

# We Remember Them

*A collection of memories and photos  
celebrating the lives of those we loved and lost.*

February 2021



*Top Row: Janet Laughlin,  
Augusta Baum, Kay Conkling,  
Betty Valentine*

*Middle Row: Edith Burger,  
Bob Vannerson, Peter Loizeaux,  
Linda Cotter*

*Bottom Row: Ed Passus, Chris Gates*

In the rising of the sun and its going down,  
*we remember you.*

In the blowing of the wind and the chill of winter,  
*we remember you.*

In the opening of buds and the rebirth of spring,  
*we remember you.*

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,  
*we remember you.*

In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,  
*we remember you.*

When we are weary and in need of strength,  
*we remember you.*

When we are lost and sick at heart,  
*we remember you.*

When we have joys we yearn to share,  
*we remember you.*

So long as we live, you too shall live, for you are a part of us,  
*as we remember you.*

*"We Remember You" by Sylvan Kamens & Rabbi Jack Riemer*

# Janet Laughlin

*Resident of Newbury Court | November 24, 2020*

## **From her obituary:**

Janet French Laughlin, longtime resident of Chelmsford, MA and recently of Concord, MA, passed away on November 24, 2020. She was 94.

Janet was born in Lowell, MA to Leonard and Gertrude (Bachmann) French. She grew up in Lowell, attended Northfield School, and graduated from Pembroke College in Brown University in 1948. While at Brown, Janet met the love of her life, Bailey. They married in 1948 and lived most of their 68 years together in Chelmsford, where they raised five children. Janet was a member of All Saints' Church, was an active member of the Chelmsford Garden Club, and, later in life, obtained her real estate license and worked at Emerson Real Estate in Chelmsford and Westford.

Janet was the catalyst for getting her family on the ski slopes. They started skiing on local hills in Massachusetts and then explored other areas in New England. The family built a ski house in 1962 in Intervale, NH, which became a place of refuge and joy for many years.

Janet was preceded in death by her beloved husband Francis Bailey Laughlin, and a brother, Prof. Calvin French. She leaves her five children, Jennifer Laughlin and husband Jake Broderick, Francis (Buz) Laughlin and wife Shawn, Ann Ostroski and husband Phil, Pamela Emerson, and Alexander Laughlin, and seven grandchildren.

The Laughlin family is grateful to Newbury Court for their support during their mom's final years. The family is also deeply grateful to Janet's devoted caregivers for all their care and support: Betty Wasswa, Anne Marie Nsereko, Beatrice Mbatudde, and Charity Chiweshe.





## Janet Laughlin (page 2)

*Resident of Newbury Court | November 24, 2020*



*Janet enjoying the outdoors, as well as the 2014 Newbury Court Art Auction.*



*Janet, surrounded by her loving family, at Newbury Court.*



# Augusta Baum

*Resident of Newbury Court & Rivercrest | November 26, 2020*

## From her obituary:

Augusta Gallagher Baum, a seven year resident of Newbury Court, Concord, MA, passed away of heart failure on Nov. 26, 2020. She was born in Malden, MA, on May 3, 1918, the oldest of five children, to Dr. Nicholas Ambrose Gallagher and Anna Theodora Bonzagni. She attended the Malden Public Schools and took art lessons at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

After graduating from Emmanuel College in 1940, Augusta married John L. Baum and they moved to Franklin, New Jersey, and later Hamburg, NJ, and they were happily married for seventy three years. Augusta was the devoted mother of two sons, Dwight Gallagher and Peter Nicholas. The family enjoyed their summer home in Grafton, NH for many years.

From an early age Augusta showed artistic talent, and her lessons at the MFA lead to a career as a professional artist. She was a signature member of the Northeast New Jersey Watercolor Society, and a signature member of the Essex NJ Watercolor Society, the first watercolor society in New Jersey. Augusta, along with



her husband Jack, were avid museum enthusiasts. She was a board member of the Sussex County Historical Society, and a member the Franklin Historical Society and Hamburg Historical Society. She was a longtime member of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Always eager to serve, Augusta volunteered for the community as art chairperson for the Women's Club and the local schools, she was a Girl Scout leader, a lifelong contributor at St. Jude Parish Church, and raised funds for the Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice in Newton, NJ. Augusta traveled with her husband, a prominent geologist, and they enjoyed geology tours of countries around the world. Her many interests included bridge, mahjong, golfing, bowling, knitting, crocheting, but most of all painting the beautiful landscape of the New Jersey countryside.

