



## George Allan Hagedorn

October 18, 1953 - March 4, 2023

George Allan Hagedorn, age 69, of Blacksburg, Virginia, passed away on March 4, 2023.

George was born in Santa Monica, CA on October 18, 1953 to Alfred Arthur Hagedorn II and Beatrice Dorothy (Mead) Hagedorn, both Cornell engineers. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ellen Jones, his son, Charles Alexander Hagedorn, and Charlie's wife, Susan Renee Ashlock.

George and his brother, Alfred Arthur Hagedorn III, grew up in Colorado Springs, CO. In addition to math, science, and engineering, George learned surveying, cattle-ranching, integrity, and a strong work ethic from his parents.

George graduated summa cum laude in three years at Cornell University, earned his Ph.D in Mathematics at Princeton University, and earned a postdoctoral position at Rockefeller University. Drawn by the quality of research and the community, George joined the faculty of the Virginia Tech Mathematics Department in 1980.

Professionally, George pursued rigorous mathematics at the interface between math, physics, and chemistry. His interests included molecular quantum mechanics, innovative use of semi-classical wavepackets, and time-dependent Born-Oppenheimer theory.

George cherished his collaboration with twelve graduate students and close colleagues throughout the world. He authored or co-authored 75 publications and traveled to five continents to collaborate and share results. He assisted with the organization of conferences toward simultaneous advancement of techniques in math, quantum physics, and molecular chemistry. George retired in 2014 as Director of the Center for Statistical Mechanics, Mathematical Physics, and Theoretical Chemistry at Virginia Tech.

George met Margaret A. Roston at Cornell. They married in 1977, moved to Blacksburg in 1979, and had a son, Charles Hagedorn, in 1982. They planted a small orchard and worked together to raise Charlie before and after their amicable divorce in 1991.

George met Mary Ellen Jones in 1992; they married in 1993. They celebrated the completion of her doctorate in Science and Technology Studies, then moved to a pastoral home near Pembroke. George was very supportive of Mary Ellen's pursuits rescuing Shetland Sheepdogs. They practiced French and traveled together to France for several of George's extended math-collaborations. They returned from Pembroke to Blacksburg in 2020.

As a father, George passed along loves of math, science, rocketry, camping, hiking, woodworking, and the outdoors to his son, who became an experimental physicist. George always emphasized getting things right. To that end, George and Mary Ellen were overjoyed when Charlie married Susan in 2016.

George loved the outdoors, making treks in the Alps as a graduate student, hiking and biking more than a hundred days each year in Virginia, volunteering with Scouts, climbing the 54 Fourteeners in Colorado, mountaineering in the Cascades, Sierra, and Mexico, and summited

Aconcagua, the tallest mountain in the Southern Hemisphere, in 1996.

Throughout his life, George loved dogs, especially his St. Bernards (Willie, Louie, Lola, Amy, and Rocky) and the Shelties he shared with Mary Ellen (Darwin, Emma, Daisy, Bond, Savvy).

Beginning in 2017, George began to experience symptoms later diagnosed as progressive supranuclear palsy, a rare and presently-incurable Parkinson's-like condition. He and his family are intensely grateful for the support and care received from the wonderful staff and fellow residents of Warm Hearth Village as well as George's personal friends and colleagues throughout his journey with PSP.

We remember George as a kind, intelligent, persistent, supportive, and loving husband, father, and scientist.

A memorial will be held in Blacksburg at Warm Hearth Village on April 22, for details or to attend remotely, please email [memorial@hagedorn.xyz](mailto:memorial@hagedorn.xyz).

The family respectfully requests that in lieu of flowers, donations in George's memory be made to one (or more) of the following CurePSP (<https://www.psp.org/iwanttohelp/ways-to-give/>) , Warm Hearth Village Employee Growth & Development Fund (<https://retire.org/donate-give/donate-click-pledge/>) , or Montgomery County Friends of Animal Care & Control ( <https://www.mcfacc.org/> ) -- funds will support adoption of large dogs at the facility.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Reception

APR **22** (ET)

Warm Hearth Village Center  
2387 Warm Hearth Drive  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**MaryEllen Jones** - March 10, 2023 at 07:28 AM

MR

“ 1 file added to the album *Other Locations*

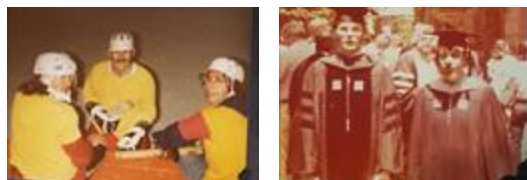


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**Maggie Roston** - March 09, 2023 at 03:41 PM

MR

“ 2 files added to the album *Princeton*



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**Maggie Roston** - March 09, 2023 at 03:27 PM

MR

“ 7 files added to the album Blacksburg VA



Maggie Roston - March 09, 2023 at 03:02 PM

SS

“ Where did George graduate high school?

