

## Long Time Treasurer, Hazel E. Tarpley, Retires

*Hazel Tarpley was treasurer for the Magnolia Society for nearly ten years. She has fond memories of the many people she met and the places she and her husband, Wes, visited over the years. Hazel brought a strong business background to the Treasurer position as she managed and then owned her own office interiors business. While Hazel was Treasurer for the Magnolia Society, she was also Treasurer for the Seattle Rhododendron Society and Meerkerk Gardens, which is owned by the Seattle Rhododendron Society. On her watch, the treasuries for all these organizations flourished. Thank you, Hazel, for a job well done. The following recollections are in her own words.*

When I met Dennis Jones on the hillside at Sir Peter Smithers' garden in Switzerland I never dreamed what the next ten years would hold for me. Later that year Dennis called me from the Magnolia Society Fall Board meeting and told me that the Board wanted me to be their Treasurer. With the help of Dennis, Perry Narten, and Dorothy Callaway I took over the job at the annual meeting in Boston in 1993.

The best part of being Treasurer has been the opportunity to visit different parts of the country for the twice-yearly meetings. Places that stand out in my mind are the annual meeting at Mobile and the dinner at John Allen and Fran Smith's home, the annual meeting in Ohio and touring the Holden Arboretum and David Leach's place. Also memorable were the Board meetings at Birmingham, Alabama where we visited the Arboretum and Wade and Harriet Mahlke's garden. Lola Koerting and her husband sponsored a meeting at Stamford, Connecticut where they not only hosted a dinner for the Board but also arranged for us visit the estate of John D. Rockefeller Sr.

At the board meeting at Asheville, NC we visited August and Mary Lou Kehr's home and toured his arboretum. We feel honored to have known Augie as a friend and were saddened by his death.



My 80<sup>th</sup> birthday was a memorable event thanks to the Magnolia Society. We were attending the board meeting at the Polly Hill Arboretum. Stephen and Happy Spongberg were our hosts for a dinner during which they surprised me with a cake and gift to commemorate my birthday.

I want to thank the many people who helped the Society and me the past ten years. Without them we would not have been as successful as we were.

Hazel receiving a gift from the Magnolia Society at a Seattle Rhododendron Society event held last December.



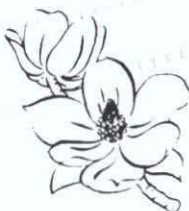
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