*Augusta (left) and friend Mary Ann Lee enjoy dinner at the 2014 Clambake. Mary Ann passed away in July 2020.*

## Augusta Baum (page 2)

*Resident of Newbury Court & Rivercrest*

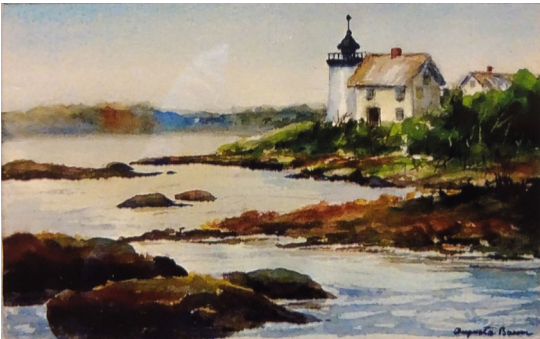
Augusta is predeceased by her loving husband, John L. Baum, her sister Francesca Gallagher and brothers Nathaniel A. Gallagher, Paul A. Gallagher and "Buddy" Gallagher. She is survived by her son Dwight G. Baum and his spouse Suzanne Baum; and son Peter N. Baum and spouse Cynthia Baum. She is survived by granddaughter Andrea Baum, grandson John N. Baum, his wife Lindsey, and great granddaughter Sophia; and grandsons Stephen Tassi and his wife Brianna, and Kenneth Tassi.



*Augusta on a field trip to  
The Butterfly Place in 2014*

### **From her family:**

Augusta's art work was an expression of her inner self, of the meaning she found in life around her. It was a gift to everyone who saw it. She often painted country scenes, winter snow and ice, and bare tree branches – where new life would soon bloom.



Augusta began her art lessons at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. When she was young she often drew pictures on the cellar walls, until one day her mother decided to bring her to the MFA for art lessons - and her talent was discovered.



## Augusta Baum (page 3)

*Resident of Newbury Court & Rivercrest*

Augusta and her husband Jack, a geologist, shared seventy-three years of marriage. They traveled across the country and the world together, he collecting minerals and she taking photographs and rapid water color sketches for future paintings.



*Augusta and Jack visit the  
Taj Mahal in Feb 1978*



*Augusta and Jack celebrate Augusta's  
90th birthday on May 3, 2008*

Her new friends at Newbury Court were very special to her and she truly enjoyed everyone she met. She appreciated the concerts, lectures museum trips, and all the wonderful activities. Friends gave her a toast at her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.





## Augusta Baum (page 4)

*Resident of Newbury Court & Rivercrest*

We were blessed to have her with us for family activities and holidays. Augusta was kind and loving to her grandchildren, John and Andrea. She was always generous, a wonderful person. We celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, May 3, 2018.



To think of what Augusta accomplished in 102 years is astonishing. She embraced her advancing years, never with fear and hesitation, always with determination, continuing on. She would say, "I don't think about it, I just keep going." And keep going she did – ramrod straight ahead ! Onward! When asked what major world events stood out in her mind, she recalled the sacrifices made by everyone in World War II. She was an inspiration, loving and always giving to family, friends, and community. Her heart was beating for 102 years, a life well lived.



# Catherine “Kay” Conkling

*Resident of Newbury Court, The Gardens, and Rivercrest | December 5, 2020*

## From her family:

Catherine Conkling (known at “Kay”) grew up in Winchester, MA in a large family of eight. She was married to William Conkling for 70 years. They spent the majority of their married years in Chatham, NJ, and Osterville, MA, and spent the final years of their life at Newbury Court.



Kay was most known for her irreverent sense of humor, endearing her to friends and family. She loved gathering her family for food and holidays. She also enjoyed a busy social life filled with many friends, who appreciated her lively personality.

Kay volunteered her time and skills to many organizations, including The Girl Scouts of the USA and Overlook Hospital in NJ. She was a ceramist her entire life, bringing joy to people through her art pieces and creating her own home-based ceramic business. Her other hobbies included knitting, sewing, tennis, golf, bridge, gardening and raising her dogs. She donated many of her knitting and ceramic projects to help raise money for non-profit organizations. She leaves behind four children, ten grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Kay will be missed!



*Kay and Bill over the years*



## Catherine “Kay” Conkling (page 2)

*Resident of Newbury Court, The Gardens, and Rivercrest*



*Left: Kay (right) enjoying the 2014 Clambake with Joe & Shirley Petitti;*



*Right: Kay (center) with friends at the 2012 annual Halloween party*



# Elizabeth “Betty” Valentine

*Resident of Newbury Court | December 14, 2020*

## **From her obituary:**

Elizabeth Hiam Valentine (Betty to all who knew her), long-time resident of Carlisle, passed away on Monday, December 14 at ninety years of age.

Betty was mother of seven, patient wife, grandmother, beloved sister, friend, orphan, pilot, expert bird watcher, world traveler, aspiring artist, tennis player, bridge player, Museum of Fine Arts Docent and Gallery Instructor, Boston Symphony Orchestra lifetime ticket holder, passionate Red Sox and Patriots fan, adequate skier, African Grey Parrot owner, and conservationist.



She was born to Colonel Thomas and Frances (Webster) Hiam on November 6, 1930 in Vancouver, Canada. Her father passed away when she was six years old and her mother when she was twelve. She and her four siblings moved across North America to live with their grandparents, Edwin S. (E.S.) and Jane DePeyster Webster, affectionately known as Pa and Tудie, in Chestnut Hill, MA. E.S. Webster was the co-founder of Stone & Webster, the Boston-based electrical engineering and power infrastructure firm. Betty returned to Canada to attend college at McGill University where she met her husband John Valentine, a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Force and a U.S. champion ski racer who grew up in Chelmsford, Mass. They married in 1952. In 1954, they bought Stillmeadow Farm on 100 acres of land at the corner of West and Acton Streets in Carlisle, where they would live for 66 years.

