

IN MEMORIAM

MARY MORAIN (1911-1999)

We note with great sadness the passing of Mary Stone Dewing Morain, who died on June 14, 1999.

A graduate of Radcliffe College and the University of Chicago, Mary Morain accomplished much during her long life. Upon learning of her death, many noted her support and leadership of American and International Humanist organizations and her work on behalf of the United Nations Association and Planned Parenthood. A former president of the International Society for General Semantics, she edited two collections of articles from *ETC* and two educational anthologies. With her husband Lloyd Morain she wrote *Humanism As the Next Step*. A second edition appeared in 1998.

Lloyd describes Mary's early involvement with general semantics:

While a graduate student at the University of Chicago in the mid-1930s, Mary became acquainted with Douglas Gordon Campbell and Dr. Condon, both of whom felt general semantics assisted them in student counseling. Korzybski established his Institute near the campus and Mary attended one of his early seminars. Mary's mother, a Harvard-Radcliffe Ph.D., was already interested in general semantics and assisted several students with scholarships to the Institute. Both of Mary's parents considered themselves humanists, and her father, a retired Harvard professor, consented to serve on the Institute's advisory board.

After receiving her M.A., Mary attended a gs seminar under Donald McLean at Mills College in Oakland, California. She

organized and assembled the lecture notes, and McLean invited her to join his staff of therapists in Hollywood. Among his therapists were those handling problems of gender, self esteem, drug addiction, homosexuality, and now Mary's specialty: how to think clearly — in other words, general semantics.

Upon arrival in Hollywood, Mary gave a talk to the Therapists Section of the Los Angeles Society for General Semantics, of which I was president. It was the start of our sixty-year romance. Mary helped in the Society's programming, which procured Oliver Reiser, S. I. Hayakawa, and Wendell Johnson, among others. The Los Angeles Society's membership of more than two hundred included many members of the entertainment industries, ranging from Robert Heinlein and Irving Wallace to Miss Amber (Lee Francis, the Cross-Eyed Madam of Hollywood).

When producer-director Robert Lord heard that Mary was taken with Charles Boyer, he brought them together. I didn't feel threatened even though Boyer had a more appealing voice, a clever toupee, and built-up shoes.

General Semantics without Mary seems different psychologically to me. She was our guiding light that has gone out. We must struggle not to be lost without her. I will cherish her for as long as I live and consider myself to be very fortunate to have known her.

— Mitsuko Saito-Fukunaga, Tokyo

She somehow seemed in the category of what I call "always-people," those who are just so important a part of the national cast-of-characters that they somehow ought to be immune from the obligation to die ...

— Steve Allen, Van Nuys, California

I was so sorry to hear of Mary's death. ... You two have been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. You have been a constant reminder of common sense, compassion and humanistic strength in a world so desperately needing this and more.

— Nicholas Johnson, Iowa City, Iowa

She was an important part of the lives of everyone connected with general semantics.

— Charlotte S. Read, New York City

I was greatly saddened to hear of Mary's death. Her contributions ... will live on and continue to affect all of us.

— Gerald I. Nierenberg, New York City

As a team you [Lloyd and Mary Morain] represented the "Manhood of Humanity" at its finest. ... Sometimes it helps to let the mind "indulge" in abstractions at a time of overwhelming loss.

— Natalie and Harry Maynard, Westport, Connecticut

Mary's efforts in the family planning field and in general semantics, partnership, and humanism in general are a legacy she leaves us, and one that must inspire us all to build upon her achievements.

— Riane Eisler, Carmel, California

I have used Mary's book for years [at the University of Missouri] and have read her work probably for decades ... I treasure her correspondence with me. I read each letter to my students.

— Don Ranly, Columbia, Missouri

Mary's concern about population control made a great impression on me, reinforcing my own feelings about practical ways to help restore the earth's ecological balance.

— Emily Shomaker, Concord, California

Mary edited four anthologies of articles about general semantics. Her skill in selecting effective teaching texts means that she has created books as useful today as when they were first published.

— Paul Dennithorne Johnston, Concord, California

Mary's wise advice and encouragement have made a difficult job much less so. Her example continues to inspire me.

— Jeremy Klein, San Francisco