



Genevieve Chandler Peterkin

May 13, 1928 - September 18, 2011

Murrells Inlet...

Genevieve Chandler Peterkin

Genevieve "Sister" Peterkin left us on September 18, 2011. She leaves a sister, June Chandler Hora, two brothers; Joseph Allston Chandler and his wife Ann Hedgepath, William Ashe Chandler and his wife Anne, and a step-son, William George Peterkin III, of Fort Motte, South Carolina. She was married to William George Peterkin, Jr. and together they had a son, James Preston Peterkin. She was predeceased by both her husband and her son.

Sister was born in Florence, SC., and grew up at Wachesaw Plantation and Murrells Inlet. She graduated from Myrtle Beach High School in 1945 and from Coker College in 1949, where she was President of the Senior Class, and May Queen. She received a Master's Degree in Library Science from the University of North Carolina. After graduating from UNC, Sister worked as head librarian at the U.S. Army Library in Bremerhaven, Germany for two years.

Sister Peterkin leaves an impressive legacy of public service to her community and to her state. She was the Georgetown County Public Library's founding librarian and later served several years in the Georgetown County School Board. She appeared on South Carolina ETV in such documentaries as "Legacy of Conflict", "Grand Strand", "A Myrtle Beach Story", "Saving

"Sandy Island" and "Cheating the Stillness: the world of Julia Peterkin". These earned her statewide recognition as what the poet Thomas L. Johnson called "a vitally engaged-and engaging historian and environmental activist." Her continued involvement in helping others and many significant contributions in environmental preservation led Coastal Carolina University to award her the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters in 2001.

Sis was probably best known nationally for her literary achievements. She was the author, with William Baldwin of "Heaven Is a Beautiful Place: A Memoir of The South Carolina Coast" and co-editor, with Kincaid Mills and Aaron McCollough, of "Coming Through: Voices of a South Carolina Gullah Community from WPA Oral Histories." Each enjoyed both popular and critical acclaim.

Genevieve Chandler Peterkin touched many hearts in her life, not only personally among her larger family and even larger legion of friends, but also thousands more through her television appearances and her books. Sis was driven to help those in need and to preserve our natural environment.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM Thursday, September 22, 2011 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church with Pastor David Lyle officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Tidelands Community Hospice, 2591 N. Fraser Street, Georgetown, SC 29440.

Sign a guestbook at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com/obituaries

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Previous Events

Service

SEP **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Peters Lutheran Church
Pawleys Island, SC 29585

Tribute Wall

EF

“ June, I am Alice Floyd's daughter and loved having the pleasure of meeting both of you one afternoon at your house. We then had the wonderful story of "borrowing" wine from you when we were on a boat ride with my mom-it was delightful and her last ride-you helped to make it a great story! Sister's book was so interesting and brought many many, great childhood memories. I had lunch with Cookie Stogner recently and hope to go see you when you are playing bridge one day.

I'm sorry for your sad loss, but know you have many wonderful memories.

Ellen Floyd Faris

Ellen Floyd Faris - October 01, 2011 at 01:20 PM



“ I've never met a more fascinating person than Sister.

As her pastor at St. Peter's/Pawleys Island in the late 1990s, she introduced me to the amazing Gullah culture of the Low County - and, as a special favor to me, would occasionally read the Lessons in Gullah as a special focus for a children's sermon.

My wife and I were, often, treated to her (and June's!) graciousness with dinner at their home on the Creek; and, our two children (young at the time) were entranced by her collection of memorabilia, and her eclectic array of interests - particularly when she gathered them in her kyack for a "glide" down the creek!

Her books hold a cherished place in my library.

Her life holds a special place in my memory.

And, Sister - herself - will always have THE most unique and blessed spot in our hearts.

Rev. Cam Keyser, Senior Pastor
Trinity Lutheran Church
Stephens City, VA



Rev. Keyser - September 28, 2011 at 07:06 AM

RW

“ I met Sister in 1979. I was looking for a beach print and she was working in the shop. A young man who also worked there said, "This is the person who should paint the beach scene for you." She ended up painting two beach scenes for me. I only saw her a few times over the past 30 plus years but she always remembered me. I feel very blessed to have known her. My deepest condolences to her family.

Sincerely,
Ramona Milhorn Williams
Johnson City, TN

Ramona Milhorn Williams - September 26, 2011 at 08:59 AM

VG

“Genevieve was very special to me. My life changed when she literally walked into my life in the early 1980s. I first met her when she showed up to my home, introduce herself to me, and spent the rest of the evening telling me about my ancestors. I had recently returned home (to Conway) after years of being away. Somehow, she found out about me and knew that I was a descendant of the Brookgreen Plantation Gullah people who had made such a difference in her life as a child. She wanted to pass on the help to me. In a way, she seemed to feel that "the circle should be unbroken." Now, it is my turn to grab the baton and close the gap.

Veronica D. Gerald

Veronica D. Gerald - September 23, 2011 at 11:16 AM

TB

“The spirit of LIFE and LOVE walked with Sister. She will be dearly missed. My deepest condolences to the Chandler and Peterkin families from our family. You have always been a part of our life.

