



Patricia M Donnelly

February 14, 1935 - November 1, 2022

"It is good to have an end to journey toward; but it is the journey that matters, in the end." Ursula K. Le Guin, *The Left Hand of Darkness* Patricia Carolyn McCoy Aase Donnelly, February 14, 1935 to November 1, 2022 (age 87), was a unique gift to her family, friends and community. She died of COVID in Glenwood Place Memory Care, Vancouver, Washington, where she lived since February 2020. Pat was born in Vancouver, Washington, and had fond memories of farm and family life there, even with the impacts of the Depression and World War II. As an adult she loved driving by the old farmstead, her great grandmother's house, and particularly the magnificent barn her grandfather built. Her enduring love for the beach began when her family moved to the Long Beach peninsula in 1944, to run the Co-Ho Motel in Seaview. Pat was Salutatorian of the Ilwaco High School Class of 1953, attended a year at Lewis and Clark College and finished her first Bachelor's degree in elementary education at OSU (go, Beavers!). She taught in Corvallis and married K. David Aase in 1957, after which they returned to the beach. They had four children, designed and built "the Ilwaco house," and were involved in local business, civic and church associations; they divorced in 1975. Pat then worked many jobs, including for the Ocean Beach School District, the Timberland and Clatsop College libraries, and for fifteen years at Pacific Telecom, before pursuing her lifelong dream of attending the Pacific Northwest College of Art and obtaining her Bachelor of Fine Arts. Though she majored in oil painting, she tried many visual arts media, and ultimately

created a powerful body of work in woodcut prints featuring the natural beauty of the Peninsula, which was her inspiration. In 2000 she married James "Buck" Donnelly, with whom she shared a love of painting, drives to see old barns, and the Peninsula's history, scenery and neighbors. Pat participated in the Modern Travelers Club, the Ocean Beach Presbyterian Church, VFW Auxilliary, the Quaker Meeting, Al-Anon, NAMI, Peninsula Arts Association, and Canon Beach Arts Association. A church organist for 35 years, she also played for hundreds of local weddings and funerals. Many stories of Peninsula old-timers are preserved at the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum in the oral histories she recorded and donated. She cared for the graves of family members in Ilwaco, Astoria and Pioneer every Memorial Day, volunteered at PACE, and adored the Kite Festival. A progressive feminist, she attended the first Women's March (Astoria) in 2017, and worked to get out the vote during elections, becoming the Pacific County Democrat of the Year at age 75. Pat loved literature, humor, wordplay, art museums, public television and radio, finding treasures on the beach, hiking, gardening and any opportunity to be with family. She read mysteries backwards and wore her coat inside-out. She established a holiday tradition that expanded her family's minds, palettes, and joy, by celebrating the winter holiday or Christmas traditions of a different country every year. She pointed out the colors in the landscape that one could easily overlook (most often: puce). She delved into family genealogy, and enjoyed heirlooms from the every day lives of her elders. She was a spiritual seeker and a pragmatic optimist. She was the best egg. She was deeply proud of her four children and traveled wherever they were, to support them in their pursuits. She did the same with her eight grandchildren, who knew her as someone who found the extraordinary in the ordinary --- a creative, courageous and curious beachcomber whose smile and laugh invited you in. Pat was preceded in death by parents Vic McCoy and Thelma Martin, brother and sister-in-law Jim and Jackie McCoy, niece Molly McCoy, nephew Craig McCoy, and husband Buck Donnelly. She is survived by four children and their spouses / partners, Brian and Karen Aase (Portland, OR), Mary Ann

and Terry Lee (Vancouver, WA), Melissa Aase and Brian Bergen (Putnam Valley, NY), and Donna Aase and Merv Murphy (Vancouver, WA); eight grandchildren (Stephen, Sarah, Anna, Jessica, Kelly, Michael, Maria and Lucinda), and six great-grandchildren (Amelia, Ruby, Gwendolyn, Juniper, Oakley, and Rory Patrick). She is also survived by her brother Eugene McCoy, nephew Tom McCoy, nieces Sue McCoy and Sioban McCoy, and their families. Pat's children invite the community to a celebration of her life on Saturday, December 17th, 1 pm, at the Peninsula Church Center in Seaview, Washington. They would love to hear your stories of Pat, at the service or online at www.evergreenmemorialgardens.com. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Pat's name to the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum or Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette. Her family urges everyone to get vaccinated and boosted to help stop the spread of COVID and protect the elders in our communities.

Tribute Wall



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Evergreen Memorial Gardens - July 03, 2025 at 03:43 PM

FK

“ We grew up together in Seaview. In fact for many years we were the only school girls in Seaview. We grew up playing dolls to talking about boys. Through out the years after I moved away from the beach I made a point to have good visit with her whenever I returned home (Seaview) to visit my mother. Pat was a great gal! One you would not forget. A person who enjoy -ed every day to the fullest and made you enjoyed it too.

Goodbye, Pat Faith Fellows Klein

Faith Fellows Klein - November 30, 2022 at 12:00 AM

NG

“ Pat and Buck were our wonderful neighbors the last 19 years. We remember Pat bringing over treats to the reconstruction crew of our almost falling down restaurant, the first time we met her, then every Christmas after. We became a part of our little neighborhood watch with them pondering lost souls lives. Pat guided me into local Dem politics and supported my run for hospital Commissioner. She was an amazing woman who made peoples lives better for those of us lucky enough to meet her.

Nancy Gorshe - November 25, 2022 at 12:00 AM

FO

“ Patricia M Donnelly

Funeral Home Owner - November 17, 2022 at 12:00 AM

AD

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Funeral Chapel and Crematory

A Memorial Tree was planted for Patricia M Donnelly - November 16, 2022 at 12:00 AM