



## In Memoriam

### Judith L. Bergfors-Colby

July 19<sup>th</sup>, 1943 – January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

The task of summarizing the impact of Mom's presence in our lives seems impossible. Her generous and loving spirit was so great it would take more than words to adequately describe it. She shared her light and her love with everyone she met, and her beautiful smile always lit whatever space she was in.

Mom was a teacher and like all good teachers, she delighted in learning, and then passing her knowledge on to others. She was interested in a wide range of topics from physics to philosophy, history to hyacinths. She taught many of us the fundamentals and finer points of sewing, cooking, knitting, embroidery, crochet, gardening, photography, writing... the list is truly endless. She also taught the fundamentals of Life, and led by example. From an early age, she taught me to believe in my own abilities and to believe I could do anything. Mom was so passionately engaged in Life that the ideas of ever being idle or bored were completely foreign to her. Her energy was boundless yet not overbearing; she delighted in getting to know people and had a true gift for communicating with people on a personal and profound level.

Another thing Mom taught me was how to be open to truly giving myself, to loving those around me, as she certainly did. Mom knew that with love there comes pain, and she firmly believed any pain of separation was worth the joy of being close to those she loved. She never held back out of fear, but threw herself headlong into the sometimes-messy business of living life in full measure. I know her love has not ended just because she is not physically here with us; her love is too great to ever leave us. Each time we are reminded of her (by an old map; a plump robin; the forsythia in the spring; the smell of burning toast; a great book; a funny story well told; a beautiful view of the ocean or the mountains or the desert; a lovely piece of piano music) we will feel her love reaching across the years to envelop us in the warmth of her radiant spirit.

Her spirit is very evident in the photograph on the front of your programs, taken of Mom by my brother, Mike, some years ago. I've always loved this picture because it's so representative of Mom's nature. You can tell by looking at it how much she loved Mike, because the warmth of her smile radiates out of the page. She was like this with us always, my brother and me, and also with her precious grandchildren, Katie and Adam. She adored them, and they adored her as well. I see so much of her loving kindness and passion for life in them.

Mom was not one to have regrets, but I know she regretted the twist of fate that caused her to be taken much too soon from all of us, and from the life she loved so greatly. She very much disliked being sick and it was difficult for her to accept the limitations her illness was beginning to force upon her. She fought bravely and optimistically against those limitations and though it's extremely difficult to reconcile myself to a world without the joy of her actual presence, I am also greatly relieved for her that her physical struggles have ended at last. We can all be comforted also that she did not suffer pain for any great length of time, and had loving family and friends with her at the time of her passing.

This family, this community and all of her devoted friends, were tremendously important to Mom. She loved it here and she cared so very deeply for all of you. I know I speak for my entire family when I say we are so grateful to you all for helping Mom stay here, where she so very much wanted to be. Her independence was a source of strength to her and the level of caring shown to her by all of you was tremendous. You gave to her emotionally, spiritually, physically and even financially, and Mom was deeply moved by the outpouring of support her community and friends gave her on a daily basis. My family and I will be comforted by donating any unused funds to the Skagit Valley Hospital Regional Cancer Care Center in Mt. Vernon, and the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance in Mom's honor, and in the name of her very generous community and friends. We will never forget your kindness and generosity towards Mom and we give you our most heartfelt thanks.

Mom was quite affected by the death of her beloved husband, Eric, in the year 2000. She bore it well, but missed him dreadfully and it is my hope that they are now together again. Losing Eric didn't make Mom withdraw from the rest of those she loved, but rather brought her even closer to us as we found comfort in each other. This is what we must now do; drawing on each other for strength and remembering all the wonderful times we had with Mom. I'm glad she touched the lives of so many people, and it would please her to know people will think of her fondly. I hope in the years to come, you all will continue sharing your memories with one another, and that the funny stories will outweigh the sadness, for Mom loved to laugh and was herself a terrific storyteller. It helps my aching heart somehow to know that others will also be thinking of her with love and remembrance.

Mom's death has been a great shock to all of us, I know. She was so filled with life it was hard to imagine she could ever be less than fully present in our lives. We are upended, unmanned and adrift on a strange sea without her, and yet she continues to provide a steady and loving presence to guide us. Through these long days and nights, I hear her voice saying, "Just do what comes next." And so, we must right the boat, take up the oars, and proceed to row, to "Get on with it," as Mom would also say.

The first week of a New Year was one of Mom's favorite times. She liked to get up early on New Year's Day, tidy up her papers from the previous year, and start the New Year fresh, ready for her next adventure. In the early morning hours of Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, the Quadrantid meteor shower passed close to Earth, streaking our skies with ribbons of light. I like to think that on that first morning after her death, Mom was called, like a quail going home to her covey, and joined those dancing, brilliant lights, truly home at last.

Audrey Oberman  
January 5, 2012



*shelter bay community, inc.*  
*Resolution No. 12-01*

*A Resolution honoring the meritorious service and dedication  
to the Community of **Judith Colby**, caring Community Member and Good  
Friend from 1998 to the date of her passing on January 3, 2012*

*Whereas, Judy Colby was a highly respected leader of Shelter Bay Community, serving on the Board of Directors from February 2001 to May 2006 and as Board President from May 2003 to May 2006, and*

*Whereas, Judy stepped forward in 2003 to assume the position of Board President in a fiscally challenging time and due to her leadership, Shelter Bay survived a dire financial situation, and her vision also supported a year-long effort to draft and implement rules and regulations which placed the Community on a path to sound administrative and fiscal management, and*

*Whereas, during her term as Board President, Judy had the foresight and provided the leadership for developing a plan to purchase Shelter Bay Company, thus honoring the Master Lease and allowing us to become our own landlords and thereby protect the value of our property and investment, and*

*Whereas, after her term on the Board of Directors, Judy remained an integral part of the governance of Shelter Bay through her work as a member of the Rules Committee, and*

*Whereas, Judy's passing, on January 3, 2012, gives us reason to take note of the gratitude Shelter Bay members owe for her passion, diligence, farsightedness, and the selfless leadership she provided the Community, and*

*Whereas, we are deeply saddened by Judy's passing as she was more than a Community leader, she was a good and lasting friend to many; member and contributor to the Shelter Bay Yacht Club; accomplished fiber artist, poet, and photographer; and a great person to know in many other ways.*

*Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Shelter Bay Community, Inc. Board of Directors hereby honor **Judy Colby** for her meritorious service, for her dedication to improving the governance of the Community, and for her leadership and integrity in dealing with the challenges facing the Community during her tenure on the Board of Directors.*

*Be it further resolved that the Board of Directors, Community members and staff privileged to work with and know her hereby extend sincere condolences to the family and friends of Judy Colby, in memory and gratitude for her devoted service.*

*Be it further resolved that this Resolution be presented to her beloved son, Mike, and daughter, Audrey.*

*Passed and adopted by the Board of Directors on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2012.*