



## Elizabeth Ann Donnelly

January 10, 1936 - January 13, 2021

Elizabeth Ann Donnelly, age 85, passed away on January 13, 2021 at Concord Village Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center after multiple illnesses. She was a resident of Mentor for 9 years after moving from Aurora, where she lived for 40 years.

Beth was born on January 10, 1936 in Wenatchee, WA to William and Margaret Barrows. She grew up in Bloomington, Indiana and studied English and Education at Indiana University. Her love of the theater brought her together with her future husband, Jim Donnelly, when they acted together in a college production. They married in October of 1955 and lived in several states before settling in Aurora with their three daughters in 1969.

Beth taught at Aurora Middle School before moving to Solon High School, where she taught English and directed musicals and dramatic theatre productions until her retirement. Beth attended The Church in Aurora, and enjoyed singing in the choir for many years.

During retirement, Beth and Jim enjoyed wintering in Mesa, Arizona, golfing and traveling together. After moving to Mentor in 2011, they lovingly cared for each other, until Jim passed away in 2014. In her spare time, she enjoyed using her musical talent to play piano, often joining with her girls as they sang together. She was a seamstress, an avid reader, and enjoyed playing euchre and doing puzzles of all kinds. She attended Lakeview Bible Church, where she grew in faith in Christ and cherished the love and encouragement from friends. She will be remembered as a loving mom with a wonderful sense of humor and remained witty and wise to the end of her life.

Beth was mother to Lynne (Patrick) Curran of Chardon, Laure (Jeff) Schneider of Pittsburgh, and Jayme (Joe) Rafferty of Australia; and grandmother to Caroline, Scott, Lewis, Andrew and Kevin. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, James Donnelly, and sister, Patricia Spielman.

At her request, a memorial celebration will be held at a later date, due to the pandemic

precautions inurnment will be at Mentor Cemetery. If desired, memorial contributions may be sent to Wounded Warriors Project, PO Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675-8517.

Arrangements entrusted to the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060.

Please offer condolences at <http://www.brunners.com>.

# Comments

---



“ Oh, another wonderful soul from our Solon teachers has left us all - 85 beautifully long years, what a woman! Mrs. D had a lot to take on when she first came to SHS, taking over the Drama program from Mr. Riedthaler who was very loved ... I'll never forget her first meeting with the Thespian Society (of which I was a member) - we stumbled initially, tho went on to have a wonderful relationship ... I SO appreciate all she did to instill the love of theatre to so many students. RIP dear lady!  
Gail Arthurs - Class of 1976

**Gail Arthurs** - February 17 at 05:54 PM

---



“ Amazing lady, mentor, teacher, friend and so much more. The lives she touched were countless, and the friendships I had with so many whom she brought together to share in the musicals and plays, made us closer even to this day. You were a treasure and will be missed until we meet again. Rest friend in joy and peace.  
Mark Everson, Class of 1977

**Mark D Everson** - February 05 at 07:13 PM

---



“ Solon High School has lost another one of its great teachers. Beth was always an energetic positive teacher and always kept the staff and students in stitches. She was always looking for ways to make students better. On the golf course , she was a destroyer of the course. Always fun to be around. On breaks, she always kept the room laughing and loose. She will be missed and the heavens just picked up another ANGEL. May she rest in peace. Ralph Porter

**Ralph Porter** - February 05 at 02:31 PM

---



“ From Honors English to Drama Club, Mom gave me so much. She taught me how to write, and how to think about writing. She trusted me and treated me like a responsible person, not a child, and made me believe I could be who she saw. And oh, she made me laugh. I can still see the day in my 10th grade year when she stormed into class and started slamming drawers and doors, thoroughly scaring those students who didn't know her outside of that room, only to spin around dramatically wearing a fake laurel wreath and sheet toga. We were, of course, reading Shakespeare's Julius Cesar. I hold so much love and gratitude for Mom Donnelly, and my deepest condolences go to her friends and family.

**Miriam Minner, Class of 87** - February 05 at 10:33 AM

---



“ When my husband and I first came to AZ for the winter I contacted Beth and she so cordially invited us to come to their home in Mesa. Then they took us to Vito's for lunch and it has become our favorite restaurant in the area. It was so very nice of Beth and Jim to introduce us to AZ. Beth was a kind and loving person. And she was an excellent teacher.

**Carol Caroff** - February 05 at 09:41 AM

---



“ Wonderful teacher, drama coach and friend! My condolences to her family. Rick Mlinarik class of 1977.

