

## **Maryland Letters About Literature Christine D. Sarbanes Teacher of the Year Award**

The Maryland Humanities Council is pleased to announce the establishment of a special prize in memory of Christine D. Sarbanes, former Maryland Humanities Council board member. Honoring Christine Sarbanes' work as a teacher, this award will be part of the Maryland Letters About Literature contest and will recognize a Maryland teacher who works to promote reading.

Through a life of dedicated public service, Christine D. Sarbanes shared her love of literature and her passion for the humanities with the people of Maryland. Born in London, she received her B.A and M.A. in Classics from Oxford University, taught Classics for many years at the Gilman School in Baltimore, and was a lecturer at Goucher College. She devoted her free time serving on the boards of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Walters Art Museum, Meals on Wheels, US Committee for UNICEF, and the University of Maryland Medical School, and served as Vice Chair of the Society for Preservation of Greek Heritage. Christine Sarbanes was the wife of former U.S. Senator Paul S. Sarbanes and the mother of U.S. Rep. John P. Sarbanes, Janet Sarbanes, and Michael Sarbanes.

This annual award will be presented to a Maryland educator who participates in the Letters About Literature program and has worked to promote reading and writing in their school by employing creative teaching methods to inspire students to read great literature. Maryland teachers who have had their classes participate in Letters About Literature for and work avidly to promote reading throughout the school will be eligible.

Letters about Literature is a national contest, sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, that encourages students in grades 4 through 12 to read, be inspired, and write back to an author who has somehow changed their view of the world or themselves. Letters About Literature is run in Maryland by the Maryland Center for the Book, a program of the Maryland Humanities Council.

The first Christine D. Sarbanes Award will be presented to the selected teacher at a ceremony in April recognizing student winners in the Letters About Literature contest.