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Julia Bowe, a savior of Poetry magazine

By Kenan Heise

Julia Lecour Bowe, 85, the widow of Augustine J. Bowe, former chief justice of the Municipal Court of Chicago, helped save the publication Poetry: A Magazine of Verse.

Mass for Mrs. Bowe, a longtime Lake Shore Drive resident, was said Saturday in St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 1747 Lake Ave., Wilmette. She died Tuesday in a Glenview nursing home.

Mrs. Bowe, a native of Kankakee, graduated from Trinity College in Washington, D.C. She then taught high school French in Kankakee before marrying the future Judge Bowe and moving to Chicago.

She served as president of Le Cercle Francais de Chicago during the 1930s.

Along with her husband, who wrote poetry, Mrs. Bowe became interested in an effort to save Poetry after its founder, Harriet Monroe, died in 1936. Among her efforts were a series of lectures at the Arts Club in the Wrigley Building that included speakers such as James Thurber.

She served as treasurer of the Modern Poetry Association, which publishes Poetry. Mrs. Bowe continued her involvement in fundraising for the publication into the

1970s.

Macmillan Publishing Co. published a volume of her husband's poetry, "No Gods Are False," in 1967 after his death.

In the late 1940s, she served as president of the Library of International Relations. The library, the first of its kind, specialized in helping Chicago companies that were interested in expanding into Latin America.

A project of which she was especially proud, according to her son, Associate Circuit Judge John Bowe, was an effort over the years to assist the Lower North Center, which helped underprivileged youths. When she first became interested, the center was in a dingy and neglected building. It later was moved to Cabrini-Green Homes and became part of Chicago Youth Centers. She then served on the board of the latter.

Mrs. Bowe was also a member of the boards of the National Council of Christians and Jews and of the St. Vincent's Crib Society.

Her husband, Judge Bowe, served as chief justice of the Municipal Court of Chicago from 1960 until his death in 1966.

Besides her son, she is survived by five grandsons and two great-grandsons.