



Elinor Egar Reynolds

September 17, 2023

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Elinor Egar Reynolds, 87, of Halifax, NS who died at home on September 17, 2023 surrounded by her loving family. Elinor, daughter of Anne (Coughlin) and William Egar of Mourne Abbey near Mallow, Co. Cork, Ireland was predeceased by husband John H Reynolds and sons Bill and Hugh. Elinor will be profoundly missed by her sisters, Mary Deegan and Bernadette Egar (Dublin) and brothers William and Tony Egar (Cork), Fr Tom Reynolds (Brazil) and Sr Bernadette Reynolds (Dublin), and by her sons and daughters, Harry (Sharon), Anne, Brigid (Bruce), Ellen (Tracy), Jenepher, Michael (Kayla), Shelley, and her grandchildren Charley and Henry, as well as extended family in Ireland and beyond.

Born October 2, 1935 in Cork City, Ireland, Elinor attended Loretto Convent Secondary School and later trained in hotel management at the Metropole Hotel in Cork before meeting John H Reynolds, an engineer who came to Mourne Abbey to work on the rural electrification of Co. Cork. The two married in Dublin January 17, 1956 and moved to London before emigrating to Montreal, Canada in 1957.

Over the years, the family also lived in Dartmouth, NS, Ottawa, ON, Charlottetown, PEI and, after John retired, they moved to Halifax, NS in 1996. In Ottawa during the 70s, Elinor co-founded and served as president of the

Ottawa South Community Association, which she was proud to say is still going strong today. In 1976 the family moved to Charlottetown where Elinor pursued several business ventures, including baking and selling her "Egar's Irish soda bread" and running a tourist home. She was also active in the PEI arts community, bringing art into the schools.

The door was always open at Elinor's and John's home, with both of them often bringing home someone who needed a place to stay. They also hosted many infamous house parties where Elinor's culinary and baking skills were a star attraction.

In recent years Elinor took up writing about her family history and helped establish a local writing group at her residence. She also used those skills to send many letters to the editor or to politicians calling for change. A list of email addresses and phone numbers of government representatives and newspaper editors was always at the ready. Elinor was an active member at a number of organizations, including the Voice of Women for Peace, Raging Grannies, Council of Canadians, Ecology Action Centre and others. In 2016 she joined the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax, and was very grateful to have found a caring spiritual community that aligned so well with her values.

In 2018 Elinor moved to Parklands at the Gardens residence, a short stroll from the Public Gardens which she visited regularly and loved dearly. The wonderful people at Parklands certainly made Elinor feel welcome and when her health deteriorated in recent weeks, she received exceptional care.

A rebel with many causes, Elinor was a passionate advocate for climate and social justice. As a feminist with a keen interest in local government and planning, she advocated for traffic calming and for support for unhoused and marginalized members of her community. One recent campaign was collecting

signatures for the Council of Canadians federal "just transition" petition, and as a co-leader of the Parklands Green Team she was instrumental in the implementation of recent environmental stewardship initiatives by the Parklands/Shannex corporation.

Elinor loved music, learning classical guitar when she was younger, and later when her arthritis prevented her from playing guitar, taking up the harmonica and belting out tunes at our regular family Zoom meetings (started during the pandemic and continued to this day). At her 87th birthday, the family gathered in Halifax to celebrate and Elinor sang one of her favourites, The Banks of My Own Lovely Lee.

As many have said, Elinor was a force of nature who was at once charming and fierce. She was a caring sister, cousin, aunt, mother, and nan who kept her family at the centre of her life.

Your guardian angel guided you home, dear Elinor. Rest in peace.

According to Elinor's wishes, we will reprise The Banks and many other songs at a celebration of her life in the Spring of 2024. Date to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax or to a climate or social justice organization of your choice would be welcome.

We invite you to attend the Celebration of Life for Elinor (Mum)

Saturday, May 25, 2024

2 PM (Atlantic Time)

Universalist Unitarian Church

5500 Inglis Street

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Tribute Wall

PG

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Paul Galbraith - May 18, 2024 at 09:50 AM

SP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Sanja Pecelj - May 18, 2024 at 12:43 AM

GO

“ 1 file added to the album Elinor and family in Wedding Party 1959



Gillian A O'Driscoll - April 23, 2024 at 04:49 PM

GO

Elinor's family was friends with my grandmother's family, the Healy's and her father was friends with my grandfather so they often visited each other on Sundays in Mourneabbey and Garrycloyne. When my mother was leaving for Canada, she contacted Elinor who became her Maid of Honour at the wedding (and also the only person she knew for more than two weeks other than my dad!) John and Elinor were wonderful to my parents, very welcoming and helpful, and even lent them their furnished apartment in Montreal as the first place they lived when they married (John and Elinor were heading back to Ireland for what Elinor later called "the \$1000 cure").

Gillian A O'Driscoll - April 23, 2024 at 09:10 PM

KW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



kathrin winkler - February 29, 2024 at 05:56 PM

BJ

“ My memories of Elinor are fond as she was a true light and wonderful woman , mother , lady. My memories will always be of my summer in PEI as a very young youth where Elinor John and Jenepher were my family- always welcoming. I miss you Elinor.



