

OBITUARIES

ROMANOV—Patricia Singleton Gibson Romanov, Ph.D., of Florence, died peacefully Saturday, April 23, 2016.



Patricia Romanov

Patricia Jane was born in Oberlin, Ohio, to Ralph and Mercedes Singleton on Jan. 6, 1927. Her formative years were spent in the community of Oberlin College, where her father was a long-time English professor and her mother and sisters all received degrees — set her compass for life.

Pat received her bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma, her master's degree from San Francisco State University, and her Ph.D. in theatre from the University of Oregon.

She taught at Sheldon High School in Eugene, Ore., and at the University of Oregon, Central Washington State University, and for more than 25 years at the University of Arkansas, where she was a full, tenured professor in theatre arts.

Her move to Fayetteville, Ark., was a brave one. She had originally been hired as a costumer and she had little experience in the construction of costumes. Undaunted, she hired a seamstress and set about to learn costuming. She was subsequently described in the Northwest Arkansas Times as the University of Arkansas' next Edith Head.

As the years passed, she transitioned into the positions of acting and directing.

Pat retired from teaching at the University of Arkansas at age 72, and built her dream home, utilizing her own design, in Florence. She continued to be involved in the community, acting and directing productions for the Last Resort Players and one-act plays for Driftwood Shores dinner theatre. She hosted a weekly radio show on the arts, founded Florence's Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, and

co-established the Backstreet Gallery.

Pat was an avid watercolorist and often chose her subjects from the natural environs around Florence and Montana, where she had an ancestral cabin on Hebgen Lake, just outside of Yellowstone Park.

Pat and her partner, Kenneth Rystrom, Ph.D., enjoyed many years together traveling around the world and supporting the arts communities in Florence and Eugene.

Pat traveled extensively during her life and was open to learning about different cultures and interests.

She steamed through the Strait of Magellan, trekked to the Himalayas in Tibet, strolled the Great Wall in China, and photographed penguins in Antarctica. She traveled to Cuba as a part of a goodwill mission to build new housing and converse with local artists.

Over the years, Pat acted in and directed too many plays to list, but she was particularly proud of the plays and productions that she personally authored, including the musicals "Ojo in Oz" and "Rip Van Winkle," among others.

She was the pioneer of children's theatre at the University of Arkansas. She partnered with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America and directed large productions of more than 80 cast members. This influenced many young people in the area and many began to seek the arts as extracurricular activities.

One of her favorite productions was "Dancing at Lughnasa," which she directed twice — once in Fayetteville and again as her final production in Florence.

She won numerous theatre and teaching awards throughout the years. The impression that she made on her students has reverberated throughout the years as many of her students began their careers in theatre after being inspired by Pat.

Her former students have stated that she was a "force" in their lives and "fierce in a most positive way." During her Arkansas years, she took stu-

dents to New York City during Thanksgiving holidays to see theatre. She would also host and instruct a group of students and friends every summer in England, attending professional theatre productions in London.

Pat never met a stranger and she always made people feel important and useful. She was very accepting of all lifestyles in an era when it was not common. This trait endeared her to those that needed refuge and acceptance. Her arms and her house were always open to those in need.

Pat is survived by her sister Iona Singleton, Ph.D., her four children: Clell Gibson (Dove), Grant Gibson (Suzanne), Paige Gibson (Roberta) and Mercedes Bolsterli; six grandchildren: Nicole Querubin, Caitlyn Child, Hannah and Mercedes Gibson, and Zachery and Wyatt Gibson; and one great-grandchild, Noelle Querubin; as well as numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Pat was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Mercedes Lichtwardt; husbands Sam Gibson, M.D. and Michael Romanov, Ph.D.; and life partner Kenneth Rystrom, Ph.D.

The family would like to thank the staff at Cascade Manor in Eugene for their kindness in caring for Pat.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, June 25, at 2 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 87738 Highway 101, at Heceta Beach Road in Florence.

