Peg's survivors include: her partner of 22 years, Sandy; her parents, Jane and Roger, Sengekontacket, Martha's Vineyard; her brother, David, Physics Prof., Univ. Wyoming; younger sister Cyndy, Legal Clerk for the U.S. Department of Justice, Cleveland, Ohio; and nephew David-II, Macy's Executive Development Program, New York City.

A Memorial Celebration
of the Life and Art of

Peggy Ann Thayer

3 January 1954 - 5 January 2010

Saturday 15 May 2010

Featherstone Center for the Arts
Pebble Gallery
Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts

Peggy Ann Thayer

Peggy Thayer, Ph.D. was the first born to Jane & Roger Thayer January 3rd 1954 in Washington, DC. She died suddenly on January 5th 2010 at her home in Island Grove, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.

In 1957 her family moved to Tokyo, Japan for two years, where her father did research for the U.S. Defense Department. Peggy was a curly blonde joy, and passersbye would reach out to stroke her hair, as blondes were not often seen on the streets of Tokyo. This was also a time when Peggy was the big sister to David and soon thereafter Cyndy.

Peggy loved school and was always tops in her class. She attended Georgetown Day School in D.C., Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Maryland High School where she rejected conformity, graduating with honors. Peg attended Clark University as a psychology student, realizing shortly that art was her passion. She transferred to and graduated from Goddard College, Vermont in Fine Arts. Two years later she set off to explore the country with a dear friend, finally settling in San Francisco. Peg met Sandy Raymond in California and in 1994 they moved to Martha's Vineyard. They were joyously married just three weeks after Gay and Lesbian marriages first became legal in Massachusetts.

Peg has always been a 'quester', seeking answers for herself to the essence of life and her role. Her path always led her to seek learning. She received an M.A. in Consciousness Studies at JFK University, S.F., a Ph.D. in East-West Psychology at California Institute of Integral Studies in 1994. Her dissertation, "The Experience of Being Creative as a Spiritual Practice" was published in 2003. In 1999 - 2005 Peg researched and wrote with her mother another scholarly book, "Elderescence: The Gift of Longevity." She taught courses on-line, was the Center Director for Transpersonal and Consciousness Studies at Akamai University in Hawaii, and two months ago completed a 12 week interactive online course, which gave her a heightened focus, joy and sense of the gift elders offer about the role of spirituality nearing death.

Peg described herself as an artist and student. Many will remember her yearly "Art as Healing" shows, which she conceived and presented on the Island. She was an inspired artist, a life-long student and a creative thinker, seeking her own sense of the spiritual life through Buddhist meditation, which she began in California. She said at her 56th birthday celebration, with joy, that she was able to live, as Buddha philosophers say, in the "NOW."

IN PEG'S OWN WORDS:

My interest in the creative process and my curiosity about the nature of creativity has been a life long pursuit, fueled by my personal practice as a painter and writer. Over the years I have begun to realize that my creative work not only brings a deep sense of inner healing, of integration, but that it has often brought deep shifts in my ordinary awareness. Not only does the world appear differently after a painting session, colors brighter, forms clearer, but I feel at times a deep connection to something greater than myself. I have come to see the importance of my creative practice not only in making visible that which is taking place within, not only as a way to know myself and make myself known but as a way to connect with a deeper, sacred life giving force.

My creative process involves bringing into form an unseen feeling, idea, insight. The way in which the idea will manifest is not always known ahead of time. It is a process of forming that this 'something' takes shape. I look at the object; I begin to find the colors. Sometimes I even talk to the colors…gradually, as the process continues, I begin to become the object...feel what the object feels like, being itself.... In painting, it is an interplay between myself and the object I am portraying…I am the brush, the paint, the stroke, the cliff…I am connected to the earth and the unseen, the source.