



Mrs. Ann Chesnut Galt

April 7, 1934 - October 16, 2025

Ann Chesnut Galt, 91, of Pittsfield, MA died peacefully at home on Thursday, October 16 after a brief illness, surrounded by her loving husband John and her children and grandchildren. Born in Glendale, NJ, on April 7, 1934, daughter of the late Roy William and Florence Parmley Chesnut, she graduated from Montclair High School with the class of 1952. While in Montclair, she was very active in the Girl Scouts, eventually earning a place in their Anglo-American exchange program, spending a summer with the Scottish and Irish Girl Guides in the British Isles.

Ann earned a degree in chemistry from Wellesley College, graduating with the class of 1956. She married John in 1957 and taught physics and chemistry at the Winsor School in Boston while John finished his last two years at medical school.

After 4 years in Cincinnati for John's hospital training for ophthalmology they moved to the Loire Valley in France with their two young children for John's two-year tour of duty with the US Army Medical Corps. While there, Ann made many good French friends, became fluent in French, and visited most of the chateaux in the Loire Valley with John on his Wednesday afternoons off. Their third child arrived just before their departure from France.

Returning to Pittsfield in 1966, Ann immediately immersed herself in volunteer

activities with the Medical Wives Auxiliary, United Way, PTA/PTO and Hancock Shaker Village. At First Congregational Church, she helped the treasurer for several years, then took over Treasurer duties for 20 years, eventually installing their first computerized bookkeeping system. Ann was a decades-long and dedicated participant in the music of the church – singing with John in the choir and the annual Oratorio Choir under the direction of Minister of Music Lou Steigler, who became Ann’s life-long partner in musical endeavors. As John’s ophthalmology practice grew, she took over much of the back-office work and became a life-long friend, mentor and second mother to the office employees who preferred to be called “The Girls”. From 1987-1998, Ann and John were involved in over a dozen ophthalmological mission trips to Ecuador and the Dominican Republic with Medical Missions International.

Before moving into the house in which they have lived for the last 59 years, the Galts briefly rented one of the three apartments in the Mountain House, above the South Mountain Concert Hall, from Sally Willeke, director of the South Mountain Association. Thus began Ann’s many decades of dedication to stewardship of the property and to the annual fall series of Sunday afternoon chamber music concerts. Ann joined their board of directors in 1983, serving over 20 years as its president and over 5 years as its treasurer. During Ann’s presidency, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in New York City gave an award to South Mountain Association for Extraordinary Service to Chamber Music at Alice Tully Hall on Oct 18, 2016.

Ann was an avid birdwatcher and enjoyed watching the birds at her many backyard bird feeders – when not fending off squirrels and bears. Her sports passion was paddle sports. She played paddle tennis for many years and gave up regular tennis a few years ago in favor of pickleball which she played until this past June. Whenever possible, Ann loved to be in a lake, river, or ocean (snorkeling if possible).

Ann is survived by John, her beloved husband of 68 years, her daughter Joyce McCarron (Matthew), her sons George (Kristen Truitt) and David (Susan Masino), her grandchildren Ryan, Keenan, Katie, Bailey, Jack, and Ian, her great-grandchildren Juliette Jayne and Aubrey Ann, and many nieces and nephews.

Ann was a loving, patient wife and mother, a compassionate, generous, and trusted friend and a gift to this world. She will be greatly missed by family, friends and anyone who has had the pleasure of meeting her.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her brothers, Bill and Walt.

Funeral Notice:

Funeral services for Ann will be Saturday, October 25, at 11AM at the United Church of Christ, Pittsfield, 110 South Street, Pittsfield MA 01201. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations in Ann's memory can be made to Hancock Shaker Village, South Mountain Association, or <https://www.restore.org/savemassforests> (Save Massachusetts Forests).

Previous Events

Service

OCT **25**. 11:00 AM (ET)

United Church of Christ
110 South Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Tribute Wall

NC

“ We are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of our beloved Ann. She was such a lovely human-being—kind, warm, and full of grace. Her love for her family shone brightly in everything she did, and it was always clear how much joy she brought as a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend.

She has been part of our lives for over 30 years, and we feel truly grateful for the many memories, kindnesses, and moments we've shared with her. Her presence was a gift, and she will be deeply missed by all of us.

Please accept our heartfelt condolences. Her spirit and love will surely continue to live on through all of you.

With sympathy and love,

Marcio, Neymar, Gabe, Jelena, Danny & Paty



Neymar Cataldi - October 24, 2025 at 06:42 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ann Chesnut Galt.



October 24, 2025 at 09:21 AM

HL

“ Helen and Lev planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Ann Chesnut Galt.

Helen and Lev - October 24, 2025 at 09:21 AM

WF

“ I am very saddened to learn of the passing of Ann. She was a lovely person as her obituary so well describes. I remember in particular her dedication and hard work with the community choir at First Congregational Church. She was so welcoming and helpful. May her memory be a comfort and joy for all of you.

William Frazier - October 23, 2025 at 03:22 PM

NS

“ Ann was an incredible human and neighbor. Age never slowed her down and we were always so amazed, impressed and in Awe of her areas of interest, knowledge, and day to day hustle! She was the kindest neighbor and we have loved getting to know her and John over the years. She was the first to welcome us to the neighborhood and provide the rich history of Pittsfield and families around us. Her smile, humor and charm will be greatly missed. What a beautiful and inspiring life she had. Love. Nili, Debby, Molly and Bexley (8 Kenilworth).

nili Shriber - October 23, 2025 at 01:13 PM

KH

“ I have never known a wiser or more stalwart woman as Ann Galt. My condolences go out to John and the whole family.

Kay Hall - October 22, 2025 at 01:16 PM



I agree Kay.

sue masino (galt) - October 22, 2025 at 08:46 PM



“ The first time I visited Joyce’s home during our college years, I was struck by how beautifully artistic her home and gardens were - Ann’s doing of course. To me it was no surprise that Joyce shared those artistic gifts. Ann was a delight to know and Tom and I both enjoyed the chances we had to share time with her and John. Our hearts go out to her family who we know will miss her immensely.

Christina Magee - October 22, 2025 at 06:11 AM



“ Tom and Chris Magee planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Ann Chesnut Galt.

Tom and Chris Magee - October 22, 2025 at 06:02 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ann Chesnut Galt.



October 22, 2025 at 06:02 AM



“ Walter R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Ann Chesnut Galt.

Walter R. - October 21, 2025 at 06:51 PM

WR

“ *Walter R. purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Ann Chesnut Galt.*



Walter R. - October 21, 2025 at 06:51 PM

LW

“ *Mrs. Galt you will truly be missed by many! I was extremely lucky to spend time with you in my teens and later as an adult. You were always so kind to me and continually interested in how my family was, especially my mom! I will remember you as such a great mom and I know Joyce and her brothers will miss you terribly. Be at peace and I'm sure you'll find my mom in choir in heaven. Life well led!*

Leslie Wilson - October 21, 2025 at 04:08 PM