Betty was an enthusiastic bird watcher and educator for the Massachusetts Audubon Society and specialized in North Eastern shore birds. She served on the Advisory Council of Mass Audubon very many years. She travelled the world extensively with bird watching enthusiasts, actively seeking to fill out her bird species “Life List”. She and her family lived with a succession of African Grey Parrots.

Betty joined the Ladies Committee at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and then went on to become a Gallery Instructor. She took great joy in sharing the wonders of the art world with small children.

## Elizabeth “Betty” Valentine (page 2)

*Resident of Newbury Court*



*Jack and Betty (left) and their property at Stillmeadow Farm in Carlisle, MA*

Betty and her late husband Jack were dedicated, life-long conservationists. They kept Stillmeadow Farm (which grew to 156 acres over the years) in active agricultural use throughout their lives. Betty was instrumental in the multi-year planning efforts with the Carlisle Conservation Foundation that led in 2008 to a permanent Conservation Restriction on the entire property, preserving 129 acres (over 82% of the land) and protecting some of the most iconic rural vistas in Carlisle. The Conservation plan reduced the number of possible homes that could be built from 27 to 17 - all at no cost to the taxpayers of Carlisle. Betty was also a careful steward of the endangered species on the Farm and made sure all of that habitat went into conservation.

Betty had seven children – Ian Valentine of Los Angeles, CA; Lisa Bennett of Holderness, NH; Anne Valentine of Brownsville, VT; Alison Pascarelli of Holderness, NH; Thom Valentine of Phippsburg, ME. She was a mischievous grandmother to eight grandchildren, all of whom were particularly endeared to her as a result. Betty is also survived by her sister Frances Holbrook of Pownal, VT and her brother Peter Hiam of Holderness, NH. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack, her daughter, Jessica of Carlisle, MA and her son, Peter of Olympia, WA.

# Edith Burger

*Resident of Newbury Court & The Gardens | December 20, 2020*

## **An art life summary from Newbury Court's archives (circa 2000):**

Born in Lowell, Edith Burger resided there until she moved to Newbury Court in Concord six years ago (in 1994).

From early childhood, she showed an interest in drawing and painting but it was not until she finished high school and took courses at Lowell Textile Institute that art became a lifetime interest.

Her studies included classes at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, DeCordova Museum of Art School, and with Mary Earl Wood, Marvin Julian, Helen Van Wyck, Carlton Plummer and others.

She worked chiefly in oil and pastel in portraits and still life until she discovered the medium of watercolor with its freshness and spontaneity and convenience. This is now a major interest..

Her work has been exhibited at Philips Andover Academy, DeCordova Museum, Whistler House Museum of Art, Concord Art Museum, Lowell Museum, and also in various area exhibits at which she has won several ribbons and a Purchase Prize from the Lowell National Historical Park.

She made a study of the life of James McNeill Whistler and edited a book by F.W. Coburn, "Whistler and His Birthplace," and taught a children's art class at the Lowell Girl's Club for two years.

At the same time she has served as a volunteer in leadership roles at the Whistler House Museum of Art in Lowell as well as in many important organizations in Lowell.

Although a woman of many accomplishments, for Edit, art dominates and she quotes H.W. Longfellow: "Art is forever, time is fleeting."





## Edith Burger (page 2)

*Resident of Newbury Court & The Gardens*



**From Robert Williams, nephew:**

These are two photos of Edith, both taken by me... Both present views of Edith as I choose to remember her.

*Left:* Edith while visiting family.

*Below:* Edith and the staff of the Whistler House.





## Edith Burger (page 3)

*Resident of Newbury Court & The Gardens*



*Above, left: Edith (far left) and other residents at the groundbreaking of Newbury Court  
Above, right: Edith (third from left) and friends on a bus outing*

*Below, left: At the 2014 Newbury Court Art Auction  
Below, right: Seeing lambs on a bus trip in 2013*



# Robert “Bob” Vannerson

*Resident of Newbury Court & Rivercrest | December 22, 2020*

## From his obituary:

Robert Aylmer Vannerson, 94 of Concord, formerly of Sudbury, died peacefully on December 22, 2020 at Newbury Court where he had been living since 2005.

Bob was born on March 16, 1926, in Wilmington, Delaware, to Walter L. and Margery R. Vannerson. He was a graduate of Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA, and earned a Masters Degree in Organizational Development at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

Mr. Vannerson spent his entire working career with Liberty Mutual Insurance Co., the last fifteen years as a manager of the Personnel Development Department. He retired in 1989 after nearly 40 years with that company.