stan sehested - March 09, 2023 at 02:26 PM

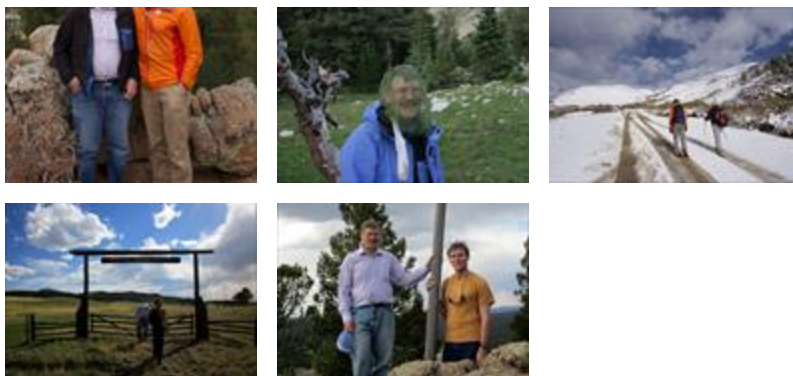


George graduated high school at TASIS - The American School in Switzerland, class of 1971, I think?

MaryEllen Jones - March 10, 2023 at 07:22 AM

SA

“ 15 files added to the album Colorado



Susan Ashlock - March 09, 2023 at 12:59 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



MaryEllen Jones - March 09, 2023 at 08:45 AM

JO

*This is a wonderful picture of George!!! Always gave a big smile. Rest in Peace George!*

JoBeth - March 10, 2023 at 05:06 PM

CH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Charlie Hagedorn - March 08, 2023 at 07:38 PM

CH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Charlie Hagedorn - March 08, 2023 at 07:32 PM

CH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Charlie Hagedorn - March 08, 2023 at 07:10 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of George Allan Hagedorn.



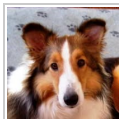
March 08, 2023 at 06:53 PM



“ MaryEllen Jones lit a candle in memory of George Allan Hagedorn



MaryEllen Jones - March 08, 2023 at 03:38 PM



George, you lit up my life for over 30 years.

MaryEllen Jones - March 08, 2023 at 03:38 PM

PG

*Mary Ellen,  
It was plain for all to see that your love, strength and commitment to George over three decades never wavered. Or his to you. My condolences are sent with deep sympathy but I know, as did George, that your indomitable spirit will get you through this. I'll always remember his gusto in zeroing in on your Weiner Schnitzel at the animal rescue Christmas Parties. Always first to the dish! And him carrying your Shelties to the car with so much tenderness and love to take them home after they spent a few hours as ambassadors at our rescue events, worrying they'd get overheated. What a remarkable man. What a remarkable couple.*

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**Pat Goodrich** - March 08, 2023 at 06:11 PM

JW

*Mary Ellen,  
So sorry for your loss, prayers.*

*John & Pat Worrell*

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**John Worrell** - March 08, 2023 at 06:18 PM

TC

*My research overlapped somewhat with George's and I met him at conferences. He was a considerate and thoughtful man. I'll miss him. This world needs more people of his ilk. I wish Charlie and MaryEllen strength and patience as they carry George's spirit into the future.*

*Tucker Carrington*

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**Tucker Carrington** - March 08, 2023 at 10:59 PM

KB

*So sorry MaryEllen*

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**karen bordonaro** - March 09, 2023 at 02:36 PM

KJ

*MaryEllen I am so sorry for your loss. I only met him once at your father's memorial & he seemed like a gentle & kind person. Your cousin, KC*

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**kathleen johnson** - March 09, 2023 at 03:38 PM

FG

*George will always be remembered as an extraordinary human being and a dear friend. We miss him terribly.*  
*Fritz and Gloria Gesztesy*

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**Fritz Gesztesy** - March 09, 2023 at 04:33 PM

LE

*George was such a sweet guy and always had a smile. I don't think I ever heard a cross word from him in all the years I knew him. Go rest high on that mountain my friend.*

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**Lisa egemeier** - March 10, 2023 at 05:31 PM

CF

*George was a great mathematician, he was encouraging for those younger than him and his work was so inspiring. I remember his visits in France in our labs, his strong and relaxing presence and his contagious laugh !*  
*Thank you George !*

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**Clotilde Fermanian** - March 11, 2023 at 03:35 AM

MM

*I first met George 40 years ago when, at age 23, I came to interview for a tenure-track job in mathematics at Virginia Tech. If memory serves, George & Maggie hosted the party for my interview. I joined the department that fall; George and I were Virginia Tech colleagues for two decades. During that time, George was a mentor, an advocate, an ally, a cycling companion, an occasional verbal sparring partner, and a loyal friend.*

*Since my move to Iowa, I've maintained regular (if infrequent) contact with George. I last spoke to him in January 2021, by which time he'd moved into Warm Hearth and was clearly suffering the effects of PSP. I vowed to call him again and am ashamed to say that I did not make good on that promise.*

*I send my deepest condolences, first and foremost, to MaryEllen, so steadfast in her love and care for George; to Charlie, George's son and companion in so many things; and to all of George's friends, colleagues, and loved ones near and far.*

*I will miss him very much.*

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**Marge Murray** - March 24, 2023 at 03:12 PM