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Quincy Y renamed Hale Family YMCA



From left, Karen and Rob Hale are shown with Lauren and Gov. Charlie Baker on Thursday.
PHOTOS BY GREG DERR/THE PATRIOT LEDGER

Philanthropist has made \$5M in donations to organization

Mary Whitfill
The Patriot Ledger
USA TODAY NETWORK

QUINCY – When Rob Hale was a kid growing up in North Hampton, he jokes that his mother Judy, aka “Nana,” used the local YMCA as “babysitting service.”

“When I would be home for a week or two, Nana would drop me off at the Y with, like, five bucks and say “There’s a Burger King around the corner for lunch, have fun, I’ll pick you up around 4:30,” Hale said with a laugh. “Now I look back through the lens of a parent and I think, That was the cheapest babysitting in the history of babysitting.”

But over the years of playing basketball, lifting weights and having a “delightful time,” Hale said the organization also taught him resiliency, compassion and humility – not to mention how to swim.

On Thursday, Hale, now a CEO named to the Forbes World’s Billionaires List, stood proudly beside his wife, Karen, as the Quincy YMCA branch was renamed in their honor. The Hales recently gave \$3 million to the Quincy Y, bringing their total donations to the branch to about \$5 million. They’ve also donated to other branches

See YMCA, Page 8A



Karen and Rob Hale take a photo with 5-year-old summer campers Teagan Stevens, JJ Doucette, Shane Lynch and Dominic Fraiss.

Governor approves climate, energy bill

Colin A. Young
State House News Service

Gov. Charlie Baker signed the Legislature’s compromise offshore wind and climate policy bill on Thursday, but he aired “deep misgivings” with some parts of the law and the way the House and Senate addressed his suggestions.

The new law seeks to reshape the way the state connects to offshore wind power, accelerate a transition to renewable energy sources and help Massachusetts achieve its target of net-zero emissions by 2050 – all general goals that Baker and his administration have long supported. However, the governor expressed concerns with the original bill the House and Senate sent him, and he returned it in late July with amendments, including a call to put \$750 million in American Rescue Plan Act dollars toward clean energy uses.

While the Legislature did not adopt all of Baker’s suggestions when they reworked the bill in the final hours of formal lawmaking sessions, legislators did go along with some of the governor’s suggestions like the outright elimination of the offshore wind price cap.

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Scituate artist Kay Shaw dies at 93

Ruth Thompson
Wicked Local
USA TODAY NETWORK

Art played a major role in the life of Kay Shaw - from her college studies, to teaching watercolor classes, to exhibiting her work at various galleries and art associations.

“She always painted,” said daughter Kathryn Russ, one of Shaw’s three children. “She did oils and acrylic and then got into watercolor. She had a little studio upstairs in the guest bedroom.”

Shaw looked at life with an open mind and a nod towards creativity and environmental awareness. She was a member of the Audubon Society, participated in early ‘No Nukes’ rallies, loved books and gardening, and had a “good eye” for style.

“She had a great sense of humor,” Russ said. “When she was in hospice, she really did say her obituary should say ‘local artist dies of aggravation.’ She was ready to go.”

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Cure for Cole

Scituate whiffle ball tournament raises \$30K for kidney foundation. 1B

It’s always Hurricane season

Semi-pro team allows players to follow their love of the game. 3B

Weather

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PM showers.
Forecast, 2A

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YMCA

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of the South Shore YMCA.

"Our community is diverse in many ways: age, race, gender, capabilities. And that's what the YMCA brings together. Everybody is welcome at this YMCA, and everybody is safe at this YMCA," Hale said. "The Quincy YMCA is home to so many who need a home... Karen and I are honored, we're humbled, to be part of your family."

Thursday's rededication ceremony brought Gov. Charlie Baker and his wife, Lauren; Mayor Thomas Koch and his wife, Christine; and a half-dozen other state and local officials to the Quincy Y. A grand opening celebration is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023.

On the outside of the building, a brand new sign reads "Hale Family YMCA."

A new sign inside the building thanks some of the largest donors to the South Shore YMCA, which includes the Emilson Branch in Hanover, the Germantown Neighborhood Center in Quincy and the South Shore Natural Science Center in Norwell. The Hale family is the only one listed in the "Champion" category, reserved for those who have donated \$5 million or more.

