



## Francis Hall

August 31, 2014

Frances Benn Hall, 96, of 80 Hawthorne Street, teacher, playwright, producer and director, died Sunday at her home. Born June 17, 1918, in Waukegan, Ill., the daughter of Clinton and Bessie Harn Benn, she earned her BA and MA degrees in theater from the University of Wisconsin and later pursued theater and English studies at UCLA, New School in N.Y.C., Oxford and Cambridge in England, and Trinity and UCD in Ireland. She also attended summer schools in Sligo and in Wicklow in Ireland. A resident of Lenox since 1955, she taught English and theater at the Windsor Mountain School and at Berkshire Community College. For the past several years she had been writing and directing plays for her theater group, "The Yes/Noh Players." Her plays have been produced locally as well as in Ireland. Her play, Pasternak's Boots, about the Russian poet, Anna Akhmatova has received several productions, most recently by the Berkshire Theatre Festival as part of their Berkshire playwrights series. A Joyce scholar, Franny recently taught courses in James Joyce, William Faulkner, Eugene O'Neill, and Sophocles, among others, for the Lenox Community Center. Her husband, James Hall, died in 1982. Franny is survived by her sons, Parnell Hall of N.Y.C. and Terrence Hall of Lenox; and her daughter, Caitlin Hall of Hardin, Montana. FUNERAL NOTICE: There will be a private graveside service at St. Ann's Cemetery in Lenox. A Celebration of her life will take place Thursday afternoon from 3 - 5 p.m. at her home in Lenox. THE ROCHE FUNERAL HOME is in charge of arrangements. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Franny's name to the Lenox Library.