



## Mrs Ellen L Plageman

December 19, 1928 - January 26, 2019

Ellen L. Plageman of Lenox, a life-long learner whose uniquely designed kites were once featured in the gift shop of the Smithsonian Institution, died Jan. 26 at Berkshire Medical Center with her family at her side. She was 90.

Her interests were wide ranging, from baseball to baking. She was an avid Red Sox fan who closely followed the careers of Johnny Pesky, Bobby Doerr and Ted Williams, whom she exalted. She also faithfully cheered on the New England Patriots and absolutely adored quarterback Tom Brady.

A loyal supporter of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, she attended scores of concerts at Tanglewood over many years. Her lawn picnics were opulent in their simplicity. Ellen loved to entertain and worked particularly hard on her desserts, many of which were described as “spectacular.”

Ellen always sought to improve the lives of others. For years, she quietly helped to collect leftover food from various resorts and distribute it to shelters. Ellen Marie (Letendre) Plageman was born in Springfield on Dec. 19, 1928, daughter of Silvio and Irene (Ducharme) Letendre. She grew up in Feeding Hills and graduated from Agawam High School. Later, she worked at the school in its administrative offices and there met Robert L. Plageman, a young insurance salesman. They were married on May 19, 1951; Robert Plageman, an executive with Berkshire Life Insurance Co. and a Lenox town official for many years, died on April 19, 1997.

Seeking to advance her education later in life, Ellen enrolled at Berkshire Community College. She then applied successfully to Williams College where,

as a non-traditional student she earned her degree, graduating with a bachelor of arts in English in 1976. She commuted to Williamstown on class days while also managing a household and, with her husband's help, cared for her family.

After graduating, she created her own business, called Lenox Kites, a retail shop in which kites were custom designed, silk screened and sewn. Her clients included several colleges and the Smithsonian Institution.

Ellen leaves four children: R. Michael Plageman (Kathryn) of Essex Junction, VT; Thomas L. Plageman of San Francisco, CA; Susan Ellen Plageman of Brooklyn, NY, and Kenneth E. Plageman (Linda Sue) of Sherborn. She also leaves four grandchildren: Elizabeth Chaet (David), and Stephanie, Kelly and Katie Plageman, a great granddaughter, Clara Chaet, two brothers, Richard Letendre (Susan) of Feeding Hills, and Timothy Letendre of Wellfleet, and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by a brother, Edward Letendre, and a sister, Kathleen Letendre.

The funeral will be Friday, Feb. 1, at 10:30 from the Roche Funeral Home, 120 Main St., Lenox, followed by a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 11 at St. Ann's Church, Lenox, celebrated by Monsignor John J. Bonzagni, pastor. Burial will follow in St. Ann's Cemetery. Calling hours at the funeral home will be Friday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association or the Alzheimer's Foundation of America in care of the funeral home.

The family always will be grateful for the kind, compassionate and respectful care Ellen received from BMC, Home Instead, and Mountain View Homecare. To share memories and stories please visit [rochefuneralhome.com](http://rochefuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 1. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Roche Funeral Home  
120 Main Street  
P.O. Box 152  
Lenox, MA 01240  
(413) 637-0699  
eroche120fh@gmail.com

## Burial

FEB 1. 11:45 AM - 12:15 PM (ET)

St. Ann's Cemetery  
1 Ore Bed Road  
Lenox, MA 01240

# Tribute Wall

SH

“ *Suzanne H. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Mrs Ellen L Plageman.*



Suzanne H. - March 14, 2019 at 05:32 PM

SL

“ *The Plageman Family,  
My sincerest condolences to all of you. My memories of her have and will continue to brighten my day some of the small things she loved that we shared shine through.. Tanglewood, great conversations of history as well as current events, baking and raspberries are just a few.  
Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share part of her life.  
Shirley Lafave*

Shirley Lafave - February 01, 2019 at 12:08 PM

CL

“ *Dear Plageman Family:  
Thought I'd share a pic of Ellen's kite craft. A new generation got the benefit of her silk screen and sewing business. This one was a feature of a senior class apartment at Holy Cross during the 2016-17 school year. Lights on announced happy hour.*



Claudia - January 31, 2019 at 08:11 PM

HI

“ Kenny (LS, S, K, K), Suey, Uncle Mike (K, E)-- Grammy was such a source of light and I'm so grateful to have spent so much time with her over my lifetime. I will miss her dearly, always admired her independent spirit, and oh how I loved her laugh...and many giggles during family holidays. I feel so blessed to have been able to see her this past Christmas. I've often thought of her as my 'adopted Grammy'. I'm better for having had her in my life. Thank you for sharing her with me all these years. Much love to all of you. Heather xxoo

Heather Ingram - January 31, 2019 at 04:57 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Mrs Ellen L Plageman.



January 30, 2019 at 02:45 PM

BF

“ It was a great honor and a privilege to have been one of Mrs. Plageman's Home Instead caregivers. I can never forget her humor and wonderful stories of her childhood and trips to Portugal with her husband. Though we were only together for a short time, she will always hold a special place in my heart. My deepest sympathies to her family. Bette Flood

Bette Flood - January 30, 2019 at 09:06 AM



“ *Desserts certainly weren't Ellen's only culinary mastery. Many of us in Indianapolis, where Susan lived for a decade, have passed around Ellen's goat cheese mashed potatoes recipe and pesto. Both, when served, are lavished with compliments.*

*Our first encounter with Ellen occurred when we were celebrating Susan's birthday. We had made masks of Susan's face and wanted, while wearing these likenesses, to share stories of her past. So we did the logical thing -- called her unsuspecting parents. Giggling with the thought of "ambushing" her, they asked for some time. When we phoned again, they regaled us with stories about riding an elephant and downing aspirin to stay at the Cape longer. And those were just the tip of the iceberg.*

*That was the beginning of sharing lots of giggles with Ellen, when she visited Susan in Indianapolis and when we visited her in Lenox.*

*We are fortunate to have one of her kites -- a lovely example of her many talents. May she rest in peace.*

*Lynn & Carl Sygiel*

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**Lynn Sygiel** - January 29, 2019 at 05:49 PM

BL

“ *Mike, Tom, Susan and Ken,*

*My condolences on the passing of your mom. She was such a nice person to everyone. Her smile in the picture, makes me smile and brings back happy memories. The Lahart's have fond memories of all the Plageman's and of our shared experiences in Lenox. You're in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Bill Lahart  
Franklin MA*

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**Bill Lahart** - January 29, 2019 at 02:08 PM