



Margaret Fox Hutchinson

June 15, 1936 - September 21, 2022

Margaret “Peggy” Fox was born in Dobbs Ferry, New York (Westchester county) to Edward B. Fox and Amelia Yale Fox. After local primary schools she went to Northfield School for Girls in Northampton, MA at age 15, then majored in math at Colby College in ME. In 1958 she went to Harvard for a Master of Arts in Teaching. While there she met Ben Hutchinson, then a grad student at MIT. They were married in August 1962.

After teaching middle-school math for two years, Peggy quit and moved with Ben in July 1963 to a starter house in Lexington, MA. She gave birth to Arthur (later “Art”) in October 1963, and to Eddie (later “Ed”) in March 1966. With Ben as the boys grew she hiked, backpacked, biked, and cross-country skied. They visited his parents in Atlanta in the spring, and her parents at their Adirondack summer home in Alder Creek, NY.

When the boys reached their teens, Peggy went back to full-time math teaching at a private high school for a year. She then shifted to tutoring of individual math students, paid directly by their parents. The private school lent her a room for free so that students could come in free periods. Student success was in the school’s interest. She made similar arrangements at other private schools, and also saw some public-school students in a home office

after the family moved to a larger house in Lexington in 1977.

Peggy was very good at tutoring. She had a gift for quickly finding out exactly why a student's math performance was poor, by having them work a few selected problems, writing and talking while she watched and listened. Word of mouth got her plenty more requests for tutoring, even when she raised her rates.

In 1986 Peggy and Ben moved to North Bethesda, MD in suburban Washington, DC when Ben changed jobs. They bought a townhouse. Art was out of college and Ed halfway through. She was soon tutoring again at private schools and in a home office. They enjoyed several trips to the UK. Their first one was in 1977, from MA.

In 1985 in MA, Peggy and Ben had caught the sailing bug crewing for neighbors. In 1988 in MD they bought a 31-foot Tartan cruising sailboat, and sailed it on the Chesapeake Bay for 19 years. Peggy wanted to be co-captain, not just crew, so with Ben's support she took a 2-week resident "Womanship" course in Tampa in February and achieved her goal.

In June 1989 Peggy and Ben flew to Boston to see granddaughter Kate, born to Art and his wife Helen. For years they flew ~monthly to see her and sister Emily, born in 1993, and Sarah, born to Ed and his wife Jane in 2000. All visited in MD when old enough.

Peggy and Ben retired in 1997. In 1999 they moved to a house in

Davidsonville MD with a big tree-covered lot and a pool, loved by grands and neighbor kids. In 2002 and after they took big overseas trips: New Zealand, Iceland, Galapagos, Italy, Peru, and Chile.

In 2005 their younger son Ed died of leukemia at age 39, the worst tragedy of their life together. Ed's daughter Sarah was 5. She has done well; now a senior at Dartmouth.

In 2014 Peggy and Ben moved to the Collington continuing-care retirement community in Bowie MD. For ~4 years Peggy was healthy and active. Then hereditary spinal stenosis and other health issues prevented travel and limited her mobility. A sudden overwhelming infection took her life 9 days after successful surgery for a fall and hip fracture on 9/11/22.

Peggy is survived by her husband Ben, son Art, three adult granddaughters, and four great-grandchildren, two boys and two girls, ages from infancy to 5 years.

Eventually but not soon there will be a celebration of life for family and close friends.

Tribute Wall

DB

“ I met Peg and Ben early on and enjoyed eating with them.\r\nPeg always lovingly showed pictures of the great grandbabies as they arrived.\r\nShe learned to play mah jongg which is not an easy game. Then got her own mah jongg set and really enjoyed being part of the group.. We all miss her.\r\n\r\nDenise Bunting

