

MABEL "BENI" DOWNING



Age 92, of Cranberry Township, PA, passed away peacefully on Wednesday evening, January 3, 2024.

Beni was preceded in death by her husband, Hugh Downing; and siblings, John and Dorothy Benedict.

She will be deeply missed by her brother, Lewis Benedict (Betty); sons, Joseph Downing (Camille) and Thom Downing (Laurie); her grandchildren, Sierra Magee (Andrew) and Alex Downing;

and her great-grandson, Maddox Magee.

Beni was born in Boston, MA, on May 13, 1931. She began her education in a one-room schoolhouse in Westmoreland, NY, and later received scholarships to attend Oakwood Friends School, and then Guilford College, where she completed a B.S. in Psychology. It was at Guilford where she first met Hugh, and, as she tells the story, "stole him from her roommate."

As an adult, Beni was civic-minded - volunteering with the League of Women Voters, supporting (and cajoling) local political candidates, and working to improve the schools her sons attended. She also had a creative touch and enjoyed pursuits such as sewing, knitting, and gardening. Her skills were admired by all who knew her. Beni also had a passion for genealogy, a pursuit inspired by her father and shared with her brother, Lew. Together they mapped her family's unique history and relationships across multiple generations and geographies.

On February 3, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. an informal memorial service to celebrate Beni's life will be held at the Sherwood Oaks Retirement Community, 100 Norman Ave., Cranberry Township, PA 16066. Family and friends are invited to pay their respects and honor her memory.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank (give.pittsburghfoodbank.org) or Friends Committee on National Legislation (fcnl.org). These organizations were close to Mabel's heart, and donations will help support their dedication to advocacy and positive change.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to **BOYLAN-GLENN-KILDOO FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SVCS., INC.**, 130 Wisconsin Ave./P.O. Box 2155, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066. Expressions of sympathy may be shared with the family at www.boylanfuneralservices.com.

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb