

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF SECRETARY OF THE FACULTY EMERITA SUSAN F. FINMAN

Susan F. Finman, secretary of the faculty emerita, died March 15, 2008, after a long battle with debilitating illnesses. She was born in Berlin, Germany, on December 11, 1928. Sue grew up in a musical family and was a lover of music. Her mother was a concert pianist in Germany, and her father was concertmaster of the Berlin Staatsoper. Her stepfather was cellist with the Kolisch Quartet and Albaneri Trio. Alban Berg, Arnold Schoenberg, Bela Bartok and Paul Hindemith were family friends. Sue's musical tastes were eclectic, ranging from Willie Nelson to Bach.

With her family, she escaped the Nazis and came to the United States in 1939. She graduated from Great Neck High School in New York in 1947 and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Chicago in June 1950. In January 1950, she married Ted Finman. For several years, the Finmans moved from place to place: first, the San Francisco Bay Area, then New Mexico and New Jersey. Finally, in 1963, when Ted joined our Law School faculty, they settled in Madison.

As a resident of Madison, Sue was active in supporting liberal-progressive candidates and causes that she believed in. She served as the Dane County office manager for former Congressman Robert Kastenmeier during one of his reelection campaigns, as chair of the Dane County Democratic Party, as an official in the Wisconsin primary campaign of Eugene McCarthy, and as a delegate to the 1968 Democratic convention in Chicago.

Sue began service with the university in 1966. She worked first, 1966-68, as a project assistant in the Department of Sociology. In 1968-69, she was a research specialist in the Law School. From 1969-77, she served in the Department of History, first as undergraduate advisor and then as assistant to the chair. She then joined the Office of the Secretary of the Faculty where she served as coordinator of committee services. In this role, her responsibilities included working closely with the University Committee and the four Divisional Executive Committees, providing information, support and guidance. In January 1984, she was appointed secretary of the faculty, having been acting secretary since June 1983. As secretary of the faculty, she continued working closely with the University Committee, as well as with campus administration, with academic staff involved in shared governance, and with other major campus-wide committees and activities. During her last years as secretary of the faculty, in addition to her other work, Sue wrote and compiled the first edition of the *Faculty Guide to Campus Life*, which was completed and published in 1992, and provided invaluable assistance both to new faculty and many campus veterans. She retired in 1993.

Sue Finman was ideally suited for the work of the Office of the Secretary of the Faculty, which is the official bridge between the faculty and the university administration. She was a proud supporter of the excellence of the university and believed, along with the faculty, that faculty governance is a major source of that excellence. Her broad knowledge of and devotion to the *Faculty Policies and Procedures* of the university were invaluable to the faculty members who served on the University Committee and to others across the campus. She was known for her energy and commitment to the principles of shared governance. Sue was liked and admired by the faculty who worked with her, and many became personal friends.

At the memorial service for Sue, a faculty friend who had worked with her when he was chair of the University Committee observed: "When you were in Sue's company, you were always aware of how completely alive, alert, and involved she was. She seemed always to be busy with her own family, busy with community affairs, busy with national politics, busy setting the whole world right — and enjoying all of it."

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Sue is survived by her husband of 58 years, Ted; her daughters Rona and Terry and their husbands, Warren and Dennis; and grandchildren Aliya, James, and Maya.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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