Bob leaves his wife of 66 years, Alice (Huntington); a son, Stephen Huntington Vannerson and his wife, Sharron, of Falmouth, MA; another son, Stuart Harris Vannerson and his wife, Carol of Olympia, WA, three grandsons, Timothy (Alexis) Vannerson, of Portland, OR, Scott Vannerson of Portland, OR, Garrett, Sylvia of Taos, NM and one granddaughter, Kaitlin Sylvia of Austin, TX. Brothers-in-law, David (Joan) Huntington of Peterborough, NH, Jonathan Huntington of Loudon, NH, Thomas McKenna of Wilmington, DE, Sister-in-law, Catherine Russell (Robb) of Winchester, VA and many dear nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a sister, Jane McKenna, sister-in-law, Eleanor Huntington and sister and brother-in-law, Ann and Bob Grose, daughters, Suzanne Sherwood Vannerson (1964) and Molly Sylvia (2013).

During World War II, Bob served as a Corporal in the U.S. Army Field Artillery in the Philippine Islands.

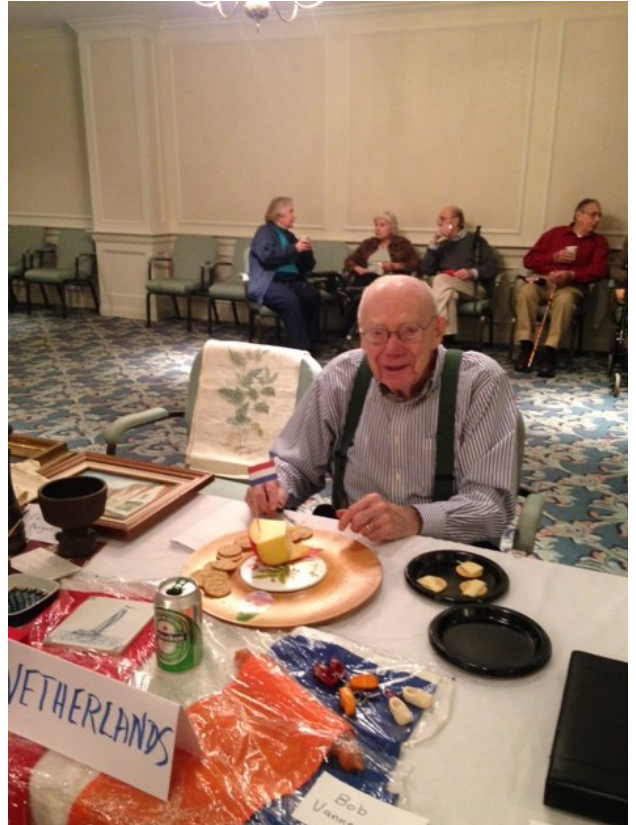
He took on a number of leadership roles in the Town of Sudbury, participating in the Bridges program from its inception until 2005, and serving as a mentor to graduating seniors at Charlestown High School. He was a charter member of the Retired Men’s Association of Wayland, Weston, and Sudbury, and served faithfully at the Sudbury United Methodist Church as Lay Leader, Church School Teacher, and, for over 20 years, Stephen Minister. At Newbury Court he continued to be active in the Residents Association, serving as President and Welcoming Committee Chair.





# Robert "Bob" Vannerson (page 2)

*Resident of Newbury Court & Rivercrest*



*Top left: Bob at the opening of Newbury Commons (now known as the North building) in 2007*

*Top right: Representing the Netherlands at the Heritage Fair in 2015*

*Bottom right: At the opening of Newbury Court (now known as the South building) in 2006*

*Bottom left: Enjoying the annual Newbury Court Pawsox outing with wife Alice in 2012*

# Robert “Bob” Vannerson (page 3)

*Resident of Newbury Court & Rivercrest*

## **From Alice Vannerson, wife:**

Many people have kindly written me wonderful notes about Bob. So often you tell of him greeting you when you were new and making you feel welcomed. He really cared about you, and he often looked for new faces so he could help newcomers make friends.



He was a great host and loved having friends come to our home. I remember so many Fourth of July's with two and three generation families enjoying our yard and each other's company.

Bob loved sports. He took my mom, my younger sister, and me to our first major league baseball game to see our beloved Dodgers at Ebbetts Field. When we moved to the Boston area, he became an ardent Red Sox fan, and took me to several games. He played a great game of tennis with men during the week and couples on weekends.

Curious about our world, he planned two different extended trips to the west coast for our family, camping in state and national parks all the way, and enjoying the beauty and wonder of our country. After the children grew up, he planned trips to many countries around the world, sometimes with organized companies, but more often with just a few friends, from the mountains of Alaska to the Great Barrier Reef of Australia. He enjoyed the planning and making all the arrangements, and he did it so well.



Bob was a wonderful father. He attended Prepared Childbirth classes with me before our first son was born. He supported me during labor and could change a diaper as well as anyone. As our children grew, we took them to church and Sunday School. He taught them to play sports, and we watched Little League games and their high school track meets. He climbed Mt. Katahdin with their Boy Scout troop.

He was a dear husband to me, and I cherish the sixty-six years we shared together.

*50th anniversary in Bermuda*



# Robert “Bob” Vannerson (page 4)

*Resident of Newbury Court & Rivercrest*

## From Stu Vannerson, son:

Words can't begin to describe how my Dad seemed to put people at ease, and it came naturally to him. But what didn't come so naturally were his manual skills – carpentry, handiwork, etc. Yet he was determined to make ambitious gifts with his hands on occasion, and for this I truly admire that kind of determination. The piece I remember most vividly is a two-story doll-house – a mansion really – for my sister

Molly. Using just hand tools, this plywood dollhouse had hinged back and sides for access, electric lights inside, shutters and clapboard exterior, wallpaper, stairs between the two floors, a chimney and attic, and many more details. Dad worked on this project in the basement for months, and Molly played with it for years and years.





