



Alfred G. J. "Al" Boissevain

February 7, 1923 - January 5, 2016

Al Boissevain was born February 7, 1923 in Brooklyn New York to Robert W. and Anne (Deterling) Boissevain. He was raised on the Adirondack Poultry Farm, now the Meadowmount School of Music in upstate New York. He attended Middlebury College, graduating in 1945, where he met his wife Hedvig "Hedy" Hogg. He completed an additional degree at MIT in 1946. Turning a life-long passion for flight into a profession, he was employed as an aeronautical engineer with Chance-Vought in Connecticut before accepting a position with the National Space Administration, (NSA, later NASA) at the Ames Research Center in Mt. View, California. While at NASA he worked on many projects including design work on the early supersonic test planes and the Mercury capsules for the early space missions as well as early development of equipment and procedures used in the initial Mars landing. At the end of his career with NASA he was back to airplanes, working on designs for Short Take-Off and Landing aircraft. Settling in Portola Valley, California, Al was active in the community, serving on the local school board for several years. He was a member of Ladera Community Church and active in the construction of the present church building.

On retiring from NASA in 1978, Al and

Hedy established Vinehill, a vineyard specializing in Chardonnay and Viognier, in Georgetown, California. Al became a well-respected and award-winning winemaker, marketing his grapes to wineries within the El Dorado appellation as well as to home winemakers.

Al retired a second time, thirty years later, to Bloomington, Indiana where he became a man of leisure.

Al is survived by his children Claire (Philip Crooke) of Bloomington, Indiana; Paul (Margaret) of Hancock, Michigan; and Charles (Nancy) of Oakland, California; 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren

Family and friends of Al Boissevain are invited to a Memorial Open House Celebration of Al's life on Saturday, February 13, 2016 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm in the Terrace Room of Meadowood Retirement Community in Bloomington.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sycamore Land Trust, PO Box 7801, Bloomington, IN 47407 (<http://sycamorelandtrust.org/make-a-donation>).

You are invited to share a memory or leave an online condolence to Al's family at www.allenfuneralhome.org

Tribute Wall

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“ Throughout my childhood, Al was an inspiration and my mentor. How lucky I was to grow up next door to a rocket scientist! He and Hedy were two of the most gracious, cultivated, and caring people I have ever met. I learned from them in so many ways, and like grandparent figures, they set a high bar. Al's remark, "I got my working papers at MIT; I got my EDUCATION at Middlebury," was fundamentally the reason that I went to college at his alma mater. I have missed him for many years since he left Vinehill. I share in the family's sense of loss now, and in celebrating the memory of this remarkable individual, the likes of whom we are very unlikely to come across again.

Nathan Davis - January 22, 2016 at 12:23 PM

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“ All my condolences to the family. I was a new member of the board of Music On The Divide, and Al was so warm and friendly. He was a real favorite of mine, and I am so sorry to hear of his passing. I hope his life after leaving Georgetown were wonderful. I know you will miss him.

Carol Gernes - January 14, 2016 at 09:10 PM