

Robert (Bob) Frank Edgerton, was born on May 10, 1935 in Cambridge, Massachusetts and was raised in Belmont, MA. He was the youngest of the three children of Harold Eugene Edgerton and Esther May Garrett Edgerton.

Harold and Esther both grew up in Aurora, NE, and graduated from college at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Harold attended graduate school at MIT, where he later became a renowned faculty member in the Electrical Engineering Department. Esther followed, attending a year at the Boston Conservatory, and they were married in the area. Bob spent some of his childhood summers in his parents' hometown and family farm, in Aurora, NE. Bob loved the farm, often recalling the smell of the barn, as well as de-tassling corn, which was a big challenge as the corn silk reached above his young body. He also had fond memories of 2 summers he spent on Jacques Cousteau's *Calypso* as an assistant to his father, who designed underwater cameras and lighting as well as sonar equipment for Cousteau's explorations. Bob learned to scuba dive, did some underwater photography, and had wonderful stories of life on the ship and his friendships with the French sailors. They nicknamed his father "Papa Flash" and called Bob "Petit Flash."

Bob first learned about Quakers as a young teenager, when his older sister had undertaken a project to visit different houses of worship and would tell the family what she learned about each one. What she related about the Quakers intrigued him, so he visited a meeting there in Cambridge. It stuck, and he occasionally attended Cambridge Meeting. While studying at the University of Rochester (in Rochester, NY), Bob attended a small meeting hosted in the living room of a private home near campus.

In his junior year, Bob met Elizabeth Lowe at the University of Rochester while she was a freshman. She also had become drawn to Quakers, which was one of the things they had in common. At the time, Bob was teaching himself to play alto recorder using a book recently published by Maria von Trapp (before "The Sound of Music" fame). He wrote to the family asking for a job teaching recorder in the summers at the music camp they had established in Vermont. They instead offered him a job leading their dishwashing crew, which he enthusiastically accepted, in addition to tending the wood stoves. They embraced him as a family member, including him on their days off to make apple strudel, sing and play music and go on family outings.

After Elizabeth graduated they were married in her parents' apartment in New York City, in a Quaker-inspired gathering, clerked by a recorded minister who had driven down from Poughkeepsie. They stayed in Rochester as Bob completed a PhD in Physics while being paid as a teaching assistant. They both became members of Rochester Friends Meeting, For about a year they were live-in caretakers of the beautiful Friends Meeting House (previously the Episcopal Church parsonage), until close to the birth of their first child, Eric, in December 1961.

In 1963, they moved to Minnesota for Bob to take a job teaching physics at Carleton College, where they "inherited" the informal campus Quaker Meeting from the Quaker faculty couple who

had just left. It was a warm, intimate group in their home, fulfilling the requirement for students to attend some religious service. Second child, Nina, was born there in June of 1965.

Bob and Elizabeth moved their family a few more times: to Ithaca, NY, where their third child, Sylvia, was born in April 1968; to Maine, where they attended Orono Friends Meeting; and finally, to Pontiac, MI, where they stayed for 19 years and attended Birmingham Friends Meeting. Bob taught physics at The Roeper School (a private school for “gifted children”), followed by jobs in public schools and colleges. For a few years he was employed at Energy Conversion Devices (ECD) where he researched innovative methods for producing thin-film photovoltaic solar cells. Bob was a loving and attentive father, introducing his children to outdoor activities including bicycling, backpacking, wilderness canoe trips, and the joy of discovering natural phenomena.

Late in Bob’s career, Bob and Elizabeth moved to Contra Costa County, CA, where Bob attended Walnut Creek Friends Church. Although he didn’t connect as much with some aspects of Evangelical, church-style Quakerism, he loved the people and how they cared for each other, and he greatly appreciated their young lay pastor.

Bob retired in 1995, after which he and Elizabeth moved to Seattle, in part to be near their son Eric and his family. Bob was active in a rowing club, bicycling, and playing music. Bob hadn’t started learning to play the cello until his early fifties but, like other musical instruments he played (including the saxophone, recorders and banjo), learned very quickly. He didn’t generally perform in public, but just enjoyed the experience of playing music with other people and so would gather small groups of friends to play chamber music in their home. Often they would gather on Sunday mornings, and as a result he was not active in any Quaker meeting for several years after moving to Seattle.

Bob started attending University Friends Meeting regularly in 2005, and in 2007 transferred his membership to UFM from Rochester Friends Meeting. In January 2008, Bob answered a call from the Education Committee that was asking for more help. For several years thereafter, Bob served as a 2nd adult for First Day School. Bob also regularly attended the Adult Religious Education hour, enjoying the wide-ranging topics and discussions. He volunteered for several visiting and welcoming committees for members who were joining, transferring, or sojourning, and he was a frequent and willing volunteer for other spot work, such as ComNomNomCom, Donations Committee, and the annual State of the Meeting report.

Bob became involved with an unarmed peacekeeping organization called Nonviolent Peaceforce. In 2009 he served as a conference host for the annual meeting of their Washington and Oregon chapters, and in June 2010 he gave a talk about the organization at ARE. As a supporter, he joined a group that went to Sri Lanka to observe and experience the work of NP, providing trained, professional unarmed protection in conflict areas.

Bob was very visually oriented, and often interested in the art exhibits in the UFM Social Hall.

He often saw beauty in the world around him, from the geometric patterns of hubcaps to the rainbows refracted from semiconductor films on scraps of material at his workplace, which he sometimes collected and framed.

Bob, along with Charlie Janeway, provided friendship and support to JoJo Tran, and were the Friends who originally connected JoJo with UFM. In June of 2015, Bob joined the Worship & Ministry Committee, which he served on until his resignation in December 2016 due to a decline in health.

Bob and Elizabeth moved into Horizon House in October 2016, where some friends (and Friends) were already residing, and they enjoyed the active community life. Bob was very active in organizing chamber music groups at Horizon House, and other musical activities.

Bob died peacefully on November 27, 2020. Bob's final weeks were a quiet, loving time shared with his wife, Elizabeth, by his side. He and the family were aware that it was a time of preparation for his departure and his dying came gradually and with ease. Bob's children and grandchildren all had the chance to visit with Bob and share memories and love a few weeks before his passing. Bob lived a life of pacifism, simplicity and love. He left this life as he lived it.