# Peter Loizeaux

*Resident of Newbury Court | December 23, 2020*

## **From Elisabeth Loizeaux, wife:**

Peter is mourned by Elisabeth, his wife of sixty years, their two sons and their families, four grandsons, three sisters, and by many friends both here and abroad. He lived by the principles of civility, modesty and kindness. He was infallibly gracious, had a wonderful sense of humor that was disarming and made him good company.



After serving in the Navy in Pearl Harbor for 3 years, he traveled around the world, meeting a Swiss girl in Bangkok, who two years later became his wife. The family spent many summers vacationing in the Swiss Alps. Peter and his wife loved to travel and enjoyed hiking, skiing, kayaking, playing tennis, reading, music and the theater.

Peter spent his working life in N.J., running a family business. Before moving to Newbury Court in 2018, he and Elisabeth lived for 10 years in Boston, enjoying all the city has to offer.



In later years, Peter was happiest in Southwest Harbor, Maine, where he and his wife had built a house by the sea, which became a favorite place to gather with friends and family.

# Linda Cotter

*Resident of Newbury Court | January 8, 2021*

## From her obituary:

Linda Kester Cotter, 83, of Concord, MA, died peacefully at home on January 8, 2021, surrounded by her family.

Linda was born on September 19, 1937 in Brooklyn, NY, the daughter of Harold E. and Rose Rothstein Kester and grew up in Brooklyn with her younger sister Marjorie and a large, close extended family of cousins.

An unusually capable student, Linda graduated at age sixteen from James Madison High School and went on to Wellesley College, where she was President of Forum and in 1956 served as Massachusetts statewide Chair of the Students for (Adlai) Stevenson Presidential Campaign. During the campaign she enlisted William ("Bill") Cotter, President of the Harvard Young Democrats to recruit student volunteers. As Bill was fond of saying, Linda was his boss. They became friends and later, began dating. She graduated with honors from Wellesley in 1958.

Linda & Bill were married in 1959 at the Kester family home on Long Island and moved to Cambridge, MA to pursue their graduate studies. Linda earned her Masters in Teaching at the Harvard School of Education while Bill finished at Harvard Law School.

Linda taught elementary school in Lexington, MA, New York City, and Kaduna, Nigeria and English at the University of the Andes in Bogotá, Colombia. She worked for David Rockefeller on Latin American issues, at the Ford Foundation, as the Executive Director of the Ellis Phillips Foundation and later helped launch the

Women's Rights program at the Geneva-based Oak Foundation.

After her family moved to Waterville, Maine for Bill's position as President of Colby College, she was a much loved and admired "First Lady" from 1979 to 2000 and served Colby in many capacities, including establishing programs to help students secure internships.





## Linda Cotter (page 2)

*Resident of Newbury Court*

While Linda achieved much professionally, she was first a full and equal partner for Bill and a mother. Her three children were the center of her world, and that expanded to excelling as a grandmother when her two granddaughters came along. She adored them, and they, her.



She loved her beautiful flower gardens, reading books and two daily newspapers, and a good cup of tea. She was outspoken against racial and gender discrimination. She was a founder of the Mid-Maine Global Forum as well as two women's support groups in Florida and Massachusetts, and served on many nonprofit boards.

Linda was small in stature but incredibly strong. She survived a serious form of cancer in the 1940s and other medical challenges over the years. She lived her last two years enduring the arduous course of thrice weekly dialysis treatments.

In her final days of life, as friends and family members shared their love and appreciation for Linda, they noted how kind, brilliant, caring, gracious, and elegant she was. She made countless people feel respected, appreciated, and cared-for. Most of all, her family.

Linda was predeceased by her beloved daughter, Deborah Anne, and her parents. She leaves behind her devoted husband of 61 years, Bill; her son David and his partner, Jessica LaRue of San Diego, CA; her daughter Elizabeth and husband Michael Schlax of Yarmouth, ME and her treasured granddaughters Elena and Jillian Schlax. She is also survived by her sister, Marjorie Smith of Durham N.H. and the Smith, Zamore and Cotter families and countless other relatives and friends from the many stages of her life.

Linda will be laid to rest next to her daughter in Concord, MA.

## Linda Cotter (page 3)

*Resident of Newbury Court*

### From Colby College, 10 January 2021:

The Colby community is deeply saddened by the loss of Linda K. Cotter, LL.D. '00, who graced Colby's campus as "first lady" from 1979 to 2000. Linda Kester Cotter died Jan. 8, 2021, at her home in Concord, Mass. She was 83.

Linda Cotter devoted enormous time and energy to create and nurture internships for Colby students, an effort that opened important doors for students and strengthened alumni ties to the College. The Linda K. Cotter Internship Fund, endowed and named in her honor, forever links her to the transformative career opportunities she so fervently championed.