Tom Beckham, Pawleys Island



Tom Beckham - September 22, 2011 at 01:56 PM

PL

“ May "Sister" Peterkin rest in peace after a life of loving and sharing. She was a light to everyone she encountered and I am thankful to have known her and to have learned so much from her. Her legacy will love on. God bless the Chandler family. Our prayers are with you.

Pat and Jim Lewis

patricia Lewis - September 22, 2011 at 09:10 AM

BA

“ Our prayers and thoughts are with the Chandler family.
Damita and Barry Amick

Barry Amick - September 21, 2011 at 11:29 PM

BB

“ God Bless the Peterkin and Chandler families during this time of loss.

Buddy & Kay Brown - September 21, 2011 at 09:09 PM

DL

“ Thank you for the gifts of historical preservation and environmental justice that you gave to the beautiful state of SC. As we celebrate our bi-annual family reunion, we will remember you.



From the Green Family Reunion of SC (African-American Descendents of the Lang Syne Platation in Fort Motte, SC)

Dr. Maria Arvelo Lumpkin, President

Dr. Maria Arvelo Lumpkin - September 21, 2011 at 04:13 PM

JI

“ *James Arthur Banks II lit a candle in memory of Genevieve Chandler Peterkin*



James Arthur Banks II - September 21, 2011 at 04:08 PM

MP

“ *Marthanna Rast Banks Phillips sent a virtual gift in memory of Genevieve Chandler Peterkin*



Marthanna Rast Banks Phillips - September 21, 2011 at 04:02 PM

MP

“Sister was a special friend, who I first came to know when four of us local ladies shared a weekly Bible Study/Prayer Group meeting in each other's homes. At the time, she lived in Fort Motte at Lang Syne Plantation with her husband Bill and we will never forget the day Sister and Bill became parents and grandparents on the same day. The day their beloved Jim was born was the same day Bill's son William and his wife also became parents while with the military in Hawaii. Sister was a special lady with many special gifts, among them a remarkable talent for remembering and sharing stories of the past - which led to her unforgettable book, *Heaven is A Beautiful Place* . She was a kind and gentle lady, and one could not know Sister without loving her. We cherish the visits we shared with her on her porch at Murrells Inlet. The warmth of her presence will always be with us. ”

Marthanna Banks Phillips, Clemson, S.C. (formerly of St. Matthews, S.C.)

Marthanna Rast Banks Phillips - September 21, 2011 at 04:00 PM

JW

“Sister was brought to my attention when we first moved to Murrells Inlet in 1979. She made me realize that Murrells Inlet was a valuable place and a wonderful community, one that has the most continuity of any area from north to south. Thanks to her extraordinary recall of people, places and events, most of which she lived herself and her soft and caring demeanor relating history in the telling of her fascinating stories and recording it in her books and art, her spirit will live on in the tidal creeks and salt marshes forever.

June B. Wright, Myrtle Beach, SC

June Baity Wright - September 21, 2011 at 02:39 PM

RD

“ Murrells Inlet has lost a very special Lady .Our thoughts and Prayers are with the family .

The Prox Family : Frankie , Dale , Tina & Renee

Renee Prox Dishong - September 21, 2011 at 11:32 AM

BM

“ Sister was such a special, warm, loving person, and I feel blessed to have known her. My heart goes out to her family, and I'm sending my deepest sympathy to them. She's smiling down on them now, and heaven's a little brighter.

Beth Sugg McNew - September 21, 2011 at 10:15 AM

AM

“ An amazing person and a wonderful friend is making heaven even more beautiful now. Anne Morris and family

Anne Morris - September 21, 2011 at 09:53 AM

VL

“ I will always cherish memories of my time spent with Sis Peterkin for an oral interview for the Georgetown Public Library and all too brief moments in the years that followed that first meeting. Her stories and her kind and sharing personality will help others understand the positive difference one person can make. To her loving family, please know that you are in my thoughts.

Valinda W. Littlefield

Valinda W. Littlefield - September 21, 2011 at 07:01 AM

AB

“ Murrells Inlet, South Carolina and our nation have lost a great lady! Sister was a deeply loving and caring person, she loved the Inlet and the low country and spent her life making it a better place to live. She will be deeply missed,

Archie & Rae Biggs

Archie Biggs - September 21, 2011 at 06:07 AM

MA

“ Sister and Granny Chandler (her mother) were more than 'family' to me growing up. Their stories and art shaped my life as a boy and now the lives of my children in tremendous ways. I speak of them both every day in tales that I share with guests that visit these sea-islands. Enjoy God, Sister. All our love.

Mick Ayres and family

Mick Ayres - September 20, 2011 at 09:19 PM

SS

“ Sista touch our family with her smiles and friendly was the Sudowski Family will miss her dearly.

Ski & Cindy Sudowski - September 20, 2011 at 05:23 PM

KC

I learned only today of Mrs. Perterkin's passing. I had told myself that I would visit her Friday. I had phoned many times and no answer. We visited frequently, sitting in her room or on the porch. I will miss her greatly. I loved those visits and I loved her. She was the kindest, sweetest, softest spoken lady I knew. She surely sits with the Lord today. My heart is heavy but my love and admiration for her will live on. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family.

Kaye Castillo

Kaye B. Castillo - September 21, 2011 at 10:04 PM