

# NASIG Newsletter

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## In Memory of Birdie MacLennan

### In Memorial

Joyce Tenney, NASIG President

Birdie we miss you.

Long time, active NASIG member, Birdie MacLennan passed away on March 10, 2014, after a brief illness. Birdie joined NASIG in 1991, and immediately offered her time and talents to advance the organization. She served on the NASIG Executive Board as Member-At-Large from 1993-1997. Her work on the Electronic Communications Committee, Continuing Education Committee, the Translators Resource Team, and other activities was remarkable and made NASIG a better organization. Birdie's willingness to mentor and teach added to her tremendous contributions.

Her work on NASIG committees, SERIALST and other activities touched the lives of so many in our community. Her contributions were always positive, valuable and innovative. The tributes to her life and her contributions are still being shared. Many comments echoed the sentiments that Birdie was a joy to work with, full of life and curiosity, caring, kind and an inspiration to others. As we move forward in the coming days to deal with the loss and sorry of losing her way too soon, it is a help to see how greatly she was valued. Please continue to share your remembrances and thoughts.



*Birdie in Milwaukee - 2004*

### In Memorial

Kat McGrath

I first met Birdie at the NASIG conference in Vancouver in 1994. She spent the summer here to study French and we have been 'chers amis' ever since. We kept in touch through increasingly multi-lingual birthday and solstice cards, an annual New Year's call and of course NASIG and ALA conferences when the circumstances were right.

In 2003, our 'Mary' connection began at the NASIG conference in Portland. I had just finished reading *Our Lady of the Lost and Found* by Diane Schoemperlen. It tells the tale of a visit by the Virgin Mary to a modern day writer and chronicles her appearances through history. This inspired a visit to [Our Lady's Grotto](#) which is located just south of the city. From then on we sought out Mary sightings as part of our reunions and exchanged Mary memorabilia, including cards, references and d'objets. I am now the proud owner of a Mary night-light that Birdie purchased from a Quebec truck stop. Every place I visit offers the chance to find the comfort of Mary – and in that search I also find Birdie.

Over the years, our letters and talks have followed familiar themes – commiserating about the long winters in snowy Vermont and rainforest of the Pacific Northwest. Family, friendships, gardening, travels, language studies and of course the travails of work – work – work. Committee duties, a thesis, grants, reports and presentation writing were all a challenge but ultimately a triumph. Birdie was dedicated and driven, and perhaps most of all, incredibly humble about her contributions and commitment.

In these past few days since Birdie's passing, I have been heartened by all the stories about her kindness, integrity and endearing quirkiness that people have shared. I know this is just the surface as I can see that her influence has stretched far and run deep. I feel tremendously sad with our loss. But the good company of the many who loved and admired Birdie also comforts me. I am grateful to NASIG for bringing us together and to SERIALST and the many electronic communication tools it spawned for keeping us in touch. Most of all, I feel lucky for the time I've had with this very special person. I will treasure this always.