Denise Bunting - November 04, 2022 at 11:05 AM

“ It is with so much sadness that I write of my fond memories of dearest Peggy. Peggy was more than a friend; she was a confidant, a trusted advisor, a safe harbor and a mother figure to me. I met her in 1991 on the day we moved next door to Peggy and Ben in Rockville. It was a hot August day and Peggy showed up at our door with fresh lemonade and homemade muffins. We soon discovered that Ben and Peggy shared the same wedding Anniversary as Paul and me, just 28 years apart. We got to hear their stories of excitement over their first grandchild, Kate, and we got to share the excitement of being pregnant and then welcoming our daughter Cailleigh in December 1992. On the day I came home from the hospital, Peggy so kindly brought over the most delicious homemade lasagna we ever tasted. I will never forget that meal. Peggy gifted us with a set of the most perfect swaddling blankets that she had sewn and soon the most engaging baby books started showing up. Peggy and Ben (or Peg and Benny as our kids often called them) quickly became a bonus set of beloved grandparents. When we were preparing for the birth of our son Kyle in November 1994, Peggy was on standby to come over and stay with Cailleigh. We called her after midnight on November 3rd and she arrived in less than 5 minutes so we could head to the hospital. Peggy and Ben were so natural at engaging with our little people and had the best collection of children's storybooks that they thoroughly enjoyed reading together. Cailleigh and Kyle loved going over and playing with the wooden blocks, miniature stove, music box and all sorts of vintage toys that they had kept after raising their own two sons. We would often pop over to Peggy's back deck to pick fresh basil and fresh mint and we all enjoyed Peggy's homemade mint sherbet in the summer. I fondly remember Peggy joining Cailleigh and me on a strawberry picking adventure and then she taught me how to make jam. In the fall we looked forward to her homemade apple pies that she baked with Macintosh apples shipped in from New England. We moved to Crownsville in 1998 and were delighted when Ben and Peggy moved to Davidsonville -- just 5 minutes away -- a few months later. Peggy loved their home in the

woods and we loved visiting for tea and Pepperidge Farm or homemade cookies. They loved having their granddaughters Kate, Emily and Sara visit in the summers and carefully planned fun things to do with the girls. We were always impressed with the "million" piece jigsaw puzzles they completed together. One of the traditions of visiting Peggy and Ben was for Cailleigh and Kyle to run upstairs to their playroom and write messages for Kate and Emily on the blackboard. Of course they loved seeing the messages that Kate and Emily left for them too.

Paul and I got to go sailing with Ben and Peggy on the Chesapeake and were impressed with their accurate weather forecasting way back in the day before weather.com. We always knew who to call for the weather reports.

Peggy and Ben attended many of our kids birthdays parties and both Cailleigh and Kyle's high school graduations. Peggy always took a genuine interest in school projects and who was wearing what for Halloween. I remember how thrilled Peggy was to write a letter of recommendation for Kyle to go to Camp Dudley for four summers as she had memories of her nephews attending camp there decades before.

When Kyle went to high school and I went back to work, Peggy so kindly met me for lunch dates every couple of weeks so we could catch up on everything.

Peggy had a knack for choosing the most perfect birthday cards and always picked out the most thoughtful gifts.

When Peggy and Ben downsized and moved to Collington, they handed down their old camping gear that they had used on backpacking trips when their boys were younger. That gear was the start of many fantastic backpacking trips that Paul and I took along with our dogs. And, we have more trips to do!. We continue to use the coffee mugs marke

Elsbeth Feldman - October 14, 2022 at 04:21 PM

MW

“ With deepest sympathy,

Martha Wilder - October 11, 2022 at 09:40 PM

MW

“ As ham radio club \"widows\", Peggy and I shared many enjoyable times for over 20 years. She was a delightful, caring friend, and I will miss her.

Martha Wilder - October 11, 2022 at 09:34 PM

LM

“ David and I have been having dinner with Ben and Peggy once or twice a month since we arrived here in 2017. I found Peggy to be warm, welcoming and very caring. She loved her family, friends and games. She made me feel special and important when we talked and ate together. I will miss her.

Linda Meade - October 11, 2022 at 12:12 PM

SB

“ We will miss Peggy's sense of humor and sweet smile!

Sue and Mike Blanchette - October 10, 2022 at 05:28 PM

HH

“ Among many things, I will miss Peggy's smile, her enthusiasm, her infectious interest in the weather and her love of a good New England MacIntosh apple! Looking at these photos of a family vacation to the Adirondacks made me smile. \n-Helen Hutchinson

Helen Hutchinson - October 10, 2022 at 09:48 AM

CF

“ Peggy was such a kind, gentle, and loving woman. She truly was another grandmother to me and Kyle. We will miss her greatly and remember her forever.

Caileigh Feldman - October 08, 2022 at 11:01 AM

JD

“ *Peggy was such a wonderful woman. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Jen and Mike Dignam*

Jenifer Dignam - October 08, 2022 at 09:31 AM

AH

“ *We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Simplicity Cremation & Funeral Services*

A Memorial Tree was planted for Margaret Fox Hutchinson - September 25, 2022 at 12:35 PM