

OBITUARIES

**Jim Fink**  
**Vancouver, Washington**  
**1948 — 2021**

Jim Fink was born in 1948 in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and raised there until leaving home to study at the University of Iowa.

After college, he moved to Astoria, where he resided as an artist, designer and builder until 2001, when his home and studio burned to the ground in a devastating fire.

He then moved to Longview, Washington, where his wife, Caroline, was employed as a traffic engineer. In 2008 the couple bought a home in Vancouver, Washington, where Jim lived until his death. He died peacefully in his home on Good Friday, April 2, 2021.

At the University of Iowa, Jim studied a wide range of subjects, but especially mathematics and art. During that time, he was also a student at Brussels' Academie Royale des Beaux Arts, and assistant to Belgian sculptor Olivier Strebelle (1927-2017). He received his bachelor's degree in fine arts, with special honors and high distinction, in 1970.

In December 1971, after wandering through Mexico and the Western U.S., Jim arrived in Astoria, and immediately decided that this was where he wanted to be. He worked at first as a laborer, a carpenter and a commercial fisherman.

An accomplished fiddler, he soon made many lasting friendships among Astoria's musical community. Over the years, his musical talent would expand to include proficiency on the cello, the reed organ and, finally, the concertina, which became a constant companion during the last decades of his life.

Several years after his arrival in Astoria, he was able to buy an abandoned fisherman's bunkhouse on the banks of the Columbia River, on Alderbrook slough in Astoria's east end, which he converted into a residence and studio. He lived, studied and worked there until the fire in 2001.

"I had been away for a day or two," he later wrote, "and returned to find only a pile of smoldering ashes. Except for the clothes on my back, I lost nearly every material thing I had: the structure itself, my tools, hundreds of drawings, many sculptures and maquettes, all my slides, all copies of my films. In short, it seemed, nearly the sum of my life."

Throughout his working life, Jim supported himself primarily by working in the construction trades, and making sculpture as time allowed. He occasionally exhibited his work in two galleries in Astoria, and the Oregon College of Art and Craft in Portland.

He taught himself structural analysis and machinery design and, increasingly, worked at the drawing table rather than in the field.

Some of Jim's most ambitious projects came from commissions outside Astoria. In 1980, Olivier Strebelle asked Jim to collaborate with him on a project for Belgium's 150th anniversary of nationhood.

For that waterborne parade through the canals of Belgium, Jim designed and supervised the construction of the armature of a 45-foot long horse, carrying three riders — a construction of steel tubing, clothed in Dacron panels, that folded itself into the much smaller hold of the canal barge as it passed beneath the many bridges it would encounter along its festive journey.

For a Seattle company that manufactured weighing-scales that were immune to the influences of a tossing sea, he created two versions of what he called Ocean Motion Simulators. For a patron in California, he created a kinetic garden sculpture whose shape would continually change in response to the wind. Always, his main interest was in movement.

Living by the river for 30 years made him acutely aware of its rhythms: the rise and fall of the tides, the ships turning at anchor, the cormorants' perch atop old pilings disappearing and reappearing. He continued to look for ways to express this dynamism sculpturally.

His final large project, the Luna Phaser, does this exactly. Commissioned by Astoria Visual Arts as part of its Astoria Riverwalk project in 2009, and designed for installation at the end of the 14 Street pier, this piece of public art is about the tides in the river and their relationship to their principal cause, the moon.

Each change in tide — from flood to ebb and from ebb to flood — would rotate an artificial moon slightly so that the face it presented would change in synchrony with the face of the real moon.

Jim used to joke that, with the Luna Phaser installed, anybody standing along 14th Street between Exchange Street and Marine Drive could know the phase of the moon (should they want to), simply by looking toward the end of the pier.

