

This year's annual report is dedicated to three outstanding citizens who have been important in the life of Shaftsbury. *They will be missed...*

Dr. Elizabeth Faris

March 22, 1928 - April 16, 2009



On April 16, 2009 Shaftsbury saw the passing of one of its leading citizens, Dr. Elizabeth Faris, or Dr. Bette, as she was lovingly called. Elizabeth Faris was a physically small woman, yet she loomed larger than life in the contributions she made to Shaftsbury and the greater medical community. She graduated from Albany Medical School in 1953, one of only five women in a class of 50. In 1954, Elizabeth and her husband, Arthur, chose Shaftsbury from a list of communities in need of family physicians and for almost fifty years served their community with compassionate medicine. Together they established the Shaftsbury Medical Center. Dr. Betty was known to be among the last doctors to make house calls, in addition to offering free health screenings to children at Shaftsbury Elementary School.

Elizabeth served as executive secretary of the Vermont Academy of Family Physicians and kept that position long after her retirement. The organization honored her for being “the guiding light of the Vermont Academy of Family Physicians for decades.” Dr. Betty was a long-serving Justice of the Peace in Shaftsbury. In appreciation of Elizabeth and Arthur Faris’ unique contributions, the Town of Shaftsbury hosted “Faris Day” in 1979 to mark the 25th year of their medical practice.

In recognition of Dr. Elizabeth Faris’ many contributions to Shaftsbury, this town report is dedicated to her memory.

William Kelley

February 1, 1924 - December 14, 2008

This year's Town Report recognizes the dedication of a long standing member and past Chief of the Shaftsbury Fire Department. He became a member of the department in 1955. Bill was a devoted family man and served his country with distinction in the Coast Guard during World War II. He will be remembered as a no nonsense, caring individual whose number one priority was the safety and well being of his firefighters. Under Chief Kelley's command, Shaftsbury was taken into a new era of expansion both in its facilities and training. He was instrumental in the addition to our Station I, making it one of the finest firehouses in the area back in the mid-seventies. At the same time, he led the department in upgrading its apparatus and technology making it a truly modern department.

The Shaftsbury Fire Department will miss Bill and his Irish wit which would always bring a warm smile to your face. He was a dear friend, mentor, and confidant who always gave you a straight answer. The last alarm has tolled for our Chief Bill Kelley.



Anna Elizabeth Worth, VMD

September 10, 1953 - May 16, 2009

Anna died on May 16, 2009, having endured a long battle with cancer. Her life cannot be measured by what she accomplished, which was much, but by the many great gifts she gave her family, friends and community.

Anna, and her husband, Bob Bergman, graduated together from University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in 1978. They moved to Shaftsbury in 1979 to begin a family and to operate a veterinary clinic called “West Mountain Animal Hospital.” Together, Anna and Bob built a veterinary hospital based on principles of excellence and compassion. They recruited talented veterinarians to the community, mentored skilled and caring technicians, and in 2007, with associates, built a modern animal hospital that will serve the community for years to come.

Anna's professional contributions were many, serving the Bennington County Humane Society, the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association, the Vermont Animal Cruelty Task Force, the Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and others. Her efforts and leadership earned her the Massachusetts SPCA Veterinarian of the Year Award in 1992, and the VVMA David Walker Award in 1997. During the last year of her life, Anna served as President of the American Animal Hospital Association, concluding 12 years of AAHA service that were dedicated to improving the quality of veterinary care throughout America.

The energy Anna devoted to her family and community was no less. Anna was as comfortable in the role of Girl Scout leader and basketball coach, as she was flying an airplane, kayaking, camping, or riding a motorcycle. She instilled in her children an appreciation for life, nature, and community, with a can-do, focus-on-fun attitude.

