

Memories of Penny Kimmel, collected from SGS Facebook Page

By Peggy Garber 4/24/2022

Cheryl Scheeler – 4/20/2022 at 10:pm

April 20, 2022. - This morning our dear friend, Penny Kimmel passed peacefully at home. She was surrounded by her close family, friends and her cat. In her final days she battled cancer to the best of her ability with lots of help and love from the care team and hospice. She fought bravely and will be missed. We invite loving thoughts and memories in this time and hope to honor Penny with a celebration of her life in the coming months.

Karen Wheeler

My sadness at learning this is great. May her family and close friends be blessed.

Kristina Leslie

Heartbroken that we have to be without her

Marlys Powell

She did a great job of passing the torch, but our retreats won't be the same without her. Her memory and spirit will live on and I'll be honored to share in the joy of mentioning her name when we gather in the future.

Barbara Roth

My heart breaks for her family and all her friends, I will cherish my memories of a really wonderful lady. Much sadness.

Pat Kelly Chubb

My heart is breaking for the loss of our Essential Friend ... but with a measure of compassion that her suffering and pain is no more.

She gave so much to our organization and to each of us individually, we are so lucky to have had her in our lives, however briefly. 💔

Sandy Kern Hancock

I'm thinking about the legacy that began with Lorraine Kimmel and carried on by Penny. I have friends and experiences gleaned from 37 years (more than half my life!) that I thank them for. I feel honored to serve on the board to carry on the SGS retreats for the sewing community. 💔

Barbara Renshaw

Penny and her Mom started it all giving us a lifelong gift of friendship and joy in sewing and quilting. Thank you 🙏 😊 ❤️

Tauna Kern Waddington

I'm so sad to hear this. Retreat won't be the same without her. She will be missed.

Laurie Lamb Wilkey

This is just so sad. I have no words. May God bless her family and guide them through the days ahead.

Penny Specht

I'm relieved that Penny no longer has to suffer but will miss her terribly. Like Sandy, I am also honored to serve on the SGS board and to ensure that what Lorraine started and Penny devoted so much time and energy to will continue to provide wonderful sewing retreats. Penny was a role model for many, and her beautiful smile will live on in my memories of her. Rest In Peace dear friend, my heart is heavy with loss.

Harriott Fix Balmer

This hits hard...such a special person...

Cheryl Scheeler

I too appreciate all that Penny did for us sewers. She had a sassy humor. She fought her disease with grace and bravery. I will miss her crazy stories of her sewing adventures. She was a role model. Be at peace Penny, we miss you.

Leslie Gardner

Such a loss to us all. Penny was a great person.

Adele Drummond

Thank you Cheryl for sharing this sad news. She fought cancer bravely. May she rest in peace.

Cindy Dainard

Have to say there have been a few tears at her diagnosis and now knowing we will never be in her physical presence again. Penny made me feel like I had always been a member of SG and I thank her for that. I hope her spirit will always be with us.

Priscilla Schleigh

Thank you everyone for being such an amazing community for our dear Penny..

Cat Shepherd

So sad to hear this! She will be greatly missed, not only for carrying on Mother Superior's legacy, but also for her own contribution to our retreats and the friendship we all had with

her. I am so grateful for the years I was on the SGS Board with her at the helm. We will always love you Penny! ❤️❤️

Linda Vorenkamp

Oh no. Broken hearted too. Deepest condolences to her son and family. She will be missed by many.

Kathleen R Solum Wong

So sorry to hear this. I did not know her as well as many others, but she shared many tips and moments with me when I was joining the group at Camp Burton. She will be missed.

Peggy Garber

How can mere words convey how much we will miss our amazing Penny?

For me she was more than a friend. She was more than a business partner. She was my sole sister. How we would laugh when you all would get our names mixed up.

I first met Penny when working with her mother Lorraine on retreat planning, before Penny was involved; before Jason was born. I was part of the then Seattle Sewing Guild along with Lorraine and Cheryl Tolbert when we first proposed and started the sewing retreats in 1985. It is so rewarding that others among us today were also there at that very first sewing retreat at Camp Burton on Vashon Island.

I got to know Penny as a friend when we roomed together on the "Sew Sew Good Girls" trip to Hong Kong in the mid-90s, put together by Marilee Cole. Penny would go out in the mornings and get me coffee. I don't remember ever asking her to do that.

We shared many interests in sewing, in computer video technology and in life in general. So, we started a business together, calling it Pengy Productions (PennyPeggy). Of the many projects we started, we seemed to complete few. Our individual busy lives kept getting in the way.

Our only truly successful project was Stitching Girls. As we filled out the 27 pages of the nonprofit exempt status application, we sweated over how to acknowledge to the IRS that we were also business partners, and yet had no conflict of interest. But we did it, and Stitching Girls Society was approved in Dec. 2009.