"Linda brought force, grace, and intellect to the issues and organizations that aligned with her clear and abiding values," President David A. Greene said in a letter to the community. "Long before we had the resources and partnerships of DavisConnects, she worked tirelessly to ensure Colby students would have life-changing internships and careers. Her impact here and well beyond our campus is indelible."

Linda Cotter and her husband, Colby's 18th president, William "Bill" R. Cotter, LL.D. '00, arrived on Mayflower Hill in 1979 with their three children, David, Deborah, and Elizabeth, who they raised on campus. Soon after, she began volunteering in Colby's then Career Services Office and quickly assumed the role of associate director of off-campus study coordinating student internships. She also served as a member of Colby's women's studies advisory board and as a Hillel advisor.

A Wellesley College alumna who graduated with honors in 1958, she was accepted to Harvard Law School, one of 15 women in a class of 500. She declined Harvard's offer, wary of a climate unreceptive to women, and also turned down a doctoral fellowship at Columbia. Instead, while her husband earned his law degree, she taught school in Lexington, Mass., and earned a master's in teaching from the Harvard School of Education.



*Linda Cotter and President Bill Cotter on stage at a Campaign for Colby event when the Linda K. Cotter Internship Fund was announced.*

*Courtesy Colby College.*



## Linda Cotter (page 4)

*Resident of Newbury Court*

During the 1960s and '70s, Linda and Bill Cotter worked and traveled internationally and started a family. Linda Cotter taught school on three continents—in New York, Nigeria, and Colombia, where she taught English and English literature at the University of the Andes. She also worked as an official for the Ford Foundation, the Ellis Phillips Foundation, and the Oak Foundation in Geneva, where she helped launch its women's rights program.

At Colby, “Linda Cotter wrote her own script, juggling roles as wife, mother, volunteer, and professional, and as a behind-the-scenes assistant to the president,” wrote College Historian Earl Smith in *Mayflower Hill: A History of Colby College*. Always, he concluded, “with an unfailing antenna for the needs of the broader Colby family.”

Her roles as president's wife and associate director of off-campus study were mutually supportive. Her interaction with alumni, fostered by extensive travel, and her regular contact with students created connections between the groups that propelled Colby to prominence as internships gained importance in the 1990s.

National prominence also came as a result of the Cotters' emphasis on international study, which led to an increase in students studying abroad and campus-based international programs. They also helped initiate a grant from the Oak Foundation that established the Oak Foundation International Scholarship



Fund in 1997. That same year, they were instrumental in the creation of Colby's Oak Institute for Human Rights.

In 1999 the Cotters established the William R. and Linda K. Cotter Debate Fund to ensure that each year the College hosted at least one debate on a current topic with widespread interest on campus. The debate fund began providing resources for students and faculty members to conduct collaborative research on

*In 1997 Colby trustees named the student center Cotter Union in honor of Bill and Linda Cotter, seen here in front of the union. Courtesy Colby College.*

## Linda Cotter (page 5)

*Resident of Newbury Court*

complex, provocative issues in 2015.

Linda Cotter shared her time and talent in the greater Waterville community as well, playing key roles in area United Way campaigns and with the YMCA, Oak Grove-Coburn School, and the Maine Children's Home. A founder of the Mid-Maine Global Forum, she also helped establish Waterville's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Observance.



*The Cotter family in 1979, shortly after they arrived on Mayflower Hill.  
Courtesy Colby College.*

Those who knew Linda Cotter recall her warm smile, her genuine concern for others, and her personal acknowledgment to others for jobs well done. “She routinely wrote notes of condolence or congratulations to employees campus-wide and unfailingly wrote thank-yous to Dining Services and PPD following major events,” Smith said.

For her exceptionally valuable participation in the success of the College, she was presented with the Colby Brick Award in 1994. When President Cotter retired in 2000, after serving longer than any other president in Colby's history, he and Linda were joint recipients of the Marriner Distinguished Service Award.

As Linda Cotter prepared to leave Mayflower Hill, she told *Colby Magazine* that what she'd miss most was the student interaction. No longer would she be able to hold conversations with bright students in the dining halls and elsewhere across campus. “There aren't many people in their 60s,” she said, “lucky enough to feel that connected.”



# Edward “Ed” Passus

*Resident of Rivercrest | January 23, 2021*

## From his obituary:

Edward A. Passus, Sr., of Concord, the beloved husband for 54 years of Catherine (Donato) Passus, died on Saturday, January 23, 2021 at Emerson Hospital, following a brief illness. He was 80.

Born in San Mateo, California on February 1, 1940, he was the son of the late Tony and Emily (Fiske) Passus. While growing up in Mountain View, California, he attended Mountain View High School. After graduating, Ed dedicated himself to our country by enlisting in the United States Navy, where he served aboard the USS

Lexington CV-16 during the Vietnam War era. He was honorably discharged in 1966, and subsequently settled in Concord, Massachusetts, where he and Catherine raised their family.

For 32 years, prior to retirement, Ed was employed in the shipping and receiving department of GenRad in Concord. He was a member of the Maynard VFW Post, where he proudly served in the Honor Guard. Ed was also a parishioner of Holy Family Parish, formerly St. Bernard’s Church, in Concord.

