

Nina M. Hocker of Falmouth, MA passed away unexpectedly of unknown causes on October 15 after undergoing successful open-heart surgery in August and returning home in good health. She was 80 years old.

Nina was an intrepid sailor and a life-long participant in Quissett Harbor's Herreshoff racing program. From her teenage years until the summer she turned 80, she taught sailing, most recently in the Waterlilies program for women. Her volunteer work at Quissett included chairing the Junior Sailing Program, serving as Commodore, and editing its 100-year history book, *Glorious Good Times*. Nina was awarded the Paul Lloyd O'Sullivan trophy in 2017 in recognition of her dedication and longstanding service to Quissett.

She gave more than she took, volunteering with political campaigns that aligned with her tightly held values, at her church, and at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole; she served as a community member of MBL's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) until the time of her death.

As a photo researcher and entrepreneur, she started her own award-winning company, Picture Vision, in 1986. She went on to become a major contributor to several textbooks, e-books, and multi-volume encyclopedias by Scribner and Oxford Press, including the Encyclopedia of Latinos and Latinas in the US and the Encyclopedia of the Renaissance, which won the Dartmouth Medal, the top prize in reference publishing.

She was a traveler of land and seas, traveling with her husband, Andy, primarily on small sailing ships, visiting Italy, France, Spain, Ireland, Greece, Albania, Croatia, Malta, Costa Rica and the Caribbean.

Sailboat racing was not her only athletic pursuit: she embraced the aerobics craze of the 1980s, she won ski racing medals in her 50's, and she practiced Qigong into her 80's. She was an active defender of democracy, of science, and of good grammar. Inclusive and welcoming, her door was always open.

She had a rare gift for forging deep friendships that lasted a lifetime. Her patience and capacity for love were extraordinary, and she was an exceptional daughter, sister, and mother. She was also “the fun kind of grandmother,” a constant, engaged, and cherished presence in her grandchildren’s lives.

If the measure of a life is how much love someone creates in the world, Nina left a legacy beyond compare.

She is survived by her husband, Andy Hocker; her brother, Ross Mayberry; her daughter Beth Whitney (Keith Kane); her stepdaughters Elizabeth George (Rick), Emily Hocker, and Diana Harper (Evan); her grandchildren Hazel, Ellie, and Sadie Rose Kane, and Carter and Meghan George; and Tommy and Stephen Botts, who were the sons she never had.

A celebration of life will be held at the First Congregational Church at 68 Main Street, Falmouth, MA at 2 pm on Saturday, November 21, followed by an Irish send-off at one of her favorite spots, Liam McQuire’s Pub, at 273 Main Street in Falmouth from 3:00 to 6:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA, where Nina devoted 20 years of her time and talent in helping to advance science research. *To give a Tribute Gift at MBL.edu/give, select Annual Fund and comment: "in memory of Nina Hocker, for Cornelia Clapp chair.” Donations will go towards naming a chair in the auditorium in her honor.*