Penny had been helping her mother Lorraine for several years, so when we suffered the loss of our Retreat Founder, Lorraine in 2008, Penny was ready to take over and keep us all going. It was Camp Burton who got us to become a nonprofit organization, when their board decided they could no longer co-sponsor our retreats.

The rest is history. Over the years Stitching Girls has become a true sewing sisterhood. And you all are so right - Penny set the tone and lead the way with her warm, welcoming personality. Anyone who loved to sew instantly became another lifelong friend and part of the group.

It has been such a privilege to be part of this group, where everyone steps up to help everyone else. I cherish the welcoming hugs when we are able to get together at retreats. It is such a tribute to Penny's giving nature that all of us are likewise so willing to step up when needed. And without Penny, we will all need each other to keep going.

As we all cry together while saying Goodbye to our wonderful Penny, we can draw strength from the little bit of herself that she has left with each and every one of us.

Peggy

Robbie Severson

Such a beautiful tribute to a beautiful soul 🥹❤️❤️

Marlys Powell

Indeed.

Laurie Lamb Wilkey

That was lovely and very touching. I know that there is a hole left in your heart with Penny's passing. I wish you lots of healing over these next few weeks.

I am sad that I can't be there in June when we all meet again and, invariably, everyone present will reminisce about Penny's dedication to our group and many more stories will be told.

I wasn't there at the beginning, but I was welcomed like it had been there forever. That was Penny's influence and you all followed suit. I wish younger people understood the value of joining groups like ours and pray that we will be successful in "bringing them into the fold" like Penny did so our SGS survives well after we are gone.

Harriott Fix Balmer

Well said...we will all miss you so very much...

Leslie Gardiner

So eloquent and heartfelt, Peggy. We will all miss her so much.

Cat Shepherd

Thank you Peggy for such a beautiful, beautiful tribute! 

Penny Specht

You said it all so well Peggy. You two made such an amazing team and inspired all the rest of us. I know that Penny was glad you were still available to help keep Stitching Girls Society going when she had to step down to focus on her health. We have so many wonderful memories and will miss Penny beyond what can be expressed with words

Cindy Dainard

So very well said. It has been an honor and privilege to have known her.

Priscilla Schleigh

thank you [Peggy Garber](#) that was so sweet. I was so grateful when Lorraine and Penny welcomed me into the family and then when they asked me to be in older with the sewing retreat. I felt like I found my tribe. They both are missed terribly, but left a wonderful trail of stitches and stories.

We plan to have a celebration of life at Camp Burton in a couple of months for Penny.

Love to you all  (Penny's sister-in-law)

Linda Vorenkamp

Beautiful photo. So sad I missed a final goodbye just by a week.

Kristina Leslie – 4/23/22

In 2015 Peggy and Penny and I drove down to Portland to see the Italian Fashion display. It was such a memorable trip. Peggy stayed down there to visit Family.

Penny and I went to Fabric Depot for the last time before it closed. The restaurant in the parking lot had the best steak bites I've ever had and the drive home flew by because we talked and laughed the whole way. 🥰 (dec code: #128525)



Penny Specht

Great photo of all 3

Penny Specht – 4/23/2022

The super creative team ! Zoom in to see Pennys wonderful smile one more time ! Love you and miss you Penny!!!!



Peggy Garber

Here is the zoom-in. I love this one too!



Cat Shepherd

Love this photo ❤️

Cheryl Scheeler

Love that picture

Harriott Fix Balmer

This is a great shot...you both look mischievous!

Marlys Powell

Love that one! Thank you for sharing it!

Barbara Roth

Great picture of you both. What a special lady she was. I was proud to say I knew her and her smile, thoughtfulness and talent of making all welcome. Miss you Penny in my heart. Please let me know if she had a request for donations in place of flowers or anything. Thank you and miss the Stitching girls!

Patty Fordyce

Great picture! Penny was always so welcoming and kind, with her great smile. She will be missed.

Pat Kelly Chubb – 4/23/2022

Some memories of Penny. I had more, but they went to the big rock pile when my hard drive said byeee a couple years ago.



The dynamic duo – Penny and Peggy



A sewing play date at Francie's 9thostess with the moistest)



Mistress of ceremonies at Brown Bag "reveal"



Road Trip to Cicada and lunch on the waterfront after. Fun fun fun!!

Mary Hoagland-Scher

Thank you Pat!

Harriott Fix Balmer

Great pics! Thanks for sharing!

Marlys Powell – 4/26/2022

Another dear memory ...



Denise Ibrahim

Awww, love this picture, especially knowing why you were gathered and the many laughs that came with it.
