



John James Wheaton

August 2, 2021

John James Wheaton, 65, of Fort Collins, Colorado, formerly of Louisville, Kentucky, passed away peacefully surrounded by loved ones on August 2, 2021.

John was born in 1956 in Roslyn, New York to parents John “Jack” and Helen Wheaton. An only child, he grew up in Long Island, New York, and graduated from Cold Spring Harbor High School in 1974. He then moved to New Jersey to attend Princeton University where he received his undergraduate degree in Comparative Literature in 1978.

During his time at Princeton University, John was a reporter and co-editor of The Daily Princetonian newspaper. After graduation he worked for two years as a newspaper reporter in Casper, Wyoming, and then as a reporter for the Messenger-Inquirer in Owensboro, Kentucky. John then moved to the Louisville, Kentucky area to pursue a Master of Arts in Teaching while beginning his career in education. He was a teacher of a variety of subjects, namely physics, for over 20 years at St. Francis High School.

The Louisville area became home, and it was there that John met his former spouse, Bonnie Wheaton, and where their four children - Jason, David, Darcy, and James - grew up. John and his family were members of the Louisville Friends Meeting, a community and place of worship for Quakers.

In 1999 John was selected as a J. William Fulbright Teacher Exchange scholar which led him to teach at a high school for one year in Pretoria, Republic of South Africa. In 2008, John went on to teach English as a Second Language at Jishou University in Jishou, Hunan, China for nine years, and continued teaching English as a Second Language at the Henan University of Technology in Zhengzhou, Henan, China, for two years. In 2019, John became suddenly ill with a viral infection that caused encephalitis and pneumonia. John soon returned to the United States to begin his long path of recovery.

Education was John's biggest passion. He continued his own studies and supported that of others. Throughout his life, he sponsored multiple children to attend school, both privately and through the nonprofit organization, Save the Children.

John was a chess coach and had interests in astronomy, photography, genealogy, foreign languages, and traveling abroad. He was an avid lover of Jazz music, and especially fond of Dave Brubeck. John passed on his love for The Beatles to his children. One of his personal passions was researching accurate family tree information, as well as connecting the Anderson and Wheaton sides of his family.

John is survived by his former spouse, Bonnie Wheaton; by his son Jason Peacock (Lesa), son David Peacock (Mandi), daughter Darcy Dugan (Jacob), and son James Wheaton (Angel). John is also survived by his grandchildren, Taylor Hunt, Melina Hunt, Camille Dugan, and Elise Dugan; and others who were encouraged and inspired by him during his life.

John is preceded in death by his parents, John "Jack" and Helen Wheaton.

A Buddhist Powa ceremony honored John in Fort Collins, Colorado; the recording is available on YouTube at this link: https://youtu.be/jpZm_ADLCsY. Additional memorial services are being planned for a later date in Kentucky and New York. Memorial contributions may be made in John's honor to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), to Save the Children, or to Planned Parenthood. Friends and family can share memories and condolences at goesfuneralcare.com

Tribute Wall



“ *John was a classmate of mine in elementary school and high school and I was sad to learn of his passing. I've had no contact with John since high school but had a strange dream about him the other night. It was disturbing so I searched for him online and read the obituary. I remember him as a good, gentle man and was happy to hear he lived a rich, full life. I hope he was happy and loved. He deserved to be. Sincere condolences to his family and friends.*

Mark Doucette - October 03, 2023 at 02:43 PM



Mark, what a nice tribute. John was one of my oldest friends, going back to seventh grade, and I mourn his passing.

Peter Kretzman - December 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *John James Wheaton*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM

TL

“永失恩师John，我的领英沙发再也没有你[流泪]Just now, I gotta know this news. My dearest John passed away. [流泪][流泪]I am astonished. Because months ago, we communicated by email, he said he is much better. I Gotta admitted that everything is changing so fast. I always planned to visit the USA someday and to see you again, to visit your hometown, to hear your story. Anyway, in my future world tourist plan, your hometown is in it. Now I have to say, I feel happy that I made a choice while I was almost working my ass off, that is to make a flight while John is very sick in the hospital in Zhengzhou. Now, this is the last time for me to hug him. I would say it is my greatest luck and honor to have you as my teacher at Jishou University. We have done so many wonderful things together. I will keep all of those pictures and share them with my friends and my baby. You are my first foreign English teacher and first foreign friend. The first, the best. No one is gonna change that. You taught and helped me a lot during my English learning process. Meanwhile, you always gave me a hand whenever I need you both in life and study. And I feel so much blessed when you accept my wedding invitation and came to join my wedding party. I believe you definitely are in beautiful heaven now because you are such a nice person. Glad to hear that you passed away peacefully. Rest in peace, my dearest John!