A private, family memorial service will be held in August, 2017, at Hebgen Lake, Mont.

Donations can be made in memory of Pat to the Yellowstone Park Foundation at www.ypf.org, or the Cascade Manor Foundation, 65 West 30th Ave., Eugene, Ore., 97405.

ZEH—Patricia Hampson Zeh, of Florence, passed away April 28, 2016.

Pat was born to Tish and Howard Hampson on July 20, 1945, in Mendham, N.J., where she grew up with her older sister and younger brother.

Her course of life led her to move to California and rejoin

her parents in the early 1960s. There, she blossomed in her career, moving from secretary to comptroller, to building her own business solutions company.



Patricia Zeh

This allowed her the opportunity to work with clients, of which many became lifelong friends.

While in California, she met Larry Zeh, and the two were married in 1977.

The couple relocated their family to Bend, Ore., and later to Florence.

Over the years, Pat touched many lives with her friendship and love. She was a generous and compassionate woman who always found ways to give more to those who shared her life. Active in the community, she supported Florence Food Share, served on the City Budget Committee, was privileged to serve as president of the Florentine Estates Association, and helped organize what would become an Annual Florentine Garage Sale.

Beyond her benevolence and love of gardening was her love for her family. Puzzles, games, singing, reading books, emails, daily phone calls, sharing and passing on of family recipes for special holiday treats, and countless batches of her beloved cookies, were tangible expressions — but only drops in the bucket of the depth of her love and devotion to her family.

Her memory and spirit will live on in the hearts and lives of her husband, Larry; her mother, Tish; her sister Dona Candela; her brother, Howard Hampson; two sons and five grandchildren.

A celebration of Pat's life will be held Saturday, May 28, at 2 p.m., at Tavolo Restaurant and Lounge.

The family asks that any donations in her name be made to Florence Food Share.

Concert to benefit Florence Food Share

Spring is in the air and the rhododendrons are in bloom. This means many more visitors to Florence and to Florence Food Share.

The organization's stock of food is low and in need of many kinds of foods.

The Pacific Coast Wind Ensemble (PCWE) has made Florence Food Share the beneficiary of its next concert, May 15, beginning at 2:30 p.m., at New Life Lutheran Church, located next to Food Share.

PCWE is a tax-exempt community concert band that plays several kinds of music includ-

ing Spanish numbers, Broadway show tunes and classical compositions.

PCWE is suggesting a tax-deductible \$10 donation for the Florence Free Lunch program and a can or two of food or other non-perishable food item for Food Share for admission to the concert.

Food Share is currently most in need of peanut butter, canned meat (such as tuna or chicken), baby formula, Hamburger Helper or like product, mac-n-cheese, tomato products of all types, flour, sugar and coffee.

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'Catch the Wave' with Rhody Days window display contest

Help spread the excitement of the 109th annual Rhododendron Festival by entering the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce's Rhody Festival Window Display Contest.



The theme for this year's window display contest and the entire festival is "Catch the Wave!" The Window Display contest is open to any business or organization in the City of Florence.

There is no entry fee, and there are no divisions this year. Windows will be judged on the following:

- Overall appearance and attractiveness.
- Use of this year's Rhododendron Festival theme "Catch the Wave!"
- Use of color — this year's logo has lots of colors!
- Creativity and originality.
- Signage: The window should have a sign or window paint that reads: "Rhododendron Festival May 20 to 22, 2016" that can be

read from the street and be less than 50 percent of the total window area.

• Windows need to be decorated by non-professional window decorators.

• Windows should remain decorated throughout the three-day Rhododendron Festival.

Entry forms are available at www.florencechamber.com. Drop completed entry forms off at the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Visitor's Center, 290 Highway 101, by Monday, May 16. Judging will occur between May 17 and 19.

Any business whose windows are not ready in time for judging will be disqualified.

Businesses may loan out their windows to other businesses for the contest.

Winners will be presented with a plaque and will be featured in media posts.

For more information, call 541-997-3128.

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