



## Ann and Jack Pagos Memorial Endowment

Family and friends fondly remember Ann Pagos as a woman who was gentle at heart. Ann was born in 1918, the daughter of Greek immigrants, Gus and Helen Yiannacopoulos, and was a Westfield resident all her life. She and her younger brother, Andrew, were born and raised at the family's homestead on Main Street, also the home of the popular family business known as Y Brothers Ice Cream. As a young girl, Ann loved to read, draw, and write stories. And, oh, how she loved her father's ice cream! She enjoyed school and dreamed of one day attending college.

When Ann was nine, her father died in a tragic accident. The family business was closed, and shortly after, the Great Depression set in; like most families in America, Ann and her family struggled to make ends meet. At seventeen, Ann graduated from Westfield High School and looked for a job to help support her mother and brother. Ann took a clerical position in the Probation Department at the Westfield District Court, retiring some forty-eight years later as the Head Administrative Clerk. During her time in the court system, Ann encouraged troubled young women to get an education. Even though life had steered her in another direction, Ann never lost sight of the importance of a good education. She also valued her community, helping to found the Westfield Area Mental Health Clinic and volunteering at the Red Cross.

Ann married Jack Pagos in 1953, and they had one daughter, me. My memories of childhood are filled with a love for family and a good book. I will not forget the look of pride on my mother's face that spring day in May of 1978, when I received my undergraduate degree from Springfield College- a fulfillment of my dream and hers!

I established the Ann Pagos Memorial Scholarship in 1988 to thank my mother for teaching me how to be a good person and a lifelong learner and to enable her spirit to live on by helping others pursue a college education.

Thames "Jack" Pagos was born in 1919 in Springfield, Massachusetts, but lived in Westfield for most of his adult life. Thames was one of three sons of Greek immigrants, Paul and Mary Pagos. His father worked at Monsanto, and though they had little growing up, his childhood was filled with the love of family and friends. As a young boy, Thames had a knack for finding trouble and often was found defending his brothers on the playground. His strong sense of right and wrong earned him a nickname that stuck for life- "Jack," after the famous fighter, Jack Dempsey.

Jack graduated from Springfield Technical High School and enrolled in college. Two years later, WWII broke out, and Jack enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. When he returned from serving his country, Jack resumed his education receiving his undergraduate degree from Springfield College. He became a teacher and pursued his master's degree in education from American International College. He married Ann Yiannacopoulos in 1953. He retired from Springfield Public Schools after forty plus years as both a science teacher and school counselor.

My father was always considered a young thinking man-even at age eighty-three! Much of that came from working with young people throughout his life. He was an avid reader and instilled in me a love for reading and the importance of serving one's community. He was instrumental in founding the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Westfield and was a lifelong member of the Kiwanis Club, two organizations he also served as president. He loved to golf and is remembered by those who knew him as an active member of Shaker Farms Country Club.

I added my father's name to the Ann Pagos Memorial Scholarship upon his death in 2001. After my mother died and I established this scholarship, my father attended every Citizens' Scholarship Awards Night. It seemed only fitting to remember his spirit by adding his name to this scholarship. He was a role model to me and educator to thousands of young people.

Written by: Paula Ann Pagos  
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