In addition to his wife, Ed will be forever missed by his three children, Jennifer Scheufele and her husband Brian of Shirley, Susan Passus and her husband Matt Harkins of Concord, Edward Passus, Jr. and his wife Lori of Concord, as well as his grandchildren, Alexander and Lydia Scheufele, Owen, Max, Gabriella and Vivienne Harkins, and Natalie and Abigail Passus.



# Dr. Christopher “Chris” Gates

*Resident of Newbury Court | January 30, 2021*

## From his obituary:

Christopher Courtney Gates, M.D., (Chris), of Concord, Massachusetts, died on Saturday, January 30, 2021, at Mass General Brigham in Boston, Massachusetts. He was 87.

Son of the late Frances Crozier and Percival Taylor Gates, he was born in Montclair, New Jersey, on June 7, 1933. The youngest of three boys, he passed his childhood with his brothers Gregory (Greg) and Percival (Val) Gates tinkering with engines, lighting firecrackers, shooting B.B. guns, and sailing off Vinalhaven island in Maine, where the family spent their summers.

In his teens, he moved to Suffield, Connecticut. He attended The Loomis School (now Loomis Chaffee School) in Windsor, Connecticut, graduating in 1951, and did a post-graduate year at Harrow School in Harrow, London, England. At Harrow it thrilled him to meet Old Harrovian Sir Winston Churchill and to set the school distance record for throwing a cricket ball. On breaks between terms, he toured Europe with friends in a dilapidated van. Later, he would fondly recall camping misadventures, climbing through a youth hostel window after breaking curfew, and overindulging at a Danish smorgasbord.

From 1952 to 1956 he attended Yale University, graduating with a B.A. in History of the Arts and Letters. At Yale he rowed lightweight crew and joined the Elihu senior society. Appointed a Scholar of the House his senior year, he wrote a paper on Victorian art critic John Ruskin.

After graduation, he returned to Loomis to teach English before joining the U.S. Navy in 1957. He attained the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade in his role as operations officer on the destroyer tender U.S.S. Bryce Canyon. His vivid memories of a tour of the Pacific include Subic Bay in the Philippines teeming with life, the challenge of persuading his crew back on board after a raucous night of shore leave, and islanders gathering at a seawall in Okinawa for a fireworks display commemorating the bombing of Hiroshima.

It was during this period of his life that he wrestled over which path to follow in terms of a profession. Steeped in the humanities, he also believed in science and



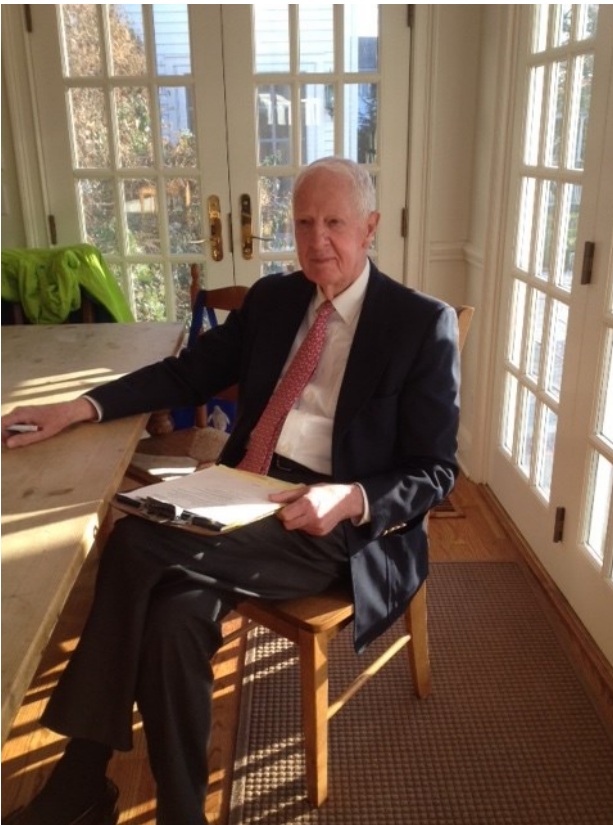


## Dr. Christopher “Chris” Gates (page 2)

*Resident of Newbury Court*

the power of faith, and was thinking about a career in the ministry. Instead, he opted for psychiatry. After the Navy, he took a job at Yale as a freshman counselor and started a college-prep tutoring business; at the same time, he took classes that qualified him to apply to medical school.

In 1961 he enrolled in the Yale School of Medicine, where, in the midst of his studies, he met Smith College alumna Helen Hardcastle. They married in 1963 and moved to Ohio in 1965, where he interned at University Hospitals in Cleveland. In



1966 the couple moved to Brookline, Massachusetts for him to do his residency in psychiatry at Boston's Massachusetts Mental Health Center. The hospital appointed him Chief Resident in 1968 - a proud moment that resulted in his mentoring a group of psychiatrists with whom he remained friends for the rest of his life.