Bradley Jones - October 15, 2023 at 07:46 PM

HE

“ I loved Elinor with all my heart
Always and forever
I have the best memories of her and John
And her family
She loved me like her own daughter
And I will never forget her kindness
I think that she would be proud of me that I am working for
Environment Canada and climate change wishing I could do more
for the environment she loved.



Holly Eggleston

Holly Eggleston - October 08, 2023 at 06:08 AM

WA

“ I loved Elinor and her husband John Reynolds. I met them in 1982
and were close with them from that date through till 1990 when I
was working with Maritime Electric in Prince Edward Island. Elinor
would have me over for supper on Sundays when I was posted
there. I was so pleased to see her in 2018 when I passed through
Halifax. She had not changed a bit from 1990. Elinor was such a
kind soul and her obituary is so accurate on her energy and love for
all. God Bless her and my deepest sympathy to her children and her
siblings. William (Bill) Altimas - Montreal Quebec.

William (Bill) Altimas - October 01, 2023 at 09:01 PM

LA

“ I loved Elinor deeply. During my teenage years she was the female figure I looked up to as I did not have a mother, and although you might not have known it from my crazy teenage behaviour, I idolized her. I wanted to be just like her, she was larger than life, so strong and wonderful. So much of what I have enjoyed for all of my adult life is because she showed it to me, from CBC radio to classical music to soda bread to feminism and activism. How to cook mussels. How to chop parsley. How to polish silver. How to be a strong woman. Although we lost touch for a few years she was always in my heart and mind, and reconnecting with her in 2018 was no question one of the greatest joys of my life, my visit to Halifax and our weekly teas over the phone and then over zoom during the pandemic were times I treasured so much. We shared so much in that time, I loved hearing all of her stories and thoughts and many many laughs along with some tears. When she decided in 2021 that she didn't want to do those anymore I respected her wishes but it broke my heart. I wish I could have spent more time with her but I will always keep the time we did have in my heart and be very grateful for it, it was such a gift to me I will never forget her. Goodbye Elinor, you are never out of mind.

Laura - September 29, 2023 at 10:29 AM

JH

“ Reading the obituary today, I recognized the hat and new before reading that was Elinor. So sorry to read of her passing. She was such a force for Justice and for good. Elinor was a role model for many, especially me. Joan Hicks

Joan Hicks - September 27, 2023 at 12:49 PM

JS

“ Dear family and other friends of Elinor,

I stopped at Elinor's photo on the obituary page. I enjoyed seeing her. She was gracious and energetic as she cared for justice for the whole community of life. I hope you find peace in her goodness and peace. thank you for sharing her!

*sympathy and prayers,
Joan*

Joan O'Keefe sc - September 27, 2023 at 09:12 AM

JR

“ We met the Reynolds in Charlottetown in 1982-83, Elinor as a back yard neighbour and John as a work colleague as well. Wonderful couple, full of zest for life, opinions, advice and support. We have fond memories of our friendship during our brief assignment in PEI.

Jill and Bill Rafuse - September 27, 2023 at 06:53 AM

WS

“ I loved Elinor and miss her terribly. This obituary captured her life and spirit well. But it left out her support of our daughter's organic farm Abundant Acres. She loved going to the Warehouse Market where the farm produce was displayed...even though she didn't need much as she was supplied with most of her meals at Parklands. She shared the posts from the farm widely. She was a good friend. When I had a hard time sleeping she said just concentrate on breathing deeply which really helped me. Also she encouraged my clumsy efforts at writing and was a constant support. She was a kind rebel and she will live in my heart forever.

Wendy Scott - September 23, 2023 at 10:24 AM

MP

Elinor was one of my favourite people, and I will miss her sorely. We had many good conversations, she was always direct and to the point, we shared books and newspapers and especially the New Yorker which we both loved and eagerly devoured and discussed. Elinor was a great support to me when I moved into Parkland; her kindness and encouragement were a great factor in my settling into this community, in which her presence is sorely missed.

Marylou Payzant - September 24, 2023 at 07:43 AM

FP

I met Elinor at the Unitarian Church seven years ago, and we hit it off right away. We both had a Cork connection; she was born there, and my ancestors came from there. We were both raised Catholic, and ended up Unitarians. We called ourselves RC's...recovering Catholics.

I will miss our walks in the park, and our long lunches, and grand chats.

*Goodbye Elinor. I will miss you.
Faith.*

Faith Piccolo - September 26, 2023 at 06:20 PM

JP

Elinor had a fiercely independent spirit combined with a strong desire to right wrongs. She was loyal to her family and friends and steadfast to her causes. She loved to write and arranged for writing classes to be given at Parkland. Although often in pain she was a stoic and remained very good company. I loved her humour and her empathy and sharing a glass of wine with her.

*Goodbye Elinor.
Joan*

Joan Pugsley - September 27, 2023 at 08:14 AM

FB

I was very sad to hear that Elinor has left this world. I have many happy memories of sitting at kitchen tables listening to my mom and Elinor chat and reminisce about childhoods and adolescences spent in Ireland. Elinor and John were the closest thing we had to family in Canada - and as it turned out we were relations (my grandmother was a cousin to Elinor's mother). My deepest condolences to the family for the loss of your mother and grandmother. Elinor was a brave and caring woman.

Fiona Byrne-Fraser - September 30, 2023 at 12:57 PM