Baker, who wore a yellow tie with a pattern of giraffes playing basketball, praised the organization for its commitment to normalcy in the lives of children since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Y has been here for 130 years, and it doesn't happen just on its own or with the fees that we charge. It happens because of volunteer hours and do-



Gov. Charlie Baker talks about the impact of the Hale family's generosity at a rededication of the South Shore YMCA's Quincy location.

PHOTOS BY REG DERR/THE PATRIOT LEDGER



The South Shore YMCA's Quincy location was renamed the Hale Family YMCA after a \$5 million donation by philanthropist couple Rob and Karen Hale on Thursday.

nations," Paul Gorman, CEO of the South Shore YMCA, said.

The Hale family is known nationwide for philanthropy efforts, specifically related to cancer research organizations. Hale's company, Granite Telecommunications, annually hosts the "Saving by Shaving" fundraising event for employees, which raises millions for Dana-Farber each year.

Koch, a local history buff, likened Hale's work in the community to that of John Hancock. The mayor said Hancock is most commonly known as the state's first

governor and a signer of the declaration of independence, but he was also a fierce community leader who successfully ran a corporation and took care of those in need.

"He was the most generous, charitable guy in the colonies. Anyone in need in Boston, they were taken care of by John Hancock," Koch said. "Rob, his wife, Karen; his mother, Judy; have given back continuously. They never say no ... He shares his wealth, he shares that spirit."

Reach Mary Whitfill at mwhitfill@patriotledger.com.

Shaw

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Shaw, a Scituate resident, died on May 2 at 93.

Early Life

Shaw was born and raised in New Jersey, where her father's family had lived since 1699.

Known as "Casey," Shaw was an art major at Skidmore College in New York.

"She was a Jersey girl," Russ said. "The Jersey Shore was a big part of her summers."

It was at the Jersey Shore that she met her first husband, Harvey Russ. They married in 1951, eventually settling in Scituate in 1961 where they raised their three children.

"She was happy in Scituate," Russ said. "She liked to take walks at the harbor. She worked at the bookstore on Front Street. She loved to read. Her favorite book was 'To Kill A Mockingbird.'"

Shaw and Harvey were involved in the early days of the METCO program, which brings students from different cities to participating school districts to expand educational opportunities, increase diversity, and reduce racial isolation.

Russ felt this was a great experience for the family and recalled a student they hosted.

"His name was Jack White, and he came and stayed with us for a couple of weeks," she said. "He was about 12 and he was considered part of the family. He lived at Columbia Point in Boston. I remember going there and visiting his mom. I was about six. We'd go up on Lawson Road and he would ride me on the handlebars of the bike."

It was common for her mother to get involved with programs or initiatives that would benefit others, Russ said.

"We were all always open-minded. That was the way she had been brought up."

Shaw experienced the tragedy of losing her only son, Clyde Christie Russ, who died at age 21 in a motorcycle accident.

"Chris was great, he was wonderful," Russ said. "Mom always talked about his hugs. She knew she would be getting a hug from him soon."

Shaw and Harvey divorced, and in 1981 she married John "Jack" Shaw, and they, too, made their home in Scituate.

A love of art

Shaw was an illustrator and commercial artist as well as a painter. She worked in oils and acrylic, but mainly in watercolor.

"Kay's art was classic watercolor," said Janet Cornacchio, president of the Scituate Arts Association (SAA). "She had done commercial art greeting cards and the like from home, and that kind of work forces an artist to learn control and discipline in their medium. Her painting of the old Welch Building was a classic."

Shaw was a member of the North River Arts Association and was active in the Scituate Arts Association, where she taught painting.

"Kay trained me back in 2004 when I joined the (Front Street Art) Gallery," Cornacchio said. "She made it easy to learn all the varieties of tastes easy. She obviously loved being part of the Gallery, was welcoming, and put me at ease."

Over the years, as Cornacchio's role in the SAA expanded, Shaw was a great help to her with anecdotes about the SAA's history, advice on how to deal with a variety of issues that arise in dealing with any all-volunteer organization and with artists whose muse often interrupts practical thinking, Cornacchio said.

Shaw donated about 100 framed or matted works, some oil and most watercolor, as well as about 100 sketches and unmatted pieces to the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Scituate, where she and Jack were active members.

"Her work is very religious, but not perhaps in the way you have in mind," said Rev. Pamela Barz. "It wasn't the subject matter which made it religious. Kay painted scenes from the world around her - the harbor and coast, the field behind her house, still-life of fruit and flowers, interiors of her home, places she visited - and her work shines with her understanding of the holiness inherent in the natural world and the objects of our daily lives."

