

■ ■ ■ MITCHELL H. BRONK ■ ■ ■

Mitchell H. Bronk passed away on March 6, 2023. The youngest of three brothers, he was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on March 14, 1940. He spent his early childhood in nearby Media. The family then moved to Baltimore, Maryland, where Mitchell attended Gilman School. Summer vacations were often in Woods Hole, Massachusetts; later, Mitchell was hired as sailing instructor in Seal Harbor, Maine. He went on to study engineering at Harvard and graduated in 1962. He received his master's degree from New York University, as he began teaching physics at Trinity School in New York City.



Mitchell married Jeanne Crofoot in 1963. They moved to New Jersey the following year. Mitchell continued teaching and became Chair of the Science Department for grades K-12 at Princeton Day School. He participated, as a pilot teacher, in developing Introductory Physical Science (IPS) and Physical Science II, experimentally-based curricula for middle school. In 1972, Mitchell and family relocated to Massachusetts after he accepted a position at Milton Academy. There he taught physics, pioneered an open-lab program, co-authored the accompanying textbook, and chaired the Science Department for 14 years. The courses he team-taught with colleagues were particularly rewarding for him. A rigorous and dedicated teacher, Mitchell took special satisfaction in learning of his students' later successes, all the more so if they pursued science.

In 1986, Mitchell embarked on a second career—first as Business Manager, then as Controller—at Salisbury School in Connecticut. Reluctant to give up teaching altogether, he tutored a number of students preparing for physics advanced placement exams. Mitchell retired in 2007, giving more of his time then to volunteer roles with Assist Scholars, Habitat for Humanity, the local public library, and Visiting Nurse Association.

Throughout his full life, Mitchell found great pleasure in working with his hands, helped or not by family and friends. He devised ingenious solutions to a host of structural, electrical, or mechanical problems, large and small. He could fix everything from watches to car engines. He built stone walls, decks, staircases, and a passive solar greenhouse. He crafted fine furniture. Shingling, foundation repair, carpentry, plumbing, wiring, upholstery... He learned—and became expert—by doing. Mitchell also enjoyed a certain amount of wider travel with Jeanne, but his favorite places were near the ocean and mountains of New England, where he would sail, hike, clear trails, and chop firewood.

Mitchell was a devotedly steadfast husband and father who thought of every possible eventuality and planned accordingly. He is survived by his beloved wife of nearly 60 years, Jeanne; daughter Helen; son Peter; daughter-in-law Yuen Kwan, and grandson Matthew; niece Andrea Barton, and nephews Christopher Ramsey and Richard Bronk, along with their families.

The burial will be private. A memorial service is planned for later this year. Donations in Mitchell's memory may be made to Habitat for Humanity, National Park Foundation, or another charity with a conservation or educational mission.