

Mary McFadden, President, Wareham Land Trust, Chair, Wareham Community Preservation Committee, is George's sister-in-law.

Remembrances of George R. Seaman, by Mary McFadden

March 31, 2003

Evie has asked me to speak on behalf of our family, and it is my honor and privilege to say a few words about this special man who brought such happiness and love to Evie, and has been taken from all of us far too soon.

When George and Evie had the good fortune to be introduced by their mutual friend, Andrew Plaut, neither knew they would become the love of each other's lives. Little did George know he would gain not only his perfect partner, but also her entire extended family. You see, when you marry a McFadden, you get the whole clan.

And what a wonderful fit. We all appreciate music and loved his sense of humor, his innocence, his honesty, and his respect for all people. We adopted George, and he became an integral member of our family. Family gatherings were full of lively conversations about opera, art, travel, and sports. George had a very full schedule, teaching and performing with numerous orchestras and ensembles. He worked hard at his profession, but it never seemed like work to him, and he was generous in sharing his talents with us. He played for my parents at their 50th wedding anniversary, he played for my father during his last illness, then played the Kaddish at his funeral. He and Evie performed the Mendelsohn piano trio at my brother John and Lucille's wedding, along with Lucille's piano teacher. We enjoyed his performances at musicales at our home, and we always had front row seats for his and Evie's duets.

George had an encyclopedic knowledge not only about music but also sports. We were as likely to hear him discuss the nuances of two cellists' renditions of the Dvorak cello concerto as whether Pedro's change-up was working today. In fact, he moved very comfortably between his orchestra seat and the grandstand seat. He loved going to Red Sox and Wareham Gatemen baseball games. After George became ill, he was cheered up by long conversations with Barry Zito, the Cy Young award winner and himself an accomplished musician, as well as with Barry's father who, like George, grew up in New York City and was a cellist and composer. Although George missed today's opening day at the ballpark, he would have been pleased no end to know that his obituary appeared opposite the sports page in Saturday's Boston Globe!

George was passionate about the things he cared about, and as Evie would say, he woke up every morning joyful and ready for a new day. Already an avid hiker when he met Evie, he became interested in fitness and healthful eating, and began running in road races and half-marathons. Everyone who knows George says he became a new man when he met Evie. He was aglow with love, and had a new zest for life. It is hard to believe that such a vital man is now gone.

From the time George learned about his illness three short months ago, Evie rarely left his side. She rallied the troops, coordinating his medical care and home needs. Lovingly assisted by George's son Andrew and daughter Anne Marie, Evie was his constant source of strength, comfort and hope. She attended to his needs throughout the day and all night long. Her extraordinary devotion and love eased his pain and calmed his fears. They never gave up hope, and at the end, the only thing stronger than George's will to live was the unusually aggressive form of cancer that took him from us. He was a beloved member of our family, and we will miss him, but his memory will be with us forever.