**Rick Mlinarik** - February 05 at 09:07 AM

---



“ Mom, you touched SO many lives, and made such an impact for your students. You made me more confident, taught me that there's no such thing as "girls can't do that", taught me that every person involved is important whether they are singing a solo center stage or putting some paint on a flat. And all of those things carried over to the rest of our lives. I'm a far better human and woman for having you in my life and I have thought of you so many times in the last 30+ years. I'm only sorry I didn't have opportunity to tell you all this.

**Kate Macy Walters- Class of 86** - February 05 at 08:07 AM

---



“ Mom, you have no idea the impact you had on my life. Because of the experiences you gave me I do what I do now reaching thousands of people in Africa. You opened the doors to leading in a different way and for that I will be eternally grateful. Thank you for all the hours invested in my life

**Don Blanton** - February 05 at 06:50 AM

---



“ MOM, I am sorry but my allergies must be acting up. I hope you know how much you meant to so many people. You were an inspiration in my life. You guided so many young people and helped them go on the straight and narrow. You opened our eyes to happiness. You were strict, but fair. I believe you loved everyone of us Drama Club members. The laughs, the tears, the excitement and the great feeling of accomplishment. You were the greatest teacher EVER. No one will ever be loved like you were. You will never depart this Earth, because you will always be in our hearts. Our class will always remember you. Blasted allergies, .Love you. Missed you since 1978, and always thinking about you. GOD BLESS.

Jim Kostura Class of 1978, Walt Waldowski, Mr. Dippinna, Jigger Craigen, Stage Manager, Mordred.



**James Kostura** - February 05 at 01:48 AM

---



“ She was absolutely the best. Not only was I one of her students, but she ran the Drama Club at Solon, and I guarantee that everyone of us will always remember her with great fondness and love. We called her "Mom". My deepest condolences to your family on the loss of this great woman.

**Jerry Smith - Class of 1978** - February 05 at 01:18 AM

---



“ My deepest sympathies for your loss Jayme, Laure and Lynne and family. She was a beautiful lady with a great sense of humor and smile. At she Rest In Peace. Nita

**Nita Bring-Mazurek** - January 24 at 06:35 PM



“ Beth was a wonderful, special woman. My daughters and I have so many wonderful memories of our sweet neighbor! Rest in peace, Beth! Joan

Joan E Long - January 24 at 03:19 PM

---



“ Beth will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Beth was one of the four "old Ladies" at Lakeview Bible Church. Shirley, Char, Beth and myself enjoyed telling our life stories to each other and we shared so many laughs together. She was one of the wittiest women I have ever known and could see the humor in almost anything. Her love of the Lord was evident in everything she said or did. We will all miss her until we see her again. I take condolence in knowing she is with our Lord and seeing him face to face! While we are on this side of Glory-she is there! She is off her sick bed and dancing with the angels. I and so many others loved her. I pray for peace and comfort for her family.

Love in Christ Jesus,  
Mary Ann Holmes

mary holmes - January 22 at 07:08 PM

---



“ Beth left many including our Lakeview Bible Church family who are truly grieving the loss to us left behind. Entering church on Sunday my eyes looked for her and Char sitting together. Always a hug and kiss on the cheek to this special person. Her wit and charm never wavered. She brightened the lives of all of us. The personal sadness caused by the pandemic kept us apart physically but not in spirit. She was truly loved and will be missed until we meet again. Heaven has gained another ANGEL. This world lost a friend and sister . We will never forget the joy and love she showed to all. Miss you but know you are now are in Glory with our Lord and Savior.

Sister Shirley

**SHIRLEY Reigles** - January 22 at 06:38 PM



“ Beth was a dedicated staff member at Solon High School. She had so much energy and enjoyed working with staff and students. Never too busy, Beth even found time to help produce the annual plays. I will especially remember golfing with her and Pat Sima at Auburn Springs golf course. We played often and had so much fun together. It is a memory I will never forget. RIP Jean Miadich

**Jean Miadich** - February 05 at 04:29 PM



“  
**Jean Miadich** - February 06 at 12:24 AM



“ Beth was such a fun, lovable teacher and a joy to be around. When Beth retired, I missed her sense of humor. I enjoyed all of the musicals and plays that she directed. She put her heart and soul into each show. if you were fortunate to have the same lunch period with her, it made the rest of the day so much more enjoyable. Rest in peace.

**Bob Weiser** - February 06 at 02:23 AM