Trans Lee - September 04, 2021 at 10:40 AM

CE

“ I am a student of John in Jishou University, in my memory, John was a very nice teacher and friend, he is always nice and smile when we met. Without touch in text but John did appear in my mind, and I always bless for him. Got the news from trans and I was astonished, I learned so much in English mainly from John, my oral English was top at that time and I can still remember when John taught me to differ the pronunciation for "her" and "here ", what a active class. May you rest in peace, dear John!

Celia - September 04, 2021 at 02:34 AM

SA

“ I met John in my first week at Princeton. We were both freshmen at Princeton Inn College. What struck me about him was that behind his quiet exterior he was sharp witted and funny. We would be sitting in the dining hall having dinner and then I would see that twinkle in his eyes and would know immediately that I was in for a treat - a incisive observation, a witty remark or a well-thought out sentence that I might even see in the next days Princetonian newspaper. Thanks for everything, John. Happy journey.
Syed Anzar Ahmad

Syed Anzar Ahmad - August 18, 2021 at 02:39 AM

DD

I can totally envision him with this thought process and reply. Thank you for sharing your memories and kind words! - Darcy, John's daughter

Darcy Dugan - September 01, 2021 at 12:08 PM

KW

“ So sorry to hear of John's passing. he was one of the earliest members of the WHEATON DNA project. We never did find the origins of Uriah or Robert WHEATON but I will keep trying. Peace to all his family. Kelly Wheaton

Kelly Wheaton - August 15, 2021 at 03:58 PM

CH

“ I knew John in Louisville through the Friends Meeting ,many years ago ; I remember his wedding service, outdoors at the Quaker meeting many years ago. I moved away and we lost contact, then i learned about his illness and recovery and we spoke on the phone in the last year. John was a fine person; my condolences to his children and their families. I am so sorry that he has passed but his memory remains with those who knew him. This is a sad day that I learned of his passing. Rest in peace John.

C Phillip Hanna - August 15, 2021 at 09:48 AM

DD

I appreciate your kind words! I am glad you got the chance to reconnect as well. I am so grateful to you and others in our Friends community. :)

Darcy Dugan - September 01, 2021 at 12:10 PM

LT

“ My sympathies go out to all the relatives of John. He was such a nice man and I am so blessed to have known him. He will be greatly missed. I was so thankful he had stayed with me and his stepson Jason when he lived with me as a roommate. He was a very nice man and always kind to others. Enjoyed traveling back from his daughter's wedding that one time. We all had a great time. My sympathies to all of his family.

Linda Trautwein

Linda Trautwein - August 13, 2021 at 11:48 AM

LG

“ John was my physics teacher when I attended St. Francis high school. I had some rough transitional years during that time, and he was always a kind ear. I am truly sad to learn of his passing. He was my favorite teacher, and one of the most genuine people I've ever met. Sending my prayers to his family.

Lelia Goehring - August 08, 2021 at 03:26 AM

DH

“ That is a wonderful photo of John. I last saw John in person, in the company of another college classmate, in 2014, in between his two university postings in China. I will very much miss him and the blogging that he stopped doing at the time he fell ill in China. I salute his children for the way they rallied around him in his illness and the aftermath. I have advised his college class of his passing, and I think the family can expect additional tributes and memories to come their way from his fellow alumni/ae, in addition to all those I expect from his loyal former students both in Kentucky and in China. His was a life well lived -- posted by David Hochman

David Hochman - August 07, 2021 at 02:34 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Goes Funeral Care & Crematory - August 07, 2021 at 12:44 PM