A fellowship in child psychiatry followed before he embarked on his true life's work in 1971: private practice. He treated patients in his home office for more than 45 years, healing many and providing comfort and reassurance as they grappled with their illnesses. He retired in 2018 at age 85. At the start of his career in private practice, Dr. Francis D. Moore, surgeon in chief at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital (now Mass General

Brigham), hired him to study the psychological trauma suffered by breast cancer survivors. Dr. Gates produced a number of papers on the subject, as well as on the psychic damage of cancer in general, and joined the staff of several city hospitals.

He lived in Brookline for over 50 years before moving to Concord, Massachusetts. He stayed active in the church, serving on the Vestry of Trinity Church, Boston and performing psychiatric evaluations of candidates for ministry for Episcopal Dioceses in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. He enjoyed a membership in the Thursday Club men's group and served on the board of Brookline's High Street Hill Association. A lover of tools and hardware stores, he would putter endlessly in his home workshop or his boathouse in Maine devising improvements to make life

# Dr. Christopher "Chris" Gates (page 3)

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easier. He lined the walkway to his home office with special planks to keep his patients from slipping on icy days. He designed, built, and patented a marine outhaul system that enables picnickers to moor their boats offshore and haul them in or out using pulleys.

He exuded geniality; few were immune to his charm. In 1960, E. Moore, the captain of the U.S.S. Bryce Canyon, wrote that Christopher Gates was "above all, a gentleman." A gentle man, and a kind one who touched people's hearts. He will be missed.

Dr. Gates is predeceased by his wife, Helen Gates, and his brothers Gregory Gates and Percival Gates. He is survived by his children Sarah Gates, M.D., John Gates, and Holly Russell, his grandchildren Rebecca, Chris, and Francisca Feist, Jack and Grace Gates, and Liam, Aram, and Maggie Russell, his daughter-in-law Jennifer Gates, his sons-in-law Frank Feist and William Russell, three beloved nieces, and one beloved nephew.



*Chris and family throughout the years.*



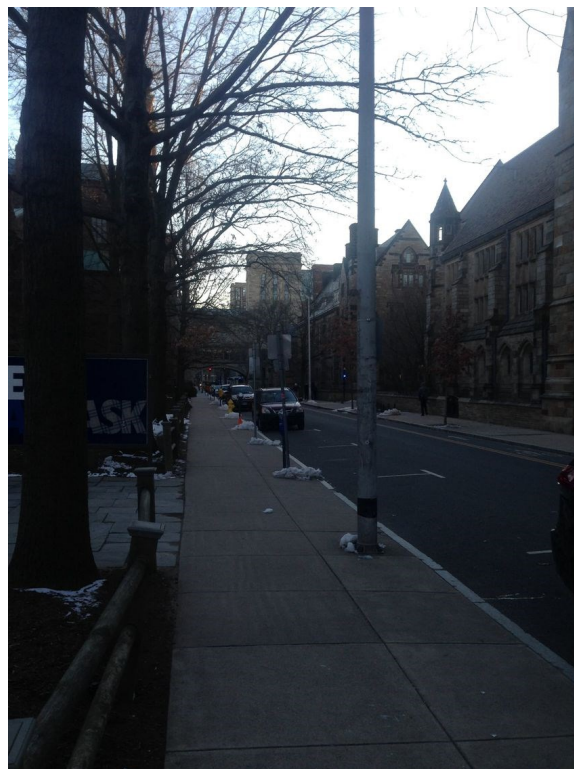
## Dr. Christopher “Chris” Gates (page 4)

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### **From Holly Russell, daughter:**

My dad loved to tell this story about his college days in New Haven: he stole the keys to a construction vehicle parked on High Street, nicked the keys, ducked into a nearby building, and chortled away thinking of how puzzled the driver would be when he returned from his coffee break and couldn't start his rig. Dad was even more pleased with himself about another prank he pulled one summer after college, when a couple of friends lowered him over a massive, flat-faced rock in Maine so he could chisel “Yale 56” into the lichen. His mom went bananas when she found out and told him to go right back and paint over the message. So he did, which made it stand out more than ever—so much so that it is there to this day.

I took this picture on Friday, January 29, thinking of Dad, who had been moved into the Neuro ICU at the Brigham in Boston the week before. Thinking of all the fun Dad had in life. Thinking of how he shared his joy with his children. I said goodbye to Dad yesterday. Or more like, “I’ll see you when I see you.” He’s in my heart. He’ll never leave. I love you, Dad.”



### **From Jennifer Gates, daughter-in-law:**

Chris was really happy and at peace at Newbury Court. We loved having him so close to us as we live right in West Concord. Never would we have thought his time there would be so brief. There are so MANY stories and memories. He was indeed funny, a trickster, compassionate and full of life. Those around him were fortunate to be on the receiving end of his love. He lived life to the fullest and loved everyone around them in the greatest way he knew possible.

My husband John recently shared a quote by Maya Angelou: “I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” Chris made us all feel so special and loved.

# Dr. Christopher “Chris” Gates (page 5)

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*Chris loved being on his boat in Maine, and was also known to have a healthy sense of humor! He was always up for an adventure.*







**This collection is intended to be a living memorial.**

**For additions, corrections, or questions,  
please contact the Newbury Court chaplains:**

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