



Gott gebe dir an dir ein stilles Wohlgefallen,
Ein innigfreudiges in seiner Gnade Wallen;
Ein heiliges Gefühl, daß du ihm angehörst
Und seine Ordnungen, die ewigen, nicht störst;
Ein hebendes Gefühl, daß du auf rechten Wegen
Mit rechten Kräften strebst dem rechten Ziel entgegen;
Friedrich Rückert

Our dear mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, great-grandmother

Josephine (Sefi) Maria Riss Fang

*April 3, 1922 †January 30, 2023

passed away peacefully on Monday, January 30, 2023,
early in the morning at her home in Belmont, Massachusetts.

Sefi was the beloved wife of Pao Hsien (Paul) Fang, mother of

Paula and husband Greg Weisz (Max, Alex, Ricki),
David and wife Nance St. John (Ashleigh Hanratty, great-grandchild Killian, Zachary),
Maria and husband Jim Sickels,
Anna and husband James Crawford (Emily, James, Raina, Logan),
Peter and wife Gloria Smith (Jason, Shelley Storer),
John and wife Teresa Ariza (Derek, Jonathan),
Joseph,
Francis and wife Karen Annesi (Stephen, Katherine, Christina, Madeline, great-grandchild Cecilia),
Christopher and
Teresa (Annie).

Born in Saalfelden, Austria, Sefi also lived in Zwettl, St. Pölten, Linz, and Vienna. She graduated high school in 1940, followed by studies at the U. of Vienna. She lived in Vienna during WWII and suffered the deaths of her father, her grandmother, and her fiancé. After the War she worked for the American civil command in Salzburg. She was awarded a Ph.D. in English from the U. of Graz in 1948, with her thesis on the author Sinclair Lewis. Sefi came to the U.S. in 1950 to study at Catholic U. in Washington, D.C. There she married Paul Fang on March 31, 1951 and received her Master of Science in Library Science in 1954. She worked in an Assistantship in Library Science at Catholic U. from 1951-53; Special Cataloger at Catholic U. from 1954-60; Associate Editor at the Catholic Library Association from 1961-63; Research Editor at The New Catholic Encyclopedia from 1963-66; and Editor of Corpus Instrumentorum from 1967-68. She also became Associate Professor in the Dept of Library Science at Catholic U. during the summers from 1963-68. 1968 saw the Fang family move to Belmont, MA, where she worked for a year in the Boston College Libraries. In 1969 she moved to the Graduate School of Library Science at Simmons College where she taught for over 20 years. She was Visiting Professor at the U. of Cologne, Germany in 1979, and Honorary Professor at various Chinese Universities such as Wuhan, Xian, Inner Mongolia, and Kunming. She received the Fannie Simon Award, Special Libraries Assoc, 1986; WNBA Book Women Award, 1987; Boston Bookwoman Award, 1994, and the Golden Doctorate Award, U. of Graz, Austria, 1998. Throughout her professional life, she also raised 10 wonderful children.

The family remembered her at home on Monday, January 30, 2023
and in a Mass at St. Joseph's Church, Belmont on February 20, 2023.

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