Jim died before this project could be completed. A working model of the Luna Phaser is on exhibit at Astoria Visual Arts. More detail on this project and the others mentioned in this obituary can be found at jimfink.weebly.com

In Alderbrook, Jim's place along the water's edge, with its abundant wildlife, fed his endless fascination with the motion of the tides and the rhythms of nature. Surrounded by a thick tangle of blackberry and bamboo, it also came to be a cherished retreat for many of his friends.

Among these was Caroline Bricheux, who had grown up in the Auvergne region of France, and moved to Astoria in the early 1980s. They met in the early 1990s, were married in 1998, and for the next 23 years shared a life of mutual devotion.

This included frequent trips back to Caroline's home in the Auvergne, and regular holidays in the winter months to remote seaside villages in Central America and the Caribbean.



Jim Fink

**Peter Rushmore Hoffman**  
**Warrenton**  
**Dec. 4, 1940 — July 28, 2021**



Peter Rushmore Hoffman was born on Dec. 4, 1940. His parents were John Frederick Hoffman Jr. and Jean Bell Millett-Hoffman.

He passed away at home, with his wife by his side, in Warrenton, on July 28, 2021, at the age of 80.

Pete was born in New Rochelle, New York, and moved to San Francisco in 1941. After graduating from high school, he attended San Francisco State University to study radio and TV broadcasting.

In 1963, he joined the U.S. Coast Guard. During 1967, he married Susan McBride (they later divorced), and began his formal Coast Guard career. He trained to be a rescue helicopter pilot, and enjoyed the many beautiful places he was stationed.

Pete was stationed in Astoria from 1981 to 1984, and then served as commander at Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, D.C., from 1984 to 1987. He retired as a commander (0-5), and returned to Astoria, due to his love of the water, and his relationship with his Grace Episcopal Church family.

In 1998, he married Christine Duff, and adopted her two young daughters as his own. Pete enjoyed the family time he spent with them camping, horseback riding, supporting his daughters at volleyball games and dance recitals, high school and college graduations and marriages. He was proud to support their 4-H horse club, Western Wranglers, at parades by volunteering for "scooping duty."

Pete was very involved in the operations of Grace Episcopal Church. He served at the altar, was a member of the choir, was much respected as a vestry leader and was the go-to guy for building maintenance issues.

Pete loved God's creations, and was especially fond of the smallest creatures. He was always summoned to take the spider or the bee outside so the girls would

not squish it. He was a member of Oregon Equestrian Trails, and spent many hours helping to clear trails so horse riders would be safe. He also helped at the Friends of the Fair horse shows by manning the arena entrance gate. He would encourage the younger riders on their way in to "sit tall, relax and show 'em whatcha got."

Pete enjoyed swimming at the Astoria Aquatic Center to keep himself fit in the winter and riding to Hammond and back on his bicycle in the summer.

He worked at several local businesses during his "retirement." His two favorites were: Wadsworth Electric, where he operated large equipment in sometimes very dangerous environments; and, most recently, Staples in Warrenton, where he appreciated his co-workers and managers for how kind and caring they were toward him in his "senior" days.

He is survived by his wife, Christine Hoffman; daughters, Jessica (Jacob) Bushnell and Rebecca (Stevin) Tadei; his former wife, Susan Hoffman, of Vancouver, Washington; sons, Malcolm (Ken) Hoffman, of Washougal, Washington, and Michael (Jessica) Hoffman, of Portland; daughter, Kathryn Strom, of Vancouver, Washington; grandchildren, Natasha, Gabriel, Gwendolyn, Drew and Summer; and a sister, Sharon Tucker Morse, of Pine Hurst, North Carolina.

Pete was preceded in death by his mother and father.

A Requiem Mass, followed by outdoor fellowship, will be held on Aug. 16 at 4 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church in Astoria.

Memorial contributions may be made to Grace Episcopal Church for the Keeping Grace Project or to Lower Columbia Hospice.

Please sign the online guest book provided by Hughes-Ransom Mortuary at hughesransom.com



Peter Hoffman

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Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at DailyAstorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailystorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria.

