

CROSSED THE BAR



Nancy Schumacher was born Oct. 11, 1940 to Carl and Althea Schumacher in St. Louis, Mo. From the beginning she was spirited, independent and game. Her laugh was infectious and her smile contagious. She graduated from Mary Institute in St. Louis and Smith College. After a year at Princeton Theological Seminary she worked with an archeological team in Beersheba in the Israeli desert. Her life as a global citizen included teaching English at the True Light Middle School in Hong Kong.

In 1967 she married The Rev. John Dennis. She became a guide for the Philadelphia Art Museum. In 1968 Nancy helped to hold the family together when her brother, Skip Schumacher, who was the operations officer of the captured Navy ship, the USS Pueblo was a P.O.W. in North Korea for a year.

In 1969 the family moved to Oregon when John became senior minister of The First Presbyterian Church in Corvallis. During their Corvallis years Nancy, John [who was on assignment] and their two boys lived for four months in Johannesburg at the height of apartheid. A loving mother, wife and household CEO, her high standards and excellent good taste guided major renovations of the family homes.

Nancy served as president of her Corvallis PEO chapter and as a church trustee. She was the first woman nationally to serve as president of a regional YMCA. She oversaw the purchase of the Corvallis Assistance League's headquarters when she was president. She organized and codirected a production of the Red Stocking Review with lavish costumes, a Broadway producer and a cast of over 200 members of the Corvallis community. She loved the Oregon Coast Aquarium, especially the sea otters. Beginning as a volunteer guide at the otter pool, she rose to become the president of the Board of Directors while Keiko, 'Free Willy', the world-famous orca whale, was at the aquarium. Her talents included playing the 5-string banjo, cooking and hosting family and friends. She played competitive tennis and golf. She was an avid walker usually with the family Westies.

In her battle with Alzheimers Nancy radiated both grace and strength. She passed away peacefully in Portland March 25, 2019, surrounded by her family. John and Nancy were married for 52 years. They raised two sons, Michael (wife Allison) and Andrew (wife Rebecca) and have four grandchildren, Leif, Roselyn, Harriet and Frederic. In lieu of flowers memorial gifts may be sent to The Oregon Coast Aquarium. With thanks for the memories, Nancy will be missed in many capacities and in many different places.