Shaw's work reminds viewers that, as mystics of all traditions teach, divinity is all around us if we have eyes to see it, Barz added.

Shaw left the pieces to the church to keep and to sell, Barz said.

"We had a display and sale of the framed and matted works in May. We kept some to remain in the church's collection. When the unmatted art and sketches can be readied for display, we will have another show of her work. We also hope to photograph everything and reproduce a number of pieces in an affordable way so that anyone who wants some of Kay's work can do so.

As an artist, Shaw enhanced our worship by lending her painting of a butterfly bursting out of its frame for Easter services for several years," Barz said.



Kay Shaw in the sun at the Scituate Town Pier. COURTESY PHOTO



A watercolor, full of life and sparkle, by Kay Shaw. COURTESY PHOTO

The woman behind the art

Russ describes her mother as "beautiful, with zero ego, who had great taste" and who introduced her to "unusual foods" like artichokes and pomegranates.

"Whenever I see a pomegranate I think of her," Russ said.

Shaw loved the Red Sox and reading the Boston Globe.

Russ feels her mother would want to be remembered as "an artist."

For Barz, Shaw was "smart, talented, kind and generous."

Someone who loved to teach, who spoke her mind carefully, in ways that people could hear. She was a career woman in an era when that wasn't common.

"She was someone who knew how painful life could be but continued to see and offer its beauty. She stood up for what was important both personally and politically."

Shaw sang in the church choir until March 2020. She participated in the church's "Fiddlers" crafting group, working with others on projects for the annual Snowflake and Spring Fairs. She was part of the Unity/Alliance women's group, participating in their dinners and in their work planning and coordinating the Fair.

"Kay connected with the Unitarian Universalist belief in the inherent worth and dignity of each person and the belief that we are called to see the beauty of this world and to work to make it beautiful and just for all people," Barz said. "She also connected with our focus on the importance not just of people but of the health of the Earth and our work for the environment since she cared deeply about caring for the Earth. Kay was a much beloved member of First Parish, and we miss her."

Kay enjoyed good company, good food, her garden, and it clearly shows in her work, Cornacchio said.

"She lost her son in a tragic motorcycle accident and yet she didn't let that loss overwhelm her joy and sense of beauty. For anyone who lost a child, that must be hard to do."

Cornacchio thinks Shaw would want to be remembered as someone that "lived life well and to the fullest, who shared herself and improved the world around her."

"I will miss her wit and her humor."

Follow Ruth Thompson/Community Obits on Twitter @ObitsW1

Obituaries

Virginia Bowker

SCITUATE - Virginia O'Hara Bowker (Ginny) of Scituate, Massachusetts (formerly of Dorchester, MA), passed away peacefully on Friday, August 12, 2022 following a brief illness. She is the daughter of the late Dr. Francis P. and Frances Tomasello O'Hara. She was the loving wife of the late Christopher P. Bowker for 46 years until his death. She is survived by her four children and their spouses: Drs. Mary and Andrew Dunn of Austin, TX, Anne and Dr. Shehzad Azmi of Memphis, TN, Christopher and Julie Bowker of Scituate, MA, and Jane and Tim Finocchio of Holbrook, MA. She adored her seven grandchildren: Madeleine and Alexandra Dunn, Zach Azmi, and Paul, Mary, Hugh, and Bennett Bowker.

Ginny graduated from Notre Dame Academy and received a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Newton College of the Sacred Heart. She earned a Master's Degree in Education from Boston State College and began her career as a Guidance Counselor in the Boston Public Schools. She served as a School Adjustment Counselor and School Psychologist in the Marshfield, MA schools for twenty years until she retired in 2007. In addition to being a role model and mentor to many people, she was a tireless advocate for her students. She lived her faith and aimed to do at least one good deed for others each day. Ginny was a daily communicant and devout parishioner at St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church in Cohasset, MA. She was a member of the Scituate Harbor Yacht Club, and an active supporter and cheerleader for her children and grandchildren's many activities.

Her life will be celebrated in a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Anthony's Church in Cohasset, MA on Tuesday, August 16th, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her memory to:

The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement
<https://www.atonementfriars.org/make-a-donation/>

The Marvin Fund of the RSPCA
<https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/donor-form/?svcid=renxt&formId=616da470-40d1-418b-909b-bc6b8674a2c2&envid=p-FFpFyPFKVKegwm1ylfn4WQ&zone=usa>

St. Edward's University Scholarship Fund
<https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/8081/donations/>