For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

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**SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA**

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
<b>70 57</b>	<b>77 59</b>	<b>80 60</b>	<b>76 57</b>	<b>71 58</b>	<b>70 56</b>	<b>68 57</b>
Clouds and sunshine	Partly sunny	Mostly cloudy and warm	Areas of low clouds	Rather cloudy	Clouds and sun	Areas of low clouds

**REGIONAL FORECAST**  
 Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Seattle 82/63	Wenatchee 92/70	Spokane 86/67
Aberdeen 76/58	Moses Lake 92/66	Pullman 85/60
Olympia 85/62	Yakima 94/66	Walla Walla 91/70
Longview 86/63	Kennewick 94/66	Lewiston 93/68
Astoria 70/57	Hermiston 94/66	Enterprise 87/57
Portland 91/65	Pendleton 92/67	La Grande 91/58
Salem 94/65	The Dalles 97/70	John Day 94/60
Corvallis 94/63	Eugene 95/63	Burns 94/53
Bend 92/60	Ontario 95/63	Caldwell 90/57
Medford 103/67	Klamath Falls 94/50	

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Baker City	90/51/s	95/56/s	North Bend	68/54/s	69/55/pc
Brookings	68/54/pc	64/55/pc	Roseburg	98/65/s	105/66/s
Ilwaco	66/57/pc	72/61/c	Seaside	69/57/pc	80/61/pc
Newberg	93/64/s	100/67/pc	Springfield	96/62/s	104/66/pc
Newport	64/52/pc	66/52/pc	Vancouver	91/65/s	98/68/pc

**ALMANAC**  
 Astoria through Sunday

**Temperatures**

High/low	68/53
Normal high/low	69/55
Record high	92 in 1939
Record low	45 in 1988

**Precipitation**

Sunday	0.01"
Month to date	0.33"
Normal month to date	0.19"
Year to date	37.82"
Normal year to date	38.19"

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2021

**UNDER THE SKY**  
**Tonight's Sky:** At the head of Cygnus we find the double star Albireo, approximately 380 light years away.  
 Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

**SUN AND MOON**  
 Sunrise today ..... 6:09 a.m.  
 Sunset tonight ..... 8:32 p.m.  
 Moonrise today ..... 8:19 a.m.  
 Moonset today ..... 10:05 p.m.

First	Full	Last	New
Aug 15	Aug 22	Aug 29	Sep 6

**TODAY'S TIDES**

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
	2:39 a.m.	8.0	9:36 a.m.	-1.2
	3:53 p.m.	7.1	9:43 p.m.	1.5
<b>Cape Disappointment</b>	2:16 a.m.	8.1	8:44 a.m.	-1.2
	3:29 p.m.	7.0	8:48 p.m.	1.8
<b>Hammond</b>	2:28 a.m.	8.4	9:03 a.m.	-1.3
	3:42 p.m.	7.4	9:11 p.m.	1.6
<b>Warrenton</b>	2:34 a.m.	8.4	9:20 a.m.	-1.1
	3:48 p.m.	7.5	9:27 p.m.	1.6
<b>Knappa</b>	3:16 a.m.	8.3	10:37 a.m.	-1.0
	4:30 p.m.	7.3	10:44 p.m.	1.3
<b>Depoe Bay</b>	1:26 a.m.	8.4	8:12 a.m.	-1.3
	2:43 p.m.	7.3	8:17 p.m.	2.0

**NATIONAL CITIES**

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	90/74/t	90/74/t
Boston	77/70/pc	90/75/pc
Chicago	92/76/t	90/75/t
Dallas	98/79/s	98/79/s
Denver	94/63/s	97/64/pc
Honolulu	89/76/pc	88/76/sh
Houston	94/79/t	93/77/t
Los Angeles	85/66/s	86/67/s
Miami	90/80/t	90/79/t
New York City	87/74/s	90/75/t
Phoenix	98/84/t	101/85/t
San Francisco	74/56/pc	73/59/pc
Wash., DC	93/77/pc	95/78/t